



Operations Safety Intern

Since 1921, First District Association has been a grassroots, member-owned dairy cooperative located in Litchfield, Minnesota. Every day we focus on creating a sustainable market for dairy products and allow our family farms to prosper in the time honored Midwest dairy traditions.

First District Association is searching for a driven, self-starting, creative individual to assist in our company's safety efforts in our processing plants. He/she will have the opportunity to focus on high-risk areas like chemical handling safety, ammonia refrigeration safety, slip-and-fall hazards from wet floors, and lockout/tagout (LOTO) on processing machines.

Key Responsibilities:

Chemical & Sanitation Safety

- Review Cleaning-in-Place (CIP) chemical storage areas, delivery lines, and personal protective equipment (PPE) stations for each department's plants (cheese plant, milk & whey plants, warehouses). Replace and document PPE in need of replacing.
- Inspect, test, and map all emergency eyewash and shower stations across processing and bulk chemical tanker-unloading bays. Document and replace worn out or damaged dust covers or labels.

Machine & Maintenance Safety

- Review, verify and update Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) procedures for each plant.
- Machine Guarding Check: Audit nip points, rotating shafts, and conveyor belts in the packaging and palletizing areas. Document and replace missing labels, guards, or identified areas of concern.

Facility & Ergonomic Hazards

- Slip-and-Fall Reduction: Assess floor drainage, anti-slip matting, and footwear policies in high-moisture wet process areas.
- Ergonomic Assessment: Evaluate manual stacking of blocks in grading room, material handling in parts warehouse, and ingredient dumping tasks in cheese plant HCV area and powder packaging area to reduce worker strains.
- Complete safety audit walkthroughs with all department scheduled safety audits. Work on completing and following up on safety findings.

Emergency Preparedness

- Review and check emergency action plans, windsock function, and ammonia light stack sensor alarms for ammonia refrigeration systems.
- Review and update fire exit route maps and check emergency lighting and egress paths in all departments' plants, warehouses and production areas. Post updated emergency exit route maps in all plant posting areas.

Minimum Qualifications:

- At least two year post H.S., active enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate degree program in



FIRST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Dairy Science, Agricultural Business, Environmental Science, Management, Chemical Engineering, or a closely related technical field. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

- Basic understanding of OSHA standards (General Industry 29 CFR 1910)
- Classroom or practical exposure to risk assessment concepts, job hazard analyses (JHAs), or incident investigation methodologies
- Ability to work in a dynamic manufacturing environment, which includes exposure to varying temperatures (refrigerated cooler areas vs. ambient warehouses), noise, and wet floors.
- Willingness and physical ability to wear required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including steel-toed boots, safety glasses, hearing protection, hairnets, and high-visibility vests.
- Demonstrated analytical skills to evaluate safety data, identify trends, and propose actionable solutions.
- Ability to work self-directed on project goals with minimal daily supervision after initial onboarding.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills to effectively collaborate with plant operators, maintenance staff, and management.
- Microsoft Office Suite experience (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

Our Human Resource team is located at our Litchfield, MN location; some remote work may be available. The position will average 40 hours a week during June, July and August 2027. This is an hourly paid position.

Please submit your resume, cover letter, and two references to C2@firstdistrict.com by November 1, 2026, to be considered. Interviews will be conducted after application deadline.