Move your business forward at annual DCHA conference

UW Vet School and lab tours back by popular demand

Registration is open for the Dairy Calf and Heifer Association annual conference, April 11-13, 2016 at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, Wis. This year’s conference lineup includes programs and panel discussions about current information calf and heifer raisers need to be competitive in today’s market. Topics include nutrition, reproduction, teamwork and much more. Attendees might already be familiar with one conference speaker, who has more than a quarter-million followers on Facebook. Greg Peterson is one of the Peterson Farm Brothers, whose videos of pop song parodies have received millions of views on YouTube. Peterson will share his experience using social media to advocate for agriculture and how conference attendees can as well. Sponsorship opportunities for this can’t-miss event are available. Contact kanderson@calfandheifer.org to learn more.

For more information about the 2016 Dairy Calf and Heifer Association Annual Conference or to join DCHA, visit www.calfandheifer.org, call (855) 400-3242 or email info@calfandheifer.org.

This conference has been pre-approved by the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists for as many as 8 continuing education units (CEU’s). Participants can request credits for this event at www.arpas.org or by emailing kelseyg@assoehq.org.

To take advantage of a DCHA membership, visit www.calfandheifer.org. You can also interact with DCHA on Facebook at facebook.com/CalfandHeifer and follow @CalfandHeifer on Twitter.
Rumen development and calf growth

**Rumen Growth: An Amazing Transformation**

*At birth, the rumen is the size of a softball. The rumen grows to the size of a 40-gallon vat when mature.*

In the first 6 weeks of life, the rumen increases in size by 100% to become roughly the size of a plastic grocery bag—large enough to fit 2 two-liter bottles.

From 6-24 weeks of age, the rumen doubles 5 times.

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**Conference overview**

**MONDAY, APRIL 11**
The registration desk is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Those registered for the Farm tours can join us for lunch starting at 11 a.m., followed by the tours. The trade show will be open during the three days of the conference.

**Farm tours and demonstrations:**
**Roxy-Lane Holsteins**
This Wisconsin dairy farm, the goal of providing superior Holstein genetics to worldwide markets, utilize and experiment with profitable and environmentally sustainable technologies for plants and animals. Maintain an economically viable business unit with future potential and produce high-quality milk and receive maximum returns with minimal inputs.

**Kutz Dairy Farm**
This 2,200-head Jersey dairy pays very close attention to nutrition and the environment of their calves. This tour stop will include an on-farm demonstration highlighting best practices of pasteurizing waste milk.

**Monday night’s speaker**
All conference attendees are invited to Greg Peterson’s presentation to be followed by a casual networking reception. Read more about Greg on page 1.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 12**
The day will kick off with a high-energy keynote from Paul Vitale of Vital Communications. Other professional development sessions will focus on leadership and teamwork. Expect to be inspired to be your best self when you leave the conference.

**Management sessions will focus on:**
- Using antibiotics in calf raising
- Post-weaned calf nutrition
- Transitioning to organic calf and heifer raising
- Benchmarking heifers to optimize your herd’s milk yield and profitability

**Producer panel topics will include:**
- Dairy housing and feeding
- Animal welfare programs

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13**
Presentations will focus on calf and heifer management. Topics will include heifer reproduction, management techniques to optimize returns on feed investment, best practices in animal welfare to support cattle development as well as consumer confidence, dairy beef production, and using knowledge of calf behavior to improve growth, health, and well-being.

**Producer panel topics will include:**
- Group housing and feeding
- Animal welfare programs

Post-conference event at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine.

This is a summary of the conference content. For a detailed agenda, visit the Conference page on our website www.calfandheifer.org.

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