HIGHGROUND Dairy

GLOBAL DAIRY OUTLOOK CONFERENCE 27

Meet our Speakers



Find Alyssa on LinkedIn

ALYSSA BADGER

Vice President, Global Operations & Insights, **HighGround Dairy**

Alyssa started her career at the Board of Trade managing a firm that had a primary focus in grains. The nucleus of her position centered around order entry and research development. From there, Alyssa's enthusiasm for commodities grew which led her to move to West Texas and assist in hedging for the largest originator of U.S. cotton to textile mills worldwide. Alyssa has been back in Chicago for more than ten years with HighGround as the Director of Global Operations, overseeing the market intelligence and advisory business units. Alyssa's risk management background, as well as working closely with New Zealand and other international dairy companies, provides HighGround a unique value-add perspective.



Find Betty on LinkedIn

BETTY BERNING

Contributing Dairy Economist, **HighGround Dairy**

Betty Berning is HighGround's Contributing Dairy Economist, providing analysis and commentary on the domestic dairy markets. She has extensive experience across the agricultural supply chain, having held roles such as Senior Dairy Buyer at General Mills, Loan Officer at Farm Credit, and Extension Educator at the University of Minnesota. She also grew up working on her family's dairy farm in Central Minnesota. These experiences give Betty a unique perspective on both the challenges farmers face and the decision-making processes of food companies and consumers. She is passionate about writing, teaching, and presenting on dairy-related topics. Betty is a proud Mom to three sons and loves bringing them to her family's dairy farm, where their energy is always put to good use.



Find Brian on LinkedIn

BRIAN BLEDSOE

Founder & Chief Meteorologist/Climatologist, Bledsoe Weather

Brian Bledsoe is the founder and Chief Meteorologist/Climatologist for Brian Bledsoe Weather. His private weather consulting business has been serving farmers, ranchers, and many other businesses for the past 25 years. Recently retired from television, Brian spent 28 years as a broadcast meteorologist. Brian's goal is to help farmers and ranchers make their business more successful by equipping them with actionable forecast information, both short-term and long-term. His strong background in agriculture is important, as he can directly relate to the producer and their specific needs. Brian has several clients in the Great Plains as well as across the whole United States. He is regularly featured by many media outlets, speaks at many agriculture conferences, and is constantly advocating for farmers and ranchers.



Find Stu on LinkedIn

STU DAVISON

International Insights Consultant, SD Agri

Stu is a true Kiwi dairy farmer from a long line of farmers in New Zealand's Waikato region, known for its significance to the country's dairy industry. Raised in a farming family, he developed a strong business acumen and an understanding of the global dairy market. After studying at Lincoln University, Stu spent eight years working on dairy farms, gaining firsthand experience in the industry.

Before joining HighGround Dairy, he led the NZX Dairy Insights team for three years, building a reputation for his expertise in data analysis and market trends. His deep knowledge of New Zealand agriculture and the global dairy market makes him a key voice in shaping insights for major dairy exporting and importing regions.



Find Alex on LinkedIn

ALEX GAMBONINI

Senior Manager, Advisory Services, HighGround Dairy

Originally hailing from Petaluma, California, Alex was raised on her family's dairy farm, fostering her love for the industry from a young age. She pursued her education at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Dairy Science and Agricultural Business. Later, she furthered her studies at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, obtaining a master's degree in Applied Economics. During her time in Minnesota, Alex conducted research focused on dairy farm profitability, showcasing her dedication to understanding the economic aspects of the industry.

Following her academic pursuits, Alex gained valuable experience working for the USDA within the California Federal Milk Marketing Order for three years. This experience provided her with unique insights into the intricacies of milk pricing and pooling, enhancing her understanding of dairy market dynamics.



Find Eric on LinkedIn

ERIC MEYER

President & Founder, **HighGround Dairy**

Eric Meyer is a seasoned dairy risk management and sourcing professional with more than 23 years of experience including tenure at Downes-O'Neill LLC, Sara Lee Corporation, FCStone & Winona Foods before founding HighGround Dairy in 2012.

Eric's extensive hedging and procurement experience for both small boutique firms and large multi-national corporations gives him a unique insight into the dairy market. He has a strong reputation of creating insightful educational programs and content, specifically HighGround's comprehensive dairy market intelligence, industry-leading analysis that is read by subscribers across the globe.



Find Cara on LinkedIn

CARA MURPHY

Senior Manager, Dairy Market Intelligence, **HighGround Dairy**

Cara Murphy is originally from the Heartland, where she grew up raising beef cattle just outside of Des Moines, Iowa. Her passion for agriculture led her to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University. Post graduation, Cara developed her expertise in international markets and economic analysis across a variety of industries, including oil and gas, construction, and agriculture. Delighted to be in dairy, Cara has been with HighGround for three years, delivering global and domestic market insights. Her diverse background and strategic mindset provide customers with a holistic viewpoint on changing market dynamics.