There is no single American story. We’re this big country.”

Pam Hodgson, 55, of Plymouth, Wis., is one of two female master cheesemakers in the country. At Sartori, she gets to be creative in making new cheeses, and she mentors others learning the craft. She lives on a dairy farm that has been in her family since 1888.

"Because of our geographical and cultural differences, we have a great opportunity to be stronger. It’s what we do with it." To her, that means building community, on her own team and "with people we may never meet" around a cheese board.