



2026 Dairy Cattle Welfare Symposium Agenda

Promoting dairy cattle welfare and ethics through science and implementation of best practices!

Wednesday, May 20 – English Session

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| 7:00 a.m. | Registration Opens Breakfast (Provided) |
| 8:00 a.m. | Welcome and dairy welfare discussion Moderated by the Program Committee Poll Everywhere: What is welfare? What does it mean to you? |
| 8:30 a.m. | Keynote: What can the dairy industry learn from the current state of swine welfare? Dr. Carissa Odland, South Dakota State University |
| 9:15 a.m. | Welfare standards for beef-on-dairy animals Dr. Gail Carpenter, Iowa State University |
| 10:00 a.m. | Networking Break |
| 10:30 a.m. | The long-term, multigenerational impacts of heat stress on the dry cow and her calf's welfare Dr. Sha Tao, University of Georgia |
| 11:15 a.m. | Practical ways to address calf thermal comfort for improved welfare Dr. Bethany Dado-Senn, Vita Plus |
| 12:00 p.m. | Diamond Sponsor Presentation |
| 12:05 p.m. | Lunch (Provided) |
| 1:00 p.m. | Student Presentation |
| 1:15 p.m. | Cow-calf contact—A dilemma or solution for dairy welfare? Dr. Hanna Eriksson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences |
| 2:00 p.m. | Calf welfare panel discussion and audience Q&A Drs. Sha Tao, Bethany Dado-Senn, and Hanna Eriksson |
| 2:45 p.m. | Break |
| 3:15 p.m. | Implications of pair raising calves for improved long-term welfare Dr. Emily Miller-Cushon, University of Florida |
| 3:45 p.m. | Panel on social rearing calves Dr. Emily Miller-Cushon; Dr. Lindsey Borst; Sam Peetz, Rosy-Lane Holsteins; and Laura Raatz, Wagner Farms |
| 4:30 p.m. | Student Presentation |
| 4:45 p.m. | Poster Session and Reception |



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Thursday, May 21 – English Session

7:00 a.m. Breakfast (Provided)

8:00 a.m. Student Presentation

8:15 a.m. Colorado State University Livestock Behavior and Welfare/DCWC Workshop: End-of-life decisions and perspectives across the dairy supply chain—Research overview
Dr. Diego Manriquez, Colorado State University

8:45 a.m. Dairy cattle welfare and individual perspectives
Dr. Diego Manriquez and the Colorado State University Livestock Behavior and Welfare team

9:15 a.m. The impact of personal beliefs and feelings
Dr. Diego Manriquez and the Colorado State University Livestock Behavior and Welfare team

9:45 a.m. Networking Break

10:15 a.m. Trust, responsibility, and perceptions about the supply chain
Dr. Diego Manriquez and the Colorado State University Livestock Behavior and Welfare team

10:45 a.m. Economic (Dis)incentives
Dr. Diego Manriquez

11:15 a.m. Training, protocols, and resources
Dr. Diego Manriquez and the Colorado State University Livestock Behavior and Welfare team

12:00 p.m. Lunch (Provided)

1:00 p.m. Poll Everywhere: OK, not OK?
Moderated by the Program Committee

1:30 p.m. Student Presentation

1:45 p.m. Positively promoting dairy cattle welfare
Crystal Sinn, Midwest Dairy

2:30 p.m. How companies move the needle forward for dairy cattle welfare—A case study
Dr. Jimena Godoy, Aurora Organic Dairy

3:15 p.m. Closing remarks from the DCWC president
Annual Business Meeting

3:30 p.m. Adjourn



2026 Dairy Cattle Welfare Symposium Agenda

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Friday, May 22 – Spanish Session

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| 8:30 a.m. | Welcome and Dairy Welfare Discussion Moderated by Program Committee Members Juan Rozo and Alison Pfau Poll Everywhere: What is welfare? What does it mean to you? |
| 9:00 a.m. | The intersection of employee culture and animal-based welfare outcomes Dr. Jimena Godoy, Aurora Organic Dairy |
| 9:45 a.m. | Ways to address lameness for improved welfare Demetrio Bautista, Save Cows |
| 10:45 a.m. | Break |
| 11:00 a.m. | Responding to animal care issues: A farm perspective Otoniel Garcia Pineda |
| 11:30 a.m. | Care team brainstorming session Moderated by the Program Committee |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch (Provided) |
| 1:00 p.m. | Student Presentation |
| 1:15 p.m. | Mortality disposal guidelines and fostering respect Dr. Mariana Guerra Maupome, TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods |
| 2:00 p.m. | Employee perspectives on cow culling Dr. Diego Manriquez, Colorado State University |
| 2:45 p.m. | Break |
| 3:00 p.m. | Smart cow handling for improved cow and employee welfare Alison Pfau, University of Wisconsin Extension |
| 3:15 p.m. | <i>Mooving Cows</i> Game Time (Please bring a phone, tablet, or computer!) |
| 3:45 p.m. | Resources for overcoming compassion fatigue for personnel resiliency Jorge Delgado, Alltech Inc. |
| 4:30 p.m. | Closing remarks The Program Committee |
| 4:45 p.m. | Adjourn |