New Initiative, Sustainable Dairy PA, Sparks Promise For More Climate-Friendly Dairy Supply Chain In Chesapeake Bay Watershed; The Hershey Company, Land O'Lakes, Inc., and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay collaborate in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve water quality on local dairy farms

PR Newswire

June 29, 2021 Tuesday 10:40 AM EST

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Dateline: HERSHEY, Pa., June 29, 2021

Body

PR Newswire

The Hershey Company (NYSE: HSY), Land O'Lakes, Inc., and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay have partnered to implement on-farm best management practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Initial funding for Sustainable Dairy PA comes from The Hershey Company's \$300,000 commitment to support the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Land O'Lakes in helping install agricultural conservation practices on Land O'Lakes member dairy farms. The partnership includes 119 Land O'Lakes member-owners in Central Pennsylvania that ship 50% or more of their milk supply to Hershey.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will utilize Hershey's funds to leverage additional grant funding to implement conservation plans and innovative on-farm environmental practices. The solutions range from riparian buffer plantings that reduce stream bank erosion and improve habitat to animal waste storage systems and other sustainable farming practices to support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution.

"Leadership from corporations, like that of Hershey and Land O'Lakes, is critical to restoring Pennsylvania's rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, and reaching our climate goals. With so many passionate businesses in our watershed, we hope this partnership inspires others to take action towards a more sustainable future," shared Jenna Mitchell Beckett, Pennsylvania State Director and Agriculture Program Director at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

The initiative has begun working with dairy farmers in south-central Pennsylvania and is actively building a list of their conservation needs that will guide the program's priorities. In addition to working with the initial 119 farms, the partnership has the potential to reach more than 400 Land O'Lakes member farms supplying milk to Hershey as funding and support grows.

"We recognize that global impact means teaming up with other leading organizations like The Hershey Company and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and we're excited to support this new initiative," said Glenda Gehl, Land O'Lakes Senior Director of Member Relations. "Through the Land O'Lakes Dairy 2025 Commitment, we are committed to developing measurable ways for our farmer-members to reduce their environmental footprint in a manner that supports on-farm profitability and meets the expectations of our customers and consumers."

The initiative recognizes that dairy producers are important players in helping improve water quality and mitigating climate change and was established to provide dairy farmers with the resources needed to improve their impact on

New Initiative, Sustainable Dairy PA, Sparks Promise For More Climate-Friendly Dairy Supply Chain In Chesapeake Bay Watershed; The Hershey Company, Land O'Lakes....

the environment. This allows farmers to produce quality farm products while contributing to the health of the Bay, its tributaries, and the planet. The work seeks to demonstrate that conservation and economic profit are compatible, and high-quality milk produced on farms using clean water and climate-smart practices provides a value-added premium in the marketplace and addresses the growing demands of discerning consumers.

"As we continue on our path to reduce our environmental footprint and address climate change, we're excited to partner with Land O'Lakes and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to promote best on-farm sustainable management practices in our dairy supply chain," said Eric Boyle, Director of Commodities Procurement at The Hershey Company. "Not only will this initiative help Hershey to reduce our GHG footprint and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and other watersheds in the region, it will also help to improve soil health and protect biodiversity, and strengthen our connection to our dairy producers who are so integral to the creation of Hershey's Milk Chocolate."

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About The Hershey Company

The Hershey Company is headquartered in Hershey, Pa., and is an industry-leading snacks company known for bringing goodness to the world through its iconic brands, remarkable people and enduring commitment to help children succeed. Hershey has approximately 17,000 employees around the world who work every day to deliver delicious, quality products. The company has more than 90 brands around the world that drive more than \$8.1 billion in annual revenues, including such iconic brand names as Hershey's, Reese's, Kit Kat®, Jolly Rancher, Ice Breakers, SkinnyPop, and Pirate's Booty.

For more than 125 years, Hershey has been committed to operating fairly, ethically and sustainably. Hershey founder, Milton Hershey, created the Milton Hershey School in 1909 and since then the company has focused on helping children succeed.

To learn more visit http://www.thehersheycompany.com.

About the Alliance for the Chesapeake BayHeadquartered in Annapolis, MD, with offices in Lancaster, PA, Washington, D.C., and Richmond, VA, the Alliance implements local programs that connect people to their local rivers and streams. As individuals become directly involved in local restoration efforts, our programs build resiliency among our communities and landscapes to continually adapt to a changing world.

In the last 50 years, the Alliance has:

Planted over 1 million trees Installed over \$10M in practices to reduce polluted stormwater runoff Implemented over 764 acres of on-farm best management practices Trained over 700 volunteer scientists to collect over 360,000 water quality data points

Visit allianceforthebay.org to learn more.

About Land O'Lakes, Inc.

Land O'Lakes, Inc., one of America's premier agribusiness and food companies, is a member-owned cooperative with industry-leading operations that span the spectrum from agricultural production to consumer foods. With 2020 annual sales of \$14 billion, Land O'Lakes is one of the nation's largest cooperatives, ranking 219 on the Fortune 500. Building on a legacy of more than 99 years of operation, Land O'Lakes today operates some of the most respected brands in agribusiness and food production including Land O'Lakes Dairy Foods, Purina Animal Nutrition, WinField United and Truterra. The company does business in all 50 states and more than 60 countries. Land O'Lakes, Inc. corporate headquarters are located in Arden Hills, Minnesota.

New Initiative, Sustainable Dairy PA, Sparks Promise For More Climate-Friendly Dairy Supply Chain In Chesapeake Bay Watershed; The Hershey Company, Land O'Lakes....

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SOURCE The Hershey Company

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Load-Date: June 29, 2021

California's BIPOC farmers get private support | Hershey Co. violates sustainability pledges

NewHope

December 14, 2020

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Length: 538 words

Byline: New Hope Network Staff

Body

California farmers of color need more support during the pandemic. Can private efforts help?

While some farmers have benefited from the renewed interest in local food systems, California's BIPOC farmers are still recovering from closed wholesale accounts and diminished attendance at farmers' markets. A record number of Calfornians are going hungry and yet these small producers are struggling to pivot and meet their needs, with food waste as the result. This is why NGOs, philanthropists and other organizations are stepping in to bridge the gap by marketing and distributing on behalf of BIPOC farmers. This gives them the opportunity to earn a decent wage and enter new markets as well. Get the details at Civil Eats ...

California farmers of color need more support during the pandemic. Can private efforts help?

The Coffee and Cocoa Council and the Ghana Cocoa board are accusing Hershey of making a "highly unethical" purchase of cocoa beans in the futures market that caused prices to rise by over 30%. Because of this move, West African cocoa regulators say the company can no longer promise its customers that the beans it bought on an exchange were not harvested by children, and they are also threatening to ban the company from implementing its sustainability initiatives within the region. NBC News has the full story.

California farmers of color need more support during the pandemic. Can private efforts help?

Massive payments made to the Nature Conservancy haven't necessarily translated to environmental benefit, according to an analysis from Bloomberg . The nonprofit has worked closely with Exxon, International Paper, Dow Chemical and other big polluters, and it appears to be very loose with its carbon accounting as of late. Scientists, companies and lawmakers have long touted carbon offsets as an easy way for giant corporations to help clean up the atmosphere, but experts say these offsets will need to grow 15-fold before they stand a chance at zeroing out all carbon emissions by 2050.

California farmers of color need more support during the pandemic. Can private efforts help?

The United States is a motley, multicultural nation, but dietetic guidelines still seem to revolve around bland offerings like quinoa and kale. In the wake of racial protests this year, many BIPOC dietitians are speaking out about how it is possible to eat a healthy diet based on foods from a given ethnic cuisine. And this is important work: The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is very influential when it comes to setting USDA dietary guidelines that then feed into school lunches and other government programs. The New York Times reports.

California's BIPOC farmers get private support | Hershey Co. violates sustainability pledges

California farmers of color need more support during the pandemic. Can private efforts help?

Nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium are all found in human urine, which means this particular excretion could play a part in the future of sustainable farming. Urine that once polluted waterways can be dehydrated and combined with a pH-raising agent to create a pathogen-free, nutrient-rich powder that can be used as fertilizer in large- and small-scale farming operations. Modern Farmer dives into the journey toward nationwide urine reuse programs.

Load-Date: December 14, 2020

Hershey: Preserving Ecosystems With Sustainable Agriculture

Newstex Blogs 3BL Blogs July 27, 2020 Monday 7:20 PM EST

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Length: 297 words **Byline:** Hershey

Body

Jul 27, 2020(3BL Blogs: http://3blmedia.com/ Delivered by Newstex) In cocoa growing regions in West Africa, deforestation and the loss of biodiversity due to encroachment into protected areas is a manifestation of a complex set of root causes: poverty, the absence of land titles, a lack of clarity on land tenure arrangements, no knowledge of sustainable farming practices and poor law enforcement. Furthermore, due to the loss of biodiversity in the growing ecosystem, farms are more at risk of shocks from extreme weather events. For cocoa, the stress on forest ecosystems has never been greater.

To combat this risk, Hershey has committed to zero deforestation and is increasing agroforestry and shade-grown cocoa practices within our supply chain. Hershey is a founding member of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI), which was launched in 2017 to focus on cocoa communities in Ghana and Côted'Ivoire. CFI is a framework for industry, governments and NGOs to work together to take action and protect the delicate ecosystems where cocoa is produced. Hershey has made significant progress toward attaining key results with CFI. Some highlights include:In 2019, we publicly shared our CFI Action Plans (2018-2022). Between 2018-2019, Hershey has mapped 91 percent of the farms we directly source from in Côte d'Ivoire and 86 percent in Ghana and increased the distribution of shade trees (approximately 240 percent). In 2019, we expanded our partnership with USAID through Supporting Deforestation-Free Cocoa in Ghana, which promotes affordable land documentation, landscape management rehabilitation.Read more in Hershev's 2019 Sustainability Report[1] https://www.thehershevcompany.com/content/dam/corporateus/documents/pdf/hershey_sustainability_report_2019.pdf

Load-Date: July 27, 2020

Chocolate milk? Hershey's chocolate comes full circle on Pennsylvania dairy farm

The Morning Call
April 29, 2023 Saturday
FIRST Edition

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Section: MAIN; A; Pg. 1

Length: 681 words

Byline: Jason Nark Philadelphia Inquirer

Highlight: Cows await their feed April 20 at Red Knob Farm in Peach Bottom. The dairy farmers grow crops for cow feed and supplement with Cargill feed that gets chocolate waste from Hershey mixed into it. Monica Herndon/philadelphia Inquirer photos Dairy manager Jared Galbreath talks about the chocolate in the cow feed at Red Knob Farm in Peach Bottom. Third-generation farmer Andy Young talks about the different ingredients in cow feed at Red Knob Farm in Peach Bottom. The dairy farmers grow crops for cow feed and supplement with Cargill feed that gets chocolate waste from Hershey gets mixed into it. Monica Herndon/Philadelphia Inquirer

Body

PEACH BOTTOM - An unmistakable smell swirled in the dusty air during a recent, windy morning on a Lancaster County farm.

Red Knob Farm, a dairy operation a few miles north of the Maryland state line, is home to more than 1,500 cows, so there was that odor to contend with, of course. Workers had recently uncovered a large swath of winter rye that had been pickling under plastic too, but there was something more subtle wafting around, beyond the barns.

It was a brown powder, piled high inside a commodity shed. If you looked close enough, there were flecks of orange and yellow. It smelled sweet, like chocolate: Hershey's Kit Kat to be specific.

"I think these are some broken-up Reese's Pieces shells," said Jared Galbreath, Red Knob's dairy manager. "I'd say most of this is Kit Kat, though."

A not-so-scientific study once found that millions of

Americans believed chocolate milk came from brown cows. Here at Red Knob Farm, and every other dairy farm in the world, the milk is white. But thanks to a partnership between Hershey's and Cargill, a Minnesota-based food corporation, the Holsteins here are taking part in a real circle-of-life scenario with one of the world's most-prized treats.

The cows are eating everything from Kisses to Milk Duds to Payday bars, all of it from Hershey plants, broken down into a powder, and mixed into Cargill's feed.

And no, it doesn't make the milk taste like chocolate.

"It will change the composition of the milk, but many types of formulas will do that, based on the farmer's preferences," said Darryl Reiner, a merchant with Cargill's animal health & nutrition business.

Chocolate milk?Hershey's chocolate comes full circle on Pennsylvania dairy farm

The chocolate is an extra source of protein, fat, and sugar, Reiner said, but the biggest reason for recycling it is cutting back on waste. If not for the cows, the chocolate would be sent to a landfill.

Every day, Hershey plants in Pennsylvania and other states have leftover chocolate. Some of it's excess from line changes and some could be from color or taste rejections. According to Cargill, the leftovers add up to tens of thousands of pounds of chocolate. They've dubbed the mix simply as "candy meal."

"They might have to make peanut butter cakes one day and something else the next day, so those lines have to get cleaned out," Reiner said.

Instead of going to a landfill, Hershey's sends the chocolate to Cargill's feed mill in Chambersburg, Franklin County, where it's turned into an ingredient that cows, pigs, and other livestock can eat. About 35,000 tons of the chocolate feed a year is produced by Cargill and used on about 500 farms in the Northeast. The program was launched in 2011.

On a spring morning at Red Knob Farm earlier this month, third-generation farmer Andy Young said the decision to use recycled chocolate in his feed is part of a farm-wide effort to reuse everything, whether it's food or manure.

"The way I see it, all of this land is on loan to us," Young said.

Young's farm is directly linked to the Chesapeake Bay by Little Conowingo Creek, which connects to the Susquehanna River, just a few miles west. It's one of the reasons why Young doesn't till his land - it limits runoff - and recycles as much cow waste as possible.

"Basically, anything that runs off the fields gets into the bay," he said.

Some of the waste is pressed dry and broken down to a wood pulp for cow bedding. The liquid is stored and used as occasional "flush" to clean the barn floors.

"It just continues, in a loop, until spring and fall until all of that water is applied to the field to grow the corn crop and the rye crop," he said.

Young said he's been selling milk to Hershey for years. Hershey uses the milk to make chocolate, and now it's coming back for the cows to eat: as perfect of a circle as you can get.

When it's time for feeding, a man driving a loader takes large scoops of the chocolate, then some of the pickled rye, and dumps it precisely into a mixer truck. Some of it gets caught in the wind, coating any onlookers in a light dusting of powdered chocolate.

"Yeah, it's not bad. You can eat it," Galbreath said. "I've certainly been covered in worse."

Load-Date: April 29, 2023

Hershey Continues to Reduce Its Environmental Impact

Impact News Service
November 22, 2022 Tuesday

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Length: 686 words

Body

Alexandria, Virginia: National Association of Convenience Stores has issued the following press release:

The Hershey Company announced it 's making measurable progress on its commitment to act on climate change. Recent initiatives include the launch of a third utility-scale solar project, energy and water optimization investments and continued progress addressing land use change. As stated in its 2021 ESG Report, the candy and snack maker reduced its Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 48% and Scope 3 emissions by 18% against a 2018 baseline. As part of its science-based targets, Hershey aims to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% and Scope 3 by 25% by 2030.

Investing in Renewable Energy

Hershey and National Grid Renewables announced Hershey's 140-megawatt Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the Copperhead Solar and Storage Project in Falls County, Texas, earlier this month. The project is expected to produce an estimated \$25 million in direct economic impact throughout its first 25 years of operation, including the production of new tax revenue, onsite operations jobs and the creation of a charitable fund estimated at \$600,000. This is Hershey's third solar PPA. The company's second project with National Grid Renewables, Noble Solar and Storage is located in Denton County, Texas.

'Investment in renewable energy is pushing us closer to achieving our ambitious science-based targets,' said Mark Kline, director, commodities and specialty procurement at The Hershey Company. 'The impact of these three solar projects will be equal to taking nearly 79,000 gas-powered vehicles off the road per year.'

Reducing Energy Intensity and Water Use

At the company's headquarters in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and in manufacturing facilities around the world, a \$3 million investment for energy optimization includes systems to report real-time utility usage data for electricity, natural gas and water. Most of these systems will be installed in U.S facilities by the end of this year and in international facilities in 2023.

In 2021, the company also invested nearly \$1.5 million in high-efficient equipment and adjusted operating procedures to reduce well water usage. These recent environmental investments also help to reduce operating costs. Seventy-seven percent of the company's electricity consumption in 2021 was renewable or zero-emissions

Hershey Continues to Reduce Its Environmental Impact

energy. The investment in real-time utility usage data is expected to uncover additional energy saving opportunities and help to reduce the company's energy intensity by approximately 10 percent over the next five years.

Fighting Deforestation With Climate-Smart Cocoa Practices

Addressing land use change is a significant part of Hershey's climate action plans. The company is committed to eliminating commodity-driven deforestation from its supply chain by 2030. Through its sustainable cocoa strategy, Cocoa For Good, the candy and snack maker supports cocoa farmers through education on income diversification and climate-smart cocoa practices as the risks of climate change loom large for communities in West Africa. In 2021, 41% of Cocoa For Good farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana were trained on climate-smart cocoa using a curriculum Hershey helped to develop alongside partners.

Driving the Business Through Acting on Climate Change

In addition to reducing operating costs across Scope 1 and 2, minimizing environmental impact and restoring ecosystems preserves and strengthens resources while fostering sustainable agricultural communities for generations to come, according to Hershey. Across its value chain, Hershey is extending its expertise and working with partners for the long-term success and resiliency of those reliant on its business and for the next generation.

'Solving daunting issues like the impacts of climate change requires cross-industry collaboration. We are committed to partnering with others to achieve the impact we strive for. We know we don't have all the answers and our work continues, but are proud of the progress made so far,' said Leigh Horner, vice president of global sustainability and corporate communications at The Hershey Company.

Load-Date: November 23, 2022

Ivory Coast lifts suspension of Hershey cocoa sustainability schemes

Postmedia Breaking News
December 5, 2020 Saturday
Web Edition

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Section: PMN BUSINESS

Length: 332 words

Body

ABIDJAN - Ivory Coast will lift a suspension imposed this week on cocoa sustainability schemes run by Hershey after the U.S.-based chocolate maker committed to paying a premium aimed at combating poverty among farmers.

Ivorian and Ghanaian cocoa regulators on Monday suspended the schemes, alleging Hershey was sourcing large volumes of physical cocoa on the ICE futures exchange to avoid paying the so-called living income differential (LID).

Hershey, makers of such popular candy items as Hershey chocolate bars, Hershey's Kisses and Kit Kat, said it was fully participating in the LID and would continue to do so.

Ivorian regulator, the Coffee and Cocoa council (CCC), has since held a video meeting with Hershey representatives in which it promised to lift the suspension, a letter dated Dec. 4 from the CCC to Hershey and seen by Reuters shows.

The move "follows your definitive commitment to pay the LID," the letter, whose authenticity was verified by a CCC spokesperson, said.

"Our sustainability programs complement and strengthen our shared efforts to positively impact cocoa-growing communities," Hershey said, adding it recognized the importance of the LID.

The schemes certify cocoa as sustainably sourced - meaning its production is free of environmental and human rights abuses, such as using child labor or being grown in a protected forest.

This allows companies to market their chocolate as ethical and charge a premium for it.

Ghana's cocoa industry regulator, Cocobod, has not yet taken a decision on whether to lift the suspension, a spokesman said.

Ivory Coast and Ghana, which produce two-thirds of the world's cocoa, introduced a \$400 a tonne LID on cocoa sales for the 2020/21 season, but have since struggled to sell their beans as chocolate demand has been hit by the coronavirus crisis. (Additional reporting by Rama Venkat in Bengaluru; Writing by Alessandra Prentice; Editing by Pravin Char and Alexander Smith)!@COPYRIGHT=© 2020 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

Load-Date: December 5, 2020

Forbes Just 100: Hershey Recognized for Doing Well by Doing Good

Newstex Blogs 3BL Blogs

October 22, 2020 Thursday 3:20 PM EST

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Length: 1096 words

Byline: Hershey

Body

Oct 22, 2020(3BL Blogs: http://3blmedia.com/ Delivered by Newstex) The Hershey Company's legacy is rooted in doing well by doing good. This was the mission of our founder, Milton Hershey, who built a company on the values of integrity, excellence, togetherness and making a difference. That spirit lives on with us today, more than 125 years later. The Forbes Just 100 list[1] shows that our hard work is being recognized. We are proud to be recognized for the second consecutive year - and to have jumped from #86 last year to #34 this year.

The list of 100 corporations ranks publicly traded American companies that are leading the way on issues that Americans care about most. As part of this year's Just 100, Hershey celebrates delivering on one of our most important commitments. In 2012, Hershey committed to sourcing 100 percent certified and sustainable cocoa by 2020, and we achieved our goal at the start of this year. We have further committed to expanding our work in cocoa as Hersheycommitted to 100% direct-sourced cocoa[2]in our high-risk areas by 2025, which includes all of our cocoa sources from suppliers in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. This provides us with more transparency into our supply chain for our consumers and stakeholders and enables us to expand our Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation Systems[3]to assess more than 125,000 children and provide remediation, such as providing birth certificates so children stay in school. This work is part of Hershey's long-term and comprehensive investment in the most vulnerable cocoa-farming communities to build their capability and resilience, encourage women to share their voice, provide increased opportunities for young people, and diversify incomes to increase quality of life. We certainly are not doing this work alone. It is only by working with our partners that we can make an impact, and we are proud to be working with partners on areas such as: Nourishing Children: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition Keller Foundation[5], Project Peanut Butter[6], The (GAIN)[4],Helen Sustainable (IDH)[7]andTransforming Education in Cocoa Communities (TRECC)[8] Empowering Youth:Aflatoun and Inades[9], CARE International[10], International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)[11] and TRECC Prospering Communities: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation[12], CARE, ICI and USAID[13] Preserving Ecosystems: Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI)[14],Impactum[15],Nature Conversation Research Centre[16],PUR Projet[17]and USAIDHershey has also committed to Human Rights with our firstHuman Rights Policy[18]which guides how we operate our business now and into the future. This is a key focus area for us and more relevant than ever during this pandemic and its impact around the world. As a means to ensure human rights are protected in our palm oil supply chain, Hershey launched a grievance process that is transparent, responsive and effective for stakeholders to raise grievances that are in direct violation of our Palm Policy. To be transparent, all grievances that have been logged can be found on ourPalm Oil website[19]. Amplified by the events of 2020, systemic racism and racial inequality are also at the top of the list of most critical issues facing our generation and our country. Our values of togetherness, integrity, making a difference and excellence and our unique Hershey culture, have guided us to co-create aninclusive work environment[20]. We know, however, that we have more work to do with room to improve and grow. We have increased attention on advancing equity for Black and Brown colleagues and the broader community and have engaged a diverse group of employees across every part of the business to refresh our diversity and inclusion strategy to make it more actionable and part of our daily work. The safety and well-being of our employees is

Forbes Just 100: Hershey Recognized for Doing Well by Doing Good

always paramount. During the coronavirus pandemic, we implemented new programs including incentive pay for our retail and manufacturing teams and increased safety protocols, such as remote work capabilities where possible, for our employees around the world. In line with our legacy of responding to the needs of our communities, we sprung to action to open new production lines tocreate personal protective equipment (PPE)[21]for our employees, their families and our communities at large. Hershey also is deeply committed to addressing climate change and the increasing risk it poses to our planet and to our business. Hershey has been working to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) for a decade. More recently, Hershey committed to the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) in January 2019, and we are working to set ascience-based greenhouse gas reduction goal[22]by January 2021. This is challenging but important work and one of the biggest issues of our generation. Hershey will continue to be a company that people can depend on to operate in a 'just' way. We are not only working toward as
more sustainable future, but as a company, people can trust that when we make a commitment, we see that
commitment through. [1]: https://www.forbes.com/just-companies/#1350fbc32bf0 [2]:
https://www.thehersheycompany.com/content/corporate_SSF/en_us/blog/hershey-continues-to-scale-cocoa-
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Load-Date: October 22, 2020

Hershey Invests in Sustainable Cocoa Sourcing

Impact Financial News June 5, 2021 Saturday

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Length: 698 words

Body

Alexandria, Virginia: National Association of Convenience Stores has issued the following press release:

The Hershey Company highlights its progress on key environmental and social initiatives during a year of unprecedented challenges in its 2020 Sustainability Report. The report reviews the company's holistic sustainability strategy—known as its Shared Goodness Promise—which includes initiatives across the enterprise and value chain such as responsible sourcing, respecting human rights, climate action, equity and inclusion, employee wellbeing, diversity and community engagement.

Hershey's Shared Goodness Promise guides the company to make positive change at scale and to leverage its business to advance more sustainable growth, with socially conscious and responsible business practices. With the onset of the pandemic in 2020, Hershey's top priority in 2020 was the physical, emotional and economic well-being of its employees as it worked to make "more moments of goodness" for consumers at a time when it was needed most.

The company made significant progress in its efforts to responsibly source cocoa while building healthy, prosperous cocoa communities, and it took meaningful action to reduce its environmental footprint. Additionally, the company put racial equality at the forefront of its agenda, co-creating with employees a strengthened diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy, investing in underrepresented communities and taking action to help end systemic racism.

"2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges and hardship for us all, but also one of opportunity. At Hershey, our purpose—to make more moments of goodness—and our values of togetherness, integrity, excellence and making a difference, grounded our every effort as we put goodness into action by looking after one another and working together each and every day to make a positive impact," said Michele Buck, chairman, president and CEO of The Hershey Company, in a press release.

Notable milestones highlighted in Hershey's 2020 Sustainability Report include:

Managing Through COVID-19: Protecting the physical, emotional and economic well-being of its many stakeholders was Hershey's top priority throughout the pandemic. The company invested \$1 million to convert traditional manufacturing operations to produce more than 40 million masks, a portion of which were donated to community organizations and schools in its hometown of Hershey, Pa.

Hershey Invests in Sustainable Cocoa Sourcing

Sourcing Cocoa Responsibly: At the heart of making the best chocolate in the world is sourcing the best cocoa grown around the globe—and Hershey continues to prioritize responsible cocoa sourcing to bring its iconic products to market sustainably. In 2020, Hershey achieved its 100% certified and sustainable cocoa commitment made in 2011 and further committed to 100% direct sourcing of all cocoa from Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana by 2025, enabling the company to have greater visibility and impact into where and how its cocoa is grown. Through its "Cocoa For Good" strategy, Hershey will continue its focus on supporting cocoa farmers and their families to be able to live healthy, prosperous lives in thriving ecosystems.

Strengthening Climate Action: Hershey set science-based targets to reduce absolute greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50% across Scope 1 and 2 and 25% across Scope 3 by 2030, compared to 2018. Hershey concluded 2020 with a 23.7% improvement in Scope 1 and 2 emissions and a 12.6% improvement in Scope 3 emissions against its baseline. These bold steps will support Hershey in ensuring the long-term sustainability of its business, the planet and its people.

Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI): Hershey accelerated its focus on diversity, equity and inclusion with a refreshed enterprise inclusion strategy, new trainings, educational and career development resources for employees and a \$1.5 million investment in the Thurgood Marshall College Fund to provide scholarships for underrepresented populations. The company will achieve these commitments through The Pathways Project, a new enterprise strategy focused on inclusive hiring practices, targeted retention and advancement efforts and community engagement initiatives.

Load-Date: June 7, 2021

HERSHEY TO EXPAND COMMITMENT TO CHILD WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

PR Newswire

April 27, 2023 Thursday 2:30 PM EST

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Length: 1058 words

Dateline: HERSHEY, Pa., April 27, 2023

Body

PR Newswire

Reflects the shared goals of Hershey and Côte d'Ivoire's National Strategy for Sustainable Cocoa to improve childhood education and preserve ecosystems in cocoa-producing communities

The Hershey Company (NYSE: HSY) today announced that it will be partnering with Côte d'Ivoire government agencies and non-governmental organizations through public-private partnerships to invest in the construction of ten primary schools in cocoa-growing communities and implement a focused program to preserve the Mabi-Yaya Nature Reserve. Purposefully aligned with the objectives of Côte d'Ivoire's National Strategy for Sustainable Cocoa and Hershey's new Income Accelerator, these investments reflect a shared commitment to ensuring a better and more sustainable cocoa supply chain for years to come.

"Access to education for children and environmental conservation are critical components of our broader Cocoa For Good strategy and vital to building healthy communities where cocoa farmers and their families live," said Chuck Raup, President, U.S., The Hershey Company. "We are proud to take an active role in creating greater access to primary schooling and building the critical conservation programming needed to support healthy cocoa ecosystems and farmer income resilience."

Working with the National Oversight Committee of Actions against child trafficking, exploitation and child labor (CNS), chaired by Côte d'Ivoire First Lady Dominique Ouattara, and the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), Hershey will fund the construction of ten schools. As part of Hershey's commitment to improve children's well-being and prevent and eliminate child labor, these schools will create critical infrastructure to enable generations of children to succeed.

Further, Hershey will partner with the Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire to advance preservation efforts in the Mabi-Yaya Nature Reserve (RNMY), which was created in 2019 in the heart of the country's southeastern cocoa producing area. Hershey's investment will support conservation and management activities implemented by the Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR), including replanting nearly 1000 hectares of degraded lands, conducting a biodiversity census inside RNMY, strengthening existing ecological monitoring capabilities and engaging local communities for support. These efforts to restore RNMY's natural integrity further Hershey's broader commitment to mitigate the effects of climate change and deliver on its Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) action plans.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d'Ivoire fully appreciates this partnership with Hershey which will strengthen its actions on the entire network of protected areas and contribute at the international level to the achievement of the Aïchi targets on the global importance of biological diversity.

HERSHEY TO EXPAND COMMITMENT TO CHILD WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

"Collaboration between public and private actors remains the most effective option for ending child labor in cocoa production," said Dominique Ouattara, First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, President of the National Oversight Committee of Actions against child trafficking, exploitation and child labor.

Matthias Lange, Executive Director of ICI, a multistakeholder organization tackling child labor and forced labor in cocoa, added, "We are pleased to support this important collaboration to improve access to quality education. In line with national priorities, we know that improving access to quality schools is an important step in tackling child labor in cocoa-growing communities."

These investments in education and conservation complement Hershey's Income Accelerator announced today and collectively advance the objectives set in Côte d'Ivoire's National Strategy for Sustainable Cocoa. All three initiatives work together to create a more sustainable cocoa supply chain and counteract the interrelated issues of farmer poverty, child labor and deforestation.

About The Hershey Company

The Hershey Company is headquartered in Hershey, Pa., and is an industry-leading snacks company known for bringing goodness to the world through its iconic brands, remarkable people and enduring commitment to help children succeed. Hershey has nearly 20,000 employees around the world who work every day to deliver delicious, quality products. The company has more than 100 brand names in approximately 80 countries around the world that drive \$10.4 billion in annual revenues, including such iconic brand names as Hershey's, Reese's, Kit Kat®, Jolly Rancher and Ice Breakers, and fast-growing salty snacks including SkinnyPop, Pirate's Booty and Dot's Homestyle Pretzels.

For more than 125 years, Hershey has been committed to operating fairly, ethically and sustainably. Hershey founder, Milton Hershey, created the Milton Hershey School in 1909 and since then the company has focused on helping children succeed.

To learn more visit thehersheycompany.com.

About CNS

With the mission to monitor and evaluate the actions of the Government and non-governmental actors in the fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor, the CNS represents one of the key institutional actors of the national mechanism to fight against the worst forms of child labor in Côte d'Ivoire. The main missions of the CNS are to monitor and evaluate the actions of the government and national actors in the fight against child trafficking and the worst forms of child labor in Côte d'Ivoire.

travaildesenfants.org

About the Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire

The Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Cote d'Ivoire is a non-profit organization that manages funds for programs to support conservation efforts in Cote d'Ivoire's national parks and reserves.

Fondationparc.ci

About ICI

ICI is a Swiss-based, non-profit foundation that works to ensure a better future for children in cocoa-growing communities. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership advancing the elimination of child labour and forced labour, by uniting the forces of the cocoa and chocolate industry, civil society, farming communities, governments, international organizations and donors.

cocoainitiative.org

HERSHEY TO EXPAND COMMITMENT TO CHILD WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

View original content to download multimedia:https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/hershey-to-expand-commitment-to-child-wellbeing-and-environmental-conservation-in-cote-divoire-301810027.html

SOURCE The Hershey Company

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Load-Date: April 27, 2023

Hershey's Is Getting Called Out Over Lead and Cadmium in Its Chocolate

TheStreet.com

January 23, 2023 Monday 4:16 PM EDT

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TheStreet.com

Length: 586 words

Byline: TheStreet Staff

Highlight: A new Consumer Reports study showed some troubling findings.

Body

Valentine's Day is when traditionally soar but, this year, it will also be a deadline by which four major chocolate producers will need to step up their game when it comes to chemicals in their chocolate.

At the end of December, a series of tests product safety nonprofit Consumer Reports identified Trader Joe's, Hershey's, Lindt, Godiva and Mars' Dove as brands whose may contain particularly higher-than-normal levels of cadmium and lead.

The outrage was significant and, two weeks after the study, a class action lawsuit accused Hershey's of advertising their chocolate in a "false, deceptive, and misleading" way" -- by cashing in on the widely-held belief that dark chocolate is healthier for you while not disclosing the presence of these chemicals in products like Hershey's Special Dark Mildly Sweet Chocolate, which Consumers Reports said contained 265% of lead's maximum allowable dose levels in California.

While cadmium and lead appear on cocoa beans naturally due to the contaminants' presence in soil and air amid pollution, chocolate that has not been properly treated to remove it can lead to various health problems to those who eat it regularly -- Consumer Reports draws attention to hypertension, kidney damage and fertility issues in particular.

A Valentine's Day Chocolate Deadline

"By marketing the Products as containing only dark chocolate ingredients, and not disclosing the presence of cadmium and lead, Defendant misleads reasonable consumers," reads filed by Christopher Lazazzaro in the U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York.

While class-action lawsuits often fizzle out, the ante was raised now that Consumer Reports sent a new letter to Hershey's, Mondelez, Theo Chocolate and Trader Joe's. As by Reuters, Consumer Reports is urging the chocolate makers to make a definitive commitment by Valentine's Day.

"Many choose to eat dark chocolate because of its potential health benefits and relatively low levels of sugar," Consumer Reports writes in four similarly-worded letters to the chocolate makers. "But there's nothing healthy about ingesting heavy metals. Consistent, long-term exposure to even small amounts can lead to a variety of health problems, including nervous system issues, immunosuppression and kidney damage."

Hershey's Is Getting Called Out Over Lead and Cadmium in Its Chocolate

As of Monday afternoon, over 55,000 consumers concerned about the situation signed the Consumer Products letter that also asked the companies to make a bigger commitment to decreasing its products' lead and cadmium levels.

A Chocolate Lead Battle That Goes Back Years

Not one of the four brands immediately responded to TheStreet's request for comments on the Consumer Reports study.

The head-to-head between chocolate makers and consumer advocacy groups date back years. In 2016, another group called As You Sow regarding lead labeling to Hershey, Mars, and See's Candies.

According to Reuters, Trader Joe's has also been facing at least nine lawsuits over the findings of the study.

It has, overall, been a busy few weeks for chemical findings and class-action lawsuits; a suit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York claims that Coca-Cola 's Simply Juice brand is a "healthy" and "all-natural" beverage option while actually containing PFAS "forever chemicals" hundreds of times above the federal limit for drinking water.

The lawsuit asks a judge to award "economic compensation" to all the consumers who have "suffered injury" over drinking Simply Juice products over a period that in some cases dates back years.

Load-Date: January 23, 2023

Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire cancel Hershey's sustainability programmes as row over 'cheap cocoa beans' intensifies

ConfectioneryNews.com

December 1, 2020 Tuesday 3:54 PM GMT+1

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Length: 588 words

Byline: Anthony Myers, , Anthony

Body

Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire have carried out their threat to cancel Hershey's cocoa sustainability schemes in their countries, accusing the US giant of trying to avoid paying the cocoa Living Income Differential (LID) premium aimed at combating farmer poverty – and agreed by the two governments and chocolate companies, including Hershey.

In a letter addressed to Hershey and leaked to the media, the Ivorian and Ghanaian cocoa regulators have accused Hershey of sourcing 30,000 tonnes of cocoa on the ICE futures exchange in order to avoid paying the premium.

The letter, sent to Hershey on Monday, accused the company of "conspiracy and machinations," saying the use of the exchange was a clear indication of Hershey's intention to avoid paying the LID.

Failure to comply with the orders would mean companies could lose their licenses to operate in the countries, they added.

The letter, which also accuses Fuji Oil Holdings' Blommer subsidiary of aiding Hershey, was verified as authentic by spokespeople for the regulators.

Companies including Mars Wrigley, Mondelez International, Barry Callebaut, Hershey's and Nestlé have invested heavily in their own voluntary certification schemes in West Africa as a response to pressure from consumers for ethically sourced chocolate.

Name and shame

Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, which account for approximately 70% of the world's supply, threatened to name and shame chocolate companies caught trying to buy 'cheaper beans' on the futures market to avoid paying a premium aimed at boosting farmers' incomes.

The countries also said Mars had allegedly changed its buying patterns for the same reason, although there is no evidence on the futures market at the time of writing.

Chocolate makers and cocoa processors had agreed to pay the West African nations a 'living income differential' of \$400 a tonne on top of the market price. The new price came into effect for the main 2020/2021 season crop this October.

Coronavirus pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic has slashed demand, with cocoa grinding figures down, forcing chocolate companies to cut costs.

Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire cancel Hershey's sustainability programmes as row over 'cheap cocoa beans' intensifies

A Hershey spokesperson told ConfectioneryNews that all its 2020/2021 cocoa purchased within its supply chain since the implementation of the LID in West African countries includes the LID price premium. "Beans sold prior to the implementation of the LID would not include the premium."

Hershey also said it remains "deeply committed to our substantial cocoa sustainability work with producer governments on our mutual goals to tackle the root causes of poverty that put youth at risk as well as ending deforestation. In addition to paying the Ivorian and Ghanaian Living Income Differential to help increase farmers' income from cocoa, Hershey is investing in farmer training to enable growing more cocoa on less land and improving productivity, which helps address poverty, the main driver of labour issues in cocoa. Hershey is also helping farmers diversify their incomes with alternative crops and other income-generating activities as well as paying farmers a premium for their cocoa."

Mars and Bloomer were not available for comment.

The two countries have also reportedly withdrawn their membership of the Cocoa Merchants' Association of America.

Ghanaian and Ivorian cocoa regulators also said they were reviewing their membership of the Federation of Cocoa Commerce in London and that they are "reconsidering the incentives and the licenses granted to members of the FCC which are directly or subtly rejecting" the living income differential.

Load-Date: December 1, 2020

Market Update - Industry Highlights: Hershey India Launches New Hershey's Kisses Variant with 30% Less Sugar

Progressive Grocer (India) November 30, 2021

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Length: 327 words

Body

Hershey India Pvt Ltd., a part of The Hershey Company, a leading global snacking giant and the largest producer of quality chocolates in North America, announced the launch of the 'Better-For-You' variant for its premium iconic chocolate Hershey's Kisses. Catering to the consumer trend of 'conscious indulgence', the new Hershey's Kisses variant will consist of 30% less sugar* packed within a recyclable pack - offering consumers an option that is 'better-for-you' and better-for-environment, too.

With it's first-ever launch of a less sugar chocolate variant, Hershey India attempts to offer a smart snacking choice of delectable chocolate treats. The iconic brand has also ensured that 'less sugar' is a delight with no compromise on its delicious taste.

While more consumers are opting for 'better-for-you' snacking options, Hershey India is catering to the conscious buyers who are looking to reduce sugar intake without giving up the rich indulgence of their favourite chocolate. The new 30% less sugar* variant of Hershey's Kisses contains no artificial sweeteners while retaining its trademark sweetness.

With a focus on the well-being of the environment, the brand is also launching the new lower-sugar Hershey's Kisses in a recyclable pack. The new packaging adopts one single material of plastic incorporated in all three layers of the packaging, making it easier to recycle.

Commenting on the launch of the lesssugar variant of Hershey's Kisses, Herjit Bhalla, VP India and AEMEA at The Hershey Company, said, "I am extremely excited to announce the launch of our less sugar variant for our iconic product Hershey's Kisses in sustainable packaging for conscious chocolate lovers. With this launch we continue to cater further to the growing demand space of the Better for You category."

The new Hershey's Kisses are available at MRP Rs. 60 across top cities and stores. *30% less added sugar as compared to the HERSHEY'S KISSES milk chocolate recipe in 2021.

Load-Date: December 10, 2021

Cote d'Ivoire threatens to pull sustainability programmes after Hershey buys 'cheap' cocoa beans on futures market

ConfectioneryNews.com

November 26, 2020 Thursday 3:23 PM GMT+1

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Length: 379 words

Byline: Anthony Myers, , Anthony

Body

Cote d'Ivoire, the world's largest cocoa producing country, has called the move by Hershey to reportedly buy 30,000 tonnes of cheap beans from the ICE New York futures exchange an attempt to derail plans for the Living Income Differential (LID) set up to help fight famer poverty.

Along with Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire plans to sell its first full cocoa crop this season under a new scheme that includes a price premium of \$400 per tonne, arranged with the chocolate industry as a way of providing a living income for farmers.

Hershey and other chocolate companies say they support the premium, in exchange for the two governments continuing to support their sustainability schemes - but news of Hershey also striking a deal through the ICE exchange, which will allow it to avoid paying the LID for those beans, puts the arrangement at risk.

Yves Kone, head of Le Couseil du Café-Cacao of Cote d'Ivoire (CCC), has written to the president of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) industry group that the purchase signalled the company's opposition to the LID scheme.

"It is a conspiracy to defeat the concept of the floor price as known, and therefore not to grant a remunerative price to all cocoa producers in our countries," Kone said in the letter, which has been leaked to the media.

Ghana's cocoa regulator (Cocobod) has already threatened to suspend chocolate companies' sustainability schemes, which are used to assure consumers that their beans are ethically sourced, because of the Hershey action.

Name and shame

Kone, said he would also publicly name and shame companies, a threat also made by his Ghanaian counterpart, Joseph Boahen Aidoo, and suspend the voluntary sustainability and certification programmes in his country.

Hershey said in a statement it has long supported initiatives that improve the incomes and livelihoods of farmers.

"This includes supporting and participating this year in the Ivorian and Ghanaian Living Income Differential as we buy 2020/2021 season cocoa based on the needs of our business. All 2020/2021 cocoa purchased within our supply chain since the implementation of the LID in West African countries includes this price premium. Beans sold prior to the implementation of the LID would not include the premium."

The WCF was unavailable for comment.

Load-Date: November 26, 2020

Cote d'Ivoire threatens to pull sustainability programmes after Hershey buys 'cheap' cocoa beans on futures market

The Hershey Company Ranks in Top 20% on World Wildlife Fund's Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard

Newstex Blogs
3BL Blogs
February 6, 2020 Thursday 2:20 PM EST

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Length: 229 words **Byline:** Hershey

Body

Feb 06, 2020(3BL Blogs: http://3blmedia.com/ Delivered by Newstex) We are committed to protecting our communities through sustainable sourcing policies. Our Responsible Palm Oil Sourcing Policy is one such way #8212; and according to the World Wildlife Fund[1] Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard, we're in the top 20% of companies they evaluated. See how we're doing.[2]About Hershey TheHershey Company is headquartered inHershey, Pa., and is an industry-leading snacks company known for bringing goodness to the world through its iconic brands, remarkable people and enduring commitment to help children succeed. Hershey has approximately 16,500 employees around the world who work every day to deliver delicious, quality products. The company has more than 80 brands around the world that drive \$8 billionin annual revenues, including such iconic brand names asHershey's,Reese's,Kit Kat,JollyRancher,IceBreakers,SkinnyPopandPirate's Booty. For more than 125 years, Hershey has been committed to operating fairly, ethically and sustainably. Hershey founder,Milton Hershey, created theMilton Hershey Schoolin 1909 and since then the company has focused on helping children succeed. To learn more visit www.thehersheycompany.com[3] [1]: https://palmoilscorecard.panda.org/ [2]: https://bit.ly/2RSCztE [3]: https://www.thehersheycompany.com/

Load-Date: February 6, 2020