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Two Training Programs Launched

The Dairyland Initiative has taken the show on the road, so to speak. Two training programs are being launched this past fall and winter, with the aim of equipping more consultants with the tools and knowledge to help dairy producers build and remodel barns that are healthy and productive environments.

Designing Supplemental Positive Pressure Ventilation Systems

While natural ventilation and negative pressure mechanical ventilation are the most widely used systems for nursery and growing calf barns, both have problems that can be minimized with supplemental positive pressure tube systems.

In this workshop, **Dr. Ken Nordlund** will present on designing systems to deliver appropriate volumes of fresh air to calves without creating drafts. Problems with fluttering tubes, uneven distribution of air along the tube, and failure to inflate will be reviewed, along with practical ideas for tube location and construction materials.

Participants will receive and learn to use the Dairyland Initiative's **Supplemental Positive Pressure Ventilation Tube Calculator** to create specifications for example barns and troubleshoot existing systems.

Transition Cow Facility Planning

How do you ask your lender for money to build a barn and not add any additional milking cows? If you've struggled with this question, this seminar and workshop is for you!

Using the new Dairyland Initiative website, which stores in one easy to access location all the information you need to build or remodel a new cow barn, **Dr. Nigel Cook and Ken Nordlund** will walk you through the steps you need to take to build facilities that make your transition cows happy, healthy and productive. You'll learn how to use the Transition Cow Index to help create a partial budget to show that the decision makes economic sense to your lender, we'll use Virtual Tours of facilities to share ideas and the Wisconsin Blueprint to layout the floor plan of the new facility.

Our next workshops will be held in Madison on January 25 & 26. Details can be found at <http://thedairylandinitiative.vetmed.wisc.edu>. Register online at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/ce. Workshops are limited to 40 participants to ensure time for interaction with instructors and group problem solving exercises.

Have You Been on the Website Lately?

One great benefit to using a website to publish our welfare-friendly housing recommendations is that materials may be updated whenever new information is available. With such a large website, how do you find out if something has been changed or added?

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.

"Like Us" on Facebook and get instant news whenever the Initiative website is updated.



Here's what we've added this fall:

- **An Update on Calf & Heifer Feed Space Requirements**
- **NEW Virtual Tour of a Remodeled Adult Cow Freestall Barn**
- **Revised Calf & Heifer Resting Space Requirements**
- **More Details on Successfully Ventilating Calf Barns**



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Baby, It's Cold Outside!

As Upper Midwest dairies continue to grow larger, and as farm workers grow tired of slipping and trudging through winter chores, more farms are moving nursing calves back indoors. Through research of naturally ventilated nursing calf barns in winter, our group has identified 3 vital keys to reducing respiratory disease that is a persistent problem in calf barns:

1. Deep, fluffy bedding that covers calves' legs, allowing them to 'nest' and lose less body heat. Blankets certainly do help keep calves warm, but only if they are clean and dry! Wet blankets and bedding result in wet calves that require even more energy to stay warm than a dry calf.
2. A minimal yet necessary number of solid dividers (only between calves for preventing spread of disease).
3. Low airborne bacterial counts, achieved by keeping air within the pens fresh and dry. Subsequently, Dr. Nordlund has worked to create supplemental positive pressure ventilation tube systems that improve air quality in barns at the level of the calf, without creating a draft.

Computer-controlled calf feeding systems are gaining popularity as an alternative to traditional calf barns with individual pens. Because we lose the disease-control benefits of isolating newborn calves in these barns, it is all the more important to ensure a clean, quality start right from the freshening pen through weaning. These systems offer easy, healthy methods of delivering the nutrition calves need to meet their genetic potential, but ensuring a clean, dry and comfortable environment becomes essential for success. Watch for a new page coming soon to The Dairyland Initiative website on computer-controlled nursing calf barns!

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 or (608) 262-6800

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