



*Builders, veterinarians & consultants worked together to design transition cow barns at the January workshop.*



### Seminars a Success!

Every available seat was filled for the November and January workshops for Designing Supplemental Positive Pressure Ventilation Systems for calf barns and Transition Cow Facility Planning. These full-day seminars equipped 121 consultants, veterinarians, construction professionals and dairy producers with tools and knowledge to help dairies create healthy environments for calves and adult cows.

Additional seminar dates are being planned for this fall, so be sure to keep an eye out for announcements on the [website](#), [facebook](#), email, and the summer issue of the TDI NEWS.

### **Looking for someone to help design a supplemental positive pressure ventilation system for your calf barn?**

Check out the [Consultants](#) page of The Dairyland Initiative website for a listing of more than 80 individuals that have gone through one of the training programs and can specify a system appropriate for your barn, using the most up-to-date methods developed by Dr. Ken Nordlund and the FAPM staff.

*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.*



School of  
Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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### What's new on the Website?

- **NEW Virtual Tour of a nursery barn with an automated feeder**
- **NEW Blueprint page for group nursery barns with automated feeding systems**
- **Revised heifer freestall dimensions**
- **NEW spreadsheet calculator! Transition Cow Facility Budget Calculator based on Transition Cow Index**
- **Mattress vs. Sand Partial Budget Calculator is now available for use with daily milk or RHA milk response**

Be sure to check out the "What's New" section on the front page every time you successfully log in. Updates are listed with the most recent first.

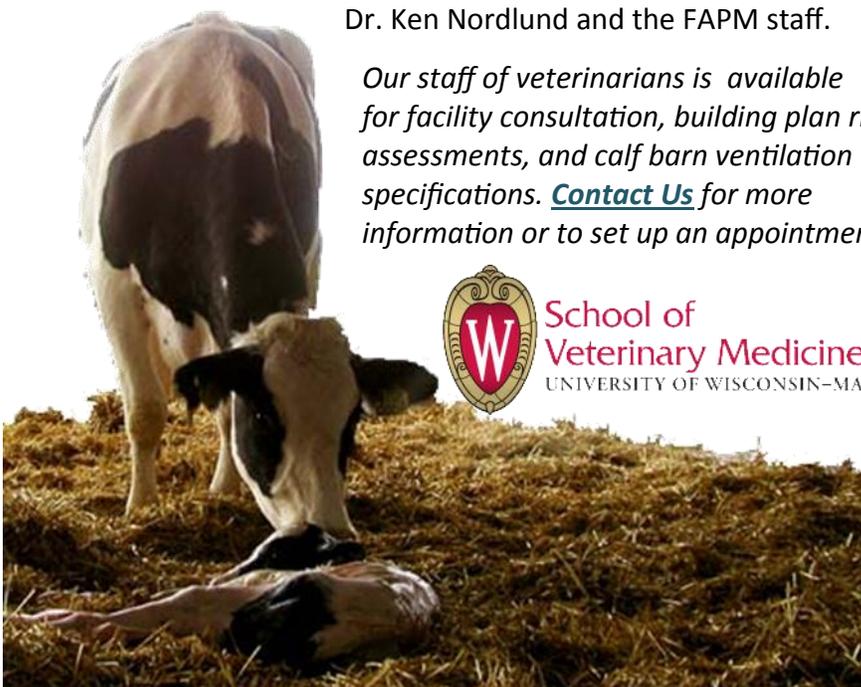
### By the Numbers...

#### Number of users since 10/1/2010

392 WI Dairy Producers
72 Non-WI Dairy Producers
77 Construction Professionals
253 Consultants & Supporters
244 North American Veterinarians
9 Other Region Veterinarians
134 WI Extension, Education & Students
14 Non-WI Extension & Education Personnel
28 WI Lending Professionals
1 Non-WI Lending Professional

Total Number of Users:	1147
Total Daily Log-ins:	7905

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and get instant news and notices of updates to the Initiative website.



## An Early Start to Summer... and Heat Stress

Dairy cows begin to be affected by heat stress at around a Temperature-Humidity Index (THI) of 65-72, well before humans become bothered by heat, which means even many Wisconsin cows have experienced around 17 days of heat stress already this year! Keep these tips in mind as you gear up for the summer ahead (or that's already arrived), and check out more details on [Heat Abatement](#) at the Dairyland Initiative website.

- **Cooling in the holding area should be addressed before all other areas on the farm.** Provide 1000 CFM per cow through recirculation fans activated at 65 degrees F and soakers to wet the cow before she enters the parlor. Limit the time cows spend in the holding area by ensuring your maximum group size is 4.5x or less than the number of milking units in the parlor (see the [Group Size](#) page for more details).
- **Provide air movement over the resting area in the pens** with recirculation fans appropriately spaced and angled down toward the cow. Temperature activate these fans at 65 to 70 degrees F.
- **Provide soakers over the feedbunk** with nozzles that produce large water droplets that penetrate the cow's coat. Activate soakers at 70 degrees F and increase soaking frequency with increasing ambient temperature.
- **Ensure cows have adequate access to water in the pens**, with 3.5 inches per cow of linear trough space in at least two locations per pen (see the [Water Needs](#) page for more details).
- **Prevent "bunching" of cows in the pens.** Cows seem to possess a behavioral response to heat stress by seeking out a dark place to 'cool off', even though the darker area may not be any cooler. Improve cow cooling and limit the variability in light intensity within the pen. Close the curtains on the bright side of the barn by 80%, or invest in shade blinds that can be pulled down over the sidewall. Avoid using transparent siding on the ends of the barn, as this will let more light in during the summer and increase the variability in light intensity through the pen. See the Miscellaneous page for more on causes & solutions to [bunching cows!](#)

### Thank You to our Sponsors!



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If your business would like to sponsor The Dairyland Initiative, please contact Dr. Becky Brotzman, [rbrotzman@wisc.edu](mailto:rbrotzman@wisc.edu) or (608) 262-6800