

SUMMER 2015

HEIFER NOTES

Growing Our Future™



DCHA

DAIRY CALF & HEIFER ASSOCIATION



SEEN AND HEARD AT THE 2015 DCHA CONFERENCE



ANGELA LARSE of Durst Larse Farms, Richland Center, Wis., shares that she is a DCHA member because she has found it to be a very good

way to connect with other calf and heifer raisers and keep up on the latest information about raising calves.



MARCIE FEINE of Feine-Est Heifers in Rushford, Minn., custom raises 750 wet calves per year. "The catch phrase you commonly hear is

you can't be too thin or too beautiful, on our farm you can't be too clean and you can't be too dry for your babies – get out there and scrub."



BRAD SCOTT of Scott Brothers Dairy Farm in San Jacinto, Calif., says he has found attending the DCHA conference each year to be very

beneficial. "Between networking with other dairy farmers and calf and heifer raisers, talking with industry people – there is a lot to learn and take home to use on my dairy farm," he says. Scott also shares that over the years, the number one calf raising tip that he's learned is feeding pasteurized whole milk in combination with powder milk. "We've seen a lot of difference in the health of calves by incorporating the powder milk into the pasteurized milk."



AARON HARPSTER of Evergreen Farms, Spruce Creek, Pa., raises 1,800 heifer calves each year. Aaron says when it comes to

colostrum management – you need to do it right. "Keep it fresh, clean, get an ample amount (4 quarts) into them and then follow-up with 2 quarts after 8 hours," he says.

Producers "energized" by successful Dairy Calf and Heifer Association Conference

More than 500,000 cattle from 23 states and six countries represented

More than 350 dairy calf and heifer growers, industry representatives and allied associates met in Madison, Wis., for the Dairy Calf and Heifer Association (DCHA) 2015 Annual Conference held March 31-April 1. Producers in attendance represented more than 500,000 cattle from 23 states and six countries, showcasing the increased national and international reach of the association.

The agenda and impressive line-up of speakers for the 2015 conference was planned for and hosted by calf and heifer raisers. The team created the new two-day agenda with a focus on calf performance, employee empowerment and financial success.

"This year's DCHA Conference was one of our most successful to date," says Lane Sollenberger, DCHA President and owner of Dream Farms in Newburg, Pa. "Like the other conference attendees, I am energized by the new ideas that I can take back to my facility; gained through the seminars, farm tours and by networking with other calf and heifer raisers and industry leaders. The DCHA team is proud of our association's growth and is excited to continue building on this momentum."

The conference lineup included educational tracks for all involved in calf raising, with sessions for: farm owners and managers, employees and those interested in dairy beef.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pre-conference tour:** Attendees got a first-hand look at thoracic ultrasounding, taking pharyngeal swabs and scoring live calves during the event hosted by the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and University of Wisconsin-School of Veterinary Medicine.
- **Educational sessions:** A variety of seminar-style sessions were offered to producers during the conference. An assortment of topics were covered pertaining to calf health, dairy beef, employee management and more.
- **Industry tradeshow:** More than 50 leading calf and heifer focused companies showcased their latest innovations. Winners of a trade show reception activity were Dr. Dwayne Weaver and Angela Larse.
- **Keynote speaker:** Brad Scott, Scott Brothers Dairy, San Jacinto, Ca., shared his farm's experience building

consumer relationships through the hit TV show *Undercover Boss*.

• **Annual meeting:** A bright future for the association was discussed, the new board was instated and the 2015 scholarship was awarded to Danielle Lindquist of Cary, N.C.

• **Farm tours:** Attendees toured Doerfer Bros. Farm, a 900-cow facility in Verona, Wis. who recently installed auto-feeders to streamline their calf feeding program; and Larson Acres in Evansville, Wis., where they saw four all-in, all-out nursery barns and a cross-ventilated barn with transition and maternity facilities.

• **Social media giveaway:** Attendees used #DCHA2015 throughout the conference to share their experiences on social media. Lauren LeFort, Christina Maher and Danielle Penney were each winners of a Farmgirl Photography canvas.

2016 DCHA Annual Conference

March 8-10, 2016 | Madison, Wis.

Additional information will be available at:

calfandheifer.org | facebook.com/calfandheifer | twitter.com/calfandheifer

Farm tours cap off a successful conference



A highlight of DCHA Conferences are the farm tours; hosted this year by Doerfer Bros., Verona, Wis., and Larson Acres, Evansville, Wis.

DOERFER BROS.

Calf comfort and performance is promoted through their 60-by-156-foot, all-in, all-out calf facility with four automated calf feeders. Calves are raised on auto feeders from day four through weaning, and can enter the feeding station up to five times each day until their individual allotment has been consumed (up to 2.5 gallons milk replacer per day). By day 44, milk replacer levels begin to drop so a smooth weaning transition can occur at day 54. The Doerfer Bros. team utilizes their previous calf facility for weaned heifers. The existing facility was transported to a new location on the farm to allow room for the new calf facility.

LARSON ACRES

Four all-in, all-out nursery barns and a calf facility for two to five month old calves provides a nourishing and safe environment for calves at Larson Acres. A portion of the new cross-ventilated barn is dedicated to dry cows, heifers two months from calving and transition animals. Cows calve in individual maternity pens to allow for better monitoring and a smooth, safe delivery. Larsons also have an on-site sand separator, which recycles sand for use as bedding while also reducing the amount of truck traffic. During their recent expansion, Larsons added an additional separator which saves more than 13,000 tons of sand and approximately 2,250 gallons of diesel fuel every year.

Lindquist receives \$1,000 scholarship



"I have yet to meet another student as confident in their career choice and as dedicated to the pursuit of achieving their goals as Danielle Lindquist," says Dr. Harrison Dudley, Clinical Professor at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Upon her graduation, Lindquist plans to pursue a career in research, clinical medicine and dairy calf consulting.

"As a trained clinician in ruminant medicine with a research focus on the health and welfare of dairy calves, my goals include promoting and enhancing the dairy industry, specifically bridging the communication gaps and collaboration between the academics of medicine, producers, consumers and regulatory officials," says Lindquist.

Lindquist's outstanding application and qualifications are a testament to the bright future of the dairy industry.

"When I received the news that I had been selected for this scholarship, I was not only excited but humbled,"

"When I received the news that I had been selected for this scholarship, I was not only excited but humbled," says Lindquist. "As a self-proclaimed 'city kid' who did not even know what FFA even stood for growing up, I am truly humbled to be awarded this scholarship from the Dairy Calf and Heifer Association."

"Every single day in every walk of life, ordinary people accomplish extraordinary things," writes Lindquist in her thank you letter. "You all are extraordinary examples of what embodies this organization: dedication, passion and leadership. Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of it."

A strong passion for the dairy calf and heifer industry is one of the many strengths that Danielle Lindquist, the 2015 Dairy Calf and Heifer Association scholarship recipient, embodies.

A student at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Lindquist is pursuing a dual degree program with a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in food animal medicine and a Ph.D. in calf pharmacology.

Be a part of the dairy industry's future.

There is one industry-leading source of networking, education and improvement for the raising of dairy calves and heifers. The Dairy Calf and Heifer Association has a renewed commitment to their vision to be just that.

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855-400-DCHA | INFO@CALFANDHEIFER.ORG

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