



2026 Dairy Cattle Welfare Symposium

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

May 20-22, 2026

Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington Hotel
Bloomington, MN

Registration Information

Main Conference Sessions (May 20th & 21st)

- Early member rate: \$400*
- Non-Member early rate: \$500*
- Students: \$125

Spanish Post-Conference Session (May 22rd)

- Individuals: \$125

*This discounted rate is only available through April 15! On April 16, prices will increase to \$600 for members and \$700 non-members.

The Symposium has been approved for:



- ✓ 10 Continuing Education Units (CEUs): American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS)



- ✓ 8 CEUs: The National Dairy FARM Program in stockmanship, calf care and euthanasia topics



- ✓ Up to 18 CEUs for New York State Veterinary Medical Education



- ✓ Up to 18 CEUs for Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine



- ✓ 12 CEUs for Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization Auditors

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Wednesday, May 20 – Main Session, Day 1

7:00 A.M.	Breakfast (Provided)	<i>Sponsorship Opportunity</i>
8:00 A.M.	Welcome and Dairy Welfare Discussion Poll Everywhere: What Is Welfare? What Does It Mean to You? Moderated by Program Committee Members	
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	Sponsored by
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 Lunch (Provided)	Sponsored by
1:00 P.M.	Student Presentation - Impact of calf heat stress abatement and milk replacer programs Caroline Guzi Savegnago, University of Georgia	
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.	Networking Break	Sponsored by
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 – The effects of teat type on preweaned dairy calf behavior Chloe Bolanos, University of California Davis	
4:45 P.M.	Poster Session and Reception Abigale Zoltick, Univ. of Penn. – Dairy cattle dietary preference for pasture diversification Students Savegnago, Bolanos, Buterbaugh, Bone, and Langlois presenting posters on oral topics.	<i>Sponsorship Opportunity</i>



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Thursday, May 21 – Main Session, Day 2

7:00 A.M.	Breakfast (Provided)	<i>Sponsorship Opportunity</i>
8:00 A.M.	Student Presentation – How dairy cows are culled from freestall housed dairy herds Why dairy cows are culled: characteristics of cull cows Kaitlin Buterbaugh, University of Wisconsin - Madison	
8:25 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	Sponsored by 
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)	Diamond Sponsor Presentation Sponsored by 
1:00 P.M.	Poll Everywhere: Ok, Not Ok? Moderated by the Program Committee	
1:30 P.M.	Student Presentation – Using feeding behavior collected by an automated milk feeder Breanna Bone, Pennsylvania State University	
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	
3:30 P.M.	Adjourn	



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Friday, May 22 – Spanish Session

8:30 A.M.	Welcome and Dairy Welfare Discussion Poll Everywhere: What Is Welfare? What Does It Mean to You? Moderated by Program Committee Members Juan Rozo and Alison Pfau
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 <div style="text-align: right;">Sponsored by </div>
11:00 A.M.	Responding to Animal Care Issues: A Farm Perspective Otoniel Garcia Pineda, speaker sponsored by 
11:30 A.M.	Care Team Brainstorming Session Moderated By the Program Committee
12:00 P.M.	Lunch (Provided) <div style="text-align: right;">Sponsored by </div>
1:00 P.M.	Student Presentation – Insights in herd health management and workplace dynamics Renee Langlois, University of Wisconsin – Madison
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 <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Sponsorship Opportunity</i></div>
3:00 P.M.	Smart Cow Handling for Improved Cow and Employee Welfare Alison Pfau, University of Wisconsin Extension 
3:15 P.M.	Mooving Cows 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 Program Committee
4:45 P.M.	Adjourn