



Dean Foods Foundation Grant Funds Free Access to U.S. Farmers

Thanks to the generous support of the Dean Foods Foundation, all U.S. farmers have free access to the Dairyland Initiative as well as Extension educators, helping us to extend our resources to all corners of the United States.



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

Liliana Esposito, president of the Dean Foods Foundation, stated, "As a dairy company, responsible agriculture is a key focus area, and we are committed to promoting improved animal welfare among dairy farmers. We are pleased that farmers nationwide can now take advantage of this program that offers up-to-date information and best practices on farm resource management provided by the experts in the field." To get free access, farmers can [register](#) on our website by selecting "dairy producer" under the business type.

What's New on the Website?

- [100-lb payback article](#) in *Dairy Today* featuring the Dairyland Initiative's positive influence on herd longevity and milk production.
- Updated [directory of trained consultants](#) for supplemental positive pressure ventilation system design for calf barns and cooling in holding areas.
- [Virtual tours coming soon](#) for all-in all-out nursing calf barns, another automated nursery barn, and a four-row, sand-bedded freestall barn complete with a new style, long footbath.

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

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By the Numbers...

2,123 Active Users

577 WI Dairy Producers
194 Non-WI Dairy Producers
139 Construction Professionals
348 Consultants & Supporters
495 Veterinarians
90 WI Extension, Education & Students
83 Non-WI Extension & Education Personnel
50 Lending Professionals

17,561 Total Daily Log-ins

Workshop "Graduates"

250 Positive Pressure Tube Systems in Calf Barns
32 Positive Pressure Tube Systems in Holding Areas
113 Planning Transition Cow Facilities



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Another set of successful workshops took place in early November. Topics included transition cow facility design, design of supplemental positive pressure tube systems for improved ventilation of calf barns as well as a brand new session on the design of positive pressure tube systems for milking center holding area heat abatement.

Dr. Cook kicked off the first of the three-day series with transition cow facility design. Participants used the transition cow pen size calculator and solidified their learning through group barn design exercises. On the second day, Dr. Nordlund presented the benefits of supplemental positive pressure tube ventilation (PPTV) systems in calf barns and trained over 40 people how to use the PPTV Calculator, bumping up the total number of PPTV trainees to 250. To conclude the series, Dr. Nordlund took PPTV systems to the milking herd, using tube systems to cool cows and ventilate holding areas with this unique technology. Mitch Breunig of Mystic Valley Dairy shared his experience with the tubes, stating he's seen a positive difference in his cows' behavior. A list of trainees that can design PPTV systems can be found on the [Professionals/Consultants](#) page.

Upcoming Tours & Workshops: Feb. 12-14

Mark your calendars for our next set of tours and workshops: February 12, 13, and 14. We will have one day of 100-lb Dairyland Initiative Farm Tours, and two days of workshops featuring how to remodel dairy cattle housing to maximize cow comfort and the design of supplemental positive pressure tube systems for improved ventilation in calf barns. Registration for these events will be available soon so check the website for updated information. We look forward to seeing you in February!



Nesting Score 1

Legs entirely visible lying down



Nesting Score 2

Legs partially visible when lying down



Nesting Score 3

Legs not visible when lying down

“Nesting” for Improved Calf Respiratory Health

As the temperature drops, make sure your calves keep warm with a deeply bedded resting surface. With a thermoneutral zone of 50-78°F (10-26°C) for newborn calves, it is critical they have a sufficient amount of bedding so that they can “nest,” preserving body heat for growth and immune system support. Evaluate bedding visually using the Nesting Score (NS), based upon the visibility of the rear leg of a calf lying down (see photos above). If the leg is completely obscured by World Dairy Expo-style deep bedding, you've achieved NS3. Another way to get a NS3 is to have a moderate amount of bedding plus a calf jacket. In our research, a model of NS by incidence of respiratory disease in calf barns and airborne bacterial concentration showed a ~28% point improvement in respiratory disease NS3 calf barns vs. NS1 barns and ~22% point improvement vs. NS2 barns. Increased barn air temperature was associated with increased airborne bacterial counts, which was associated with increased incidence of respiratory disease.





Congratulations, Dr. Ken Nordlund!

A mighty congratulations goes out to Dr. Ken Nordlund for being awarded this year's "Industry Person of the Year" at the World Dairy Expo as well as being named one of the top 20 influential beef and dairy veterinarians by Bovine Veterinarian magazine for his work helping to improve dairy cattle housing. Dr. Sheila McGuirk, Nordlund's colleague in the Food Animal Production Medicine Section at UW-Madison's School of Veterinary Medicine, also received the awards.

Among his achievements in herd health records and developing measures of transition cow performance, Dr. Nordlund's work with improving ventilation in calf barns through the use of positive pressure tube systems has most recently captured the attention of farmers, veterinarians, builders, consultants, among many others worldwide as people have seen a decrease in their calves' respiratory disease. Thanks, Dr. Nordlund, for all your industry-changing hard work!

Meet the Newest Member of the DI Team

In early October, Courtney Halbach joined the DI team as an Instructional Specialist. Her main responsibilities include promoting the DI, helping maintain the website, planning workshops and events, and assisting with facility design and calf barn PPTV consultations. What's her favorite part of the job? Helping producers find ways to make their bovine beauties more comfortable and getting the word out about the great resources offered on the DI website. She can be reached at chalbach@wisc.edu or at 608-262-6800.



Thank You to our Sponsors!

The Dairyland Initiative is primarily funded by sponsorships, login subscriptions, consultation fees, and money generated from programs. We have several sponsorship levels available, with recognition on the website and at our programs. If you would like to discuss sponsorship options, please contact Dr. Becky Brotzman by email at rbrotzman@wisc.edu or by phone at (608)262-6800. We greatly appreciate the support of our sponsors!

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