



Free Access to the Website

Thanks to the generous support of our Platinum-Level sponsors (**Dean Foods Foundation, Saputo Inc., Zinpro, Zoetis, and PDPW**), everyone has the opportunity to register for a free 2-year subscription to the Dairyland Initiative website! Complimentary subscriptions are available for all U.S. dairy producers and educators/Extension personnel thanks to the Dean Foods Foundation. Dairy producers and educators/Extension personnel outside of the U.S., and industry consultants that do not fall under the other listed “business types” on the registration page, can register for free, made possible by Saputo Inc. Nutritionists worldwide can contact their local Zinpro representative for a passcode while veterinarians worldwide can contact their local Zoetis representative for a passcode to enter on the registration page. Hoof trimmers can contact **Save Cows** for a passcode. If you would like to thank our sponsors, please click [here](#).

Registration Instructions:

1. Go to <http://thedairylandinitiative.vetmed.wisc.edu/register.htm>
2. Enter the information requested in all fields
3. Select the appropriate “Business Type” category
4. Enter the code in the shaded security box
5. Click the “Sign up” button

You will receive a 6-digit login ID number via email that you will need to enter along with your email address on the homepage of the website to access the website’s content.

What’s Next for the Website?

The Dairyland Initiative team is performing a re-write and update of all of the website pages to bring our information in-line with the most recent welfare-friendly dairy cattle housing guidelines. In addition, we are translating the website into French and Spanish to improve our global reach and influence, thanks to our recent partnership with Saputo Inc. Please stay tuned for these updates in 2016.

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Happy Holidays!

By the Numbers...

- 3,629 Active Users**
- 1,385 Dairy Producers
- 1,078 Veterinarians & veterinary students
- 97 Nutritionists
- 200 Construction Professionals
- 550 Consultants & Supporters
- 286 Extension educator
- 59 Lending Professionals
- 26 Hoof Trimmers
- 33,594 Total Daily Log-ins**



Upcoming Workshops

The next set of Dairyland Initiative workshops will be held on February 4 and 5 in Madison, WI at the Sheraton Madison Hotel. On February 4, Dr. Ken Nordlund will present on building design and management to minimize respiratory disease in calves and principles of positive pressure tube systems. Drs. Ken Nordlund and Nigel Cook will present problems in holding area cooling, and how positive pressure tube systems provide a lower energy, effective solution for heat abatement on February 5. Dr. Rebecca Brotzman and the Dairyland Initiative staff will lead participants through hands-on exercises to learn how to use the Positive Pressure Tube Calculator to create specifications for calf barns and milking center holding areas.

Full details and registration information can be found on [the Dairyland Initiative](#) website. Spaces are limited to 40 participants each day so be sure to **sign up** soon! The next workshop on positive pressure tube ventilation design for calf barns is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2016.

This coming spring, please join us for a one and a half day workshop on planning new and remodeling existing dairy cow housing where Dr. Nigel Cook will walk through the steps needed to create facilities that make cows happy, healthy, and productive while participants work in groups to tackle various building projects. Registration information will be available in early 2016.

New Virtual Tour

The new virtual tour features a 120-cow mixed Holstein and Guernsey herd in a new, free-flow robotic milking facility with two robotic milking stations and three rows of sand-bedded freestalls.

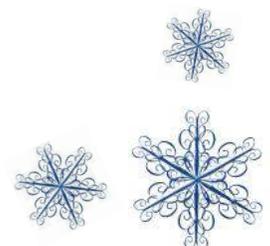
Milk production improved by ~10 lbs (4.5 kg) due to improved cow comfort from the old freestall barn and increased milking frequency with the herd averaging ~80 lbs (36.3 kg) of milk per cow per day. On average, cows are milked 2.8 times per day with 62-65 cows per robot. Cows are fetched twice daily from the post-fresh pen for milking. The barn is naturally ventilated and oriented east-west for future expansion to the south with an additional “half” of the barn. A layout of the barn, pictures, and an interview with the producer can be found under the [Virtual Tours](#) tab of the Dairyland Initiative website.

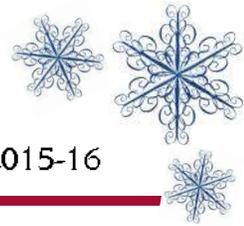


The Certified Consultants Network

[The Dairyland Initiative Certified Consultant Network](#) is a resource of experienced industry professionals who are skilled and equipped to deliver advice and recommendations based upon the Wisconsin Blueprint building design and management standards. Consultation requests to the Dairyland Initiative are referred to a Certified Consultant based upon their location, strengths, and interests. Dairy producers are welcome to contact a Network consultant directly for assistance.

We have certified seven individuals who have demonstrated proficiency in positive pressure tube ventilation (PPTV) design for youngstock housing. They have also received training on calf barn design features for improved air quality. Their contact information along with a list of participants that have gone through our course on PPTV design for calf barns can be found under the [Professionals](#) tab of the website.





There's an App for That!

The School of Veterinary Medicine's Food Animal Production Medicine group has developed seven apps, all available for free or for purchase on the [iTunes store](#), with several more in the works. Two additional apps—one for assessing and preventing lameness in cows and another for identifying and predicting digital dermatitis—have been developed in partnership with Zinpro Corporation, which has taken over their management.

The apps provide a wide variety of assistance, from the Freestall Assessor app that helps guide freestall construction, to the Calf Health Scorer app that offers step-by-step instructions on assessing the health of calves based on scoring selected clinical parameters developed and employed by Dr. Sheila McGuirk.

"These are tools that can be used to make evaluating different aspects of dairy farming much easier," says Dr. Nigel Cook. "For most of these apps, we've taken proven, pen-and-paper systems, which our faculty previously developed, and translated them into a portable, digital format."

More information about the apps can be found [here](#). Questions about the apps can be directed to Tom Bennett, lead app developer.

Available Apps:

[Locomotion Scorer](#)

[Preg Calculator](#)

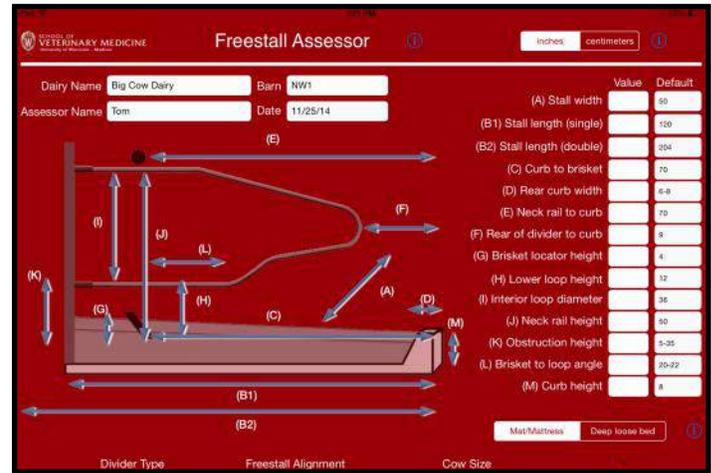
[Johne's Risk Assessment](#)

[Freestall Assessor](#)

[Calf Health Scorer](#)

[Group Pen Respiratory Scorer](#)

[PreFresh Pen Size Calculator](#)



Article first appeared on [WiscNews](#).

Questions, comments, success stories? Contact:

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The Dairyland Initiative is funded by sponsorships, consultation fees, and money generated from our workshops. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the Dairyland Initiative, please contact [Courtney Halbach](#) for more information. We greatly appreciate the support of our sponsors!

The Dairyland Initiative is Sponsored by:

