



The Dairyland Initiative NEWS

Fall Workshops: Learn new skills to better serve your clients

We're bringing the workshops back to northeast Wisconsin this fall to the FK Bemis Conference Center at St. Norbert College in De Pere. Dr. Ken Nordlund and a team from the FAPM section are again looking forward to training participants on **designing supplemental positive pressure ventilation systems for calf and heifer barns** on Wednesday, October 31. Following the workshop, trainees will be listed on the Consultants Directory page of The Dairyland Initiative website.



Our staff of veterinarians is available for facility consultation, building plan risk assessments, and calf barn ventilation specifications. [Contact Us](#) for more information or to set up an appointment.

The **transition cow facility planning** workshop, presented by Drs. Ken Nordlund and Nigel Cook, has been expanded by a half-day to include sought-after ideas and recommendations on **remodeling dairy barns**, November 1-2.

Registration is limited to 40 participants in each workshop, so sign up today to reserve your seat! View the brochure for both programs and register online at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/ce

What's new on the Website?

- **Calf Barn Ventilation:** recommendations for managing curtain sidewalls
- **Heat Abatement:** How far apart should recirculation fans be installed for cooling cows?
- **More on how fans work and air moves**, on the Adult Cow Ventilation Blueprint Page
- **Directory of trained consultants for Supplemental Positive Pressure Ventilation system design**

Be sure to check out the "What's New" section on the front page every time you successfully log in. More new content is being prepared for this fall & winter!

By the Numbers...

1383 Active Users

431 WI Dairy Producers
79 Non-WI Dairy Producers
90 Construction Professionals
269 Consultants & Supporters
294 Veterinarians
172 WI Extension, Education & Students
13 Non-WI Extension & Education Personnel
35 Lending Professionals

10,340 Total Daily Log-ins

Workshop "Graduates"

Positive Pressure Ventilation Tube Systems: 110
Planning Transition Cow Facilities: 40



Managing Curtain Sidewalls on Naturally Ventilated Calf Barns

Check out the [Air Hygiene](#) and [Ventilation](#) pages of the Wisconsin Blueprint for more details!

Managing curtains on calf barns can become tricky in spring and fall when the air is often cool and damp with intermittent periods of warm weather. While there aren't any well-researched rules for managing curtains, we can apply some basic principles to ensure the air in calf barns is free and clear of problems this fall.

Natural ventilation in calf barns is primarily achieved by capturing wind through an opening in the eave or curtain sidewall. However, we need balance ventilation with keeping calves warm. Given that a calf's thermal neutral zone (the ambient temperature range in which calves don't expend additional energy to cool off or stay warm) is 50-78 °F at birth and 32-73 °F at 1 month old, a starting set of guidelines for a nursery calf barn might be as follows:

- Below ~40 degrees F, curtains should completely cover the sidewall. A well-designed supplemental positive pressure ventilation system should be installed and run continuously throughout the year to provide the minimum ventilation rate regardless of curtain position, while not creating a draft on the calves.
- Between ~40-75 degrees F: adjust the top curtain opening "as needed", but what that exactly looks like depends on wind, rain, and sun.
- Above ~75 degrees F, the curtains should be completely open.

Older calves have a lower critical temperature of around 20 degrees F, so the above general guidelines should be adjusted downward accordingly. Wet, dirty, and matted hair coats on calves will not insulate as well as clean coats, and these calves will require more energy to stay warm before the mercury drops below their normal lower critical temperature, and require changing the above guidelines as well.

Mechanical curtain controllers are helpful, automatically adjusting curtains in relation to temperature and fancier systems also account for wind and even precipitation. A few mismatched weather events will require an override of the mechanical system, however. Also, winds can be calm or from a non-prevailing direction much of the time, as you can see on this [wind rose from the NRCS for Madison in September](#), so a supplemental positive pressure ventilation tube system will also be important for these periods of time, not just when the curtains are closed.

The Dairyland Initiative





Around the World in Just 2 Years

Since we've launched the Initiative website on October 1, 2010, we have registered over 2,000 users world-wide. We added up the number of days each day each person has logged in and were staggered by the results... over 10,000 times the Dairyland Initiative website has been referenced. Thank you for your support and spreading the word about this comprehensive resource for knowledge and networking for the construction of welfare-friendly dairy cattle housing! The map above shows just a sampling of all the different locations from which people have logged-in to The Dairyland Initiative website.

Thank You to our Sponsors!

We are continuing to work toward a self-sustaining model for the Initiative, relying on sponsorship, registrations and earnings from programming and consultations to support our outreach and research efforts. A **new sponsorship level** has been added with the hope of attracting more businesses to become involved and invested in the Initiative. Please contact Dr. Becky Brotzman if you would like to discuss sponsorship options by email at rbrotzman@wisc.edu or by phone at (608) 262-6800.



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