



# 2026 High Plains Dairy Conference

## March 3-4, 2026

Questions during the presentations?  
 Use Poll Everywhere: <https://pollev.com/hpdc154>  
 Scan the QR code to access.



### Tuesday, March 3, Morning Program

7:00 AM	<b>Registration Open</b>	
<b>Ballroom AB</b>	<b>Nutrition Pre-Conference with Texas Animal Nutrition Council (TANC)</b> Moderator: Dwain Bunting, PhD; Technical Specialist - Animal Nutrition	<b>TEXAS ANIMAL NUTRITION COUNCIL</b>
8:30 AM	Opening remarks TANC. Dwain Bunting, PhD. Officer TANC.	
8:35 AM	<b>Nutritional mitigation of heat stress-induced leaky gut: the role of DCAD and dietary buffer</b> Greg Penner, PhD; University of Saskatchewan, CA.	<b>Sponsored by Papillon</b>
9:30 AM	<b>Prevention &amp; treatment of subclinical hypocalcemia to optimize health &amp; production in dairy cattle</b> Claira Seely, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of New Hampshire	<b>Sponsored by Phibro</b>
10:25 AM	Student Poster Announcement	
10:30 AM	<b>Protein mobilization in cows in early lactation</b> Jacquelyn Boerman, PhD; Associate Professor, Purdue University	<b>Sponsored by Zinpro</b>
11:25 AM	Closing remarks	
11:30-12:15	<b>Lunch served in the Pre-Function area. At 12:15, resetting the conference room for the PM program</b>	

<b>Ballroom C</b>	<b>Repro Pre-Conference with Dairy Cattle Reproductive Council (DCRC)</b> Moderator: Jennifer Spencer, PhD; Extension Dairy Specialist Texas AgriLife	<b>DCRC</b>
8:30 AM	Opening remarks DCRC. Jennifer Spencer, PhD. President DCRC	
8:35 AM	<b>Targeted reproductive management</b> Ricardo Chebel, DVM, MVPM, PhD; Endowed Professor, University of Florida	<b>Sponsored by Merck</b>
9:30 AM	<b>Better use of available data</b> Caio Gamarra; Customer Success Specialist, Merck Animal Health	<b>Sponsored by Merck</b>
10:25 AM	Student Poster Announcement	
10:30 AM	<b>The transition cow: Where health, reproduction, milk peak, and profit are won or lost</b> Gustavo Schuenemann, DVM, MS, PhD; Professor & Extension Veterinarian, Ohio State Univ.	<b>Sponsored by Adisseo</b>
11:25 AM	Closing remarks	
11:30-12:15	<b>Lunch served in the Pre-Function area. At 12:15, resetting the conference room for the PM program</b>	

<b>Ballroom D</b>	<b>Youngstock Pre-Conference with Dairy Calf &amp; Heifer Association (DCHA)</b> Moderator: Kendall Wassenaar, President DCHA	<b>DCHA</b> DAIRY CALF & HEIFER ASSOCIATION
8:30 AM	Opening remarks DCHA. Kendall Wassenaar. President DCHA	
8:35 AM	<b>Short and long-distance transport of dairy and dairy-beef cross calves</b> Gustavo Schuenemann, DVM, MS, PhD; Professor & Extension Veterinarian, Ohio State Univ.	
9:30 AM	<b>Rethinking colostrum feeding, spoiler alert, it's all about total IgG's</b> Liz Cox, DVM; Animal Care Program Manager at CDFA, Founder Calf Milk Calculator	
10:25 AM	Student Poster Announcement	
10:30 AM	<b>A new perspective on right sizing your heifer inventory</b> Mike Overton, DVM, MPVM; Global Platform Lead Precision Animal Health, Zoetis	
11:25 AM	Closing remarks	
11:30-12:15	<b>Lunch served in the Pre-Function area. At 12:15, resetting the conference room for the PM program</b>	



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### Tuesday March 3, Afternoon Program

<b>Ballroom ABCD</b>	<b>High Plains Dairy Conference – General Session</b> Host and Moderator: Peggy Coffeen, Uplevel Dairy	
1:00 AM	Opening remarks HPDC.	
1:05 PM	<b>Dairy Outlook Series: The global dairy industry – status, trends and perspectives</b> Torsten Hemme, T.H. Consulting, Kiel, Germany	<b>Sponsored by Parnell</b>
1:45 PM	<b>Dairy Outlook Series: State of the U.S. dairy industry</b> Curtis Bosma, Vice President of Producer Services, HighGround Dairy	<b>Sponsored by HighGround Dairy</b>
2:30 PM	<b>Break (30 min)</b>	
3:00 PM	<b>Dairy Outlook Series: A panel conversation looking back while looking forward</b> Gregg Doud, President & CEO NMPF; Michael Dykes, DVM, President & CEO IDFA; moderated by Rick Naerebout, CEO IDA	
4:15 PM	<b>Driving dairy sales now and into the future with innovation, science, and technology</b> Paul Ziemnisky and Emil Nashed, Group EVP, Wellness, Innovation and Business Development, DMI	<b>Sponsored by DMI</b>
5:00-6:30 PM	<b>Reception &amp; Student Poster Session</b> <b>Sponsored by Reinert Hay &amp; Commodities</b>	

### Wednesday, March 4, Program

7:00 AM	<b>Registration Open</b>	
<b>Ballroom ABCD</b>	<b>High Plains Dairy Conference – General Session</b> Host and Moderator: Peggy Coffeen, Uplevel Dairy	
8:00 AM	<b>Ag Labor Reform is Necessary to Keep Food Affordable for Americans. Is Real Reform Possible in 2026?</b> Charlie Garrison, The Garrison Group LLC	
8:30 AM	<b>Dairy Labor Panel: From hiring to high performance. What works in dairy workforce training</b> Jorge Delgado (Alltech), Tom Wall (Dairy Coach), Jorge Estrada (Leadership Inc.). Moderated by Ryan DeWit, Twin Circle Dairy	<b>Sponsored by Alltech</b>
9:30 AM	<b>Break (30 min)</b>	
10:00 AM	<b>Seeing Is Managing: The promise and pitfalls of camera tech on dairies</b> Jeffrey Bewley, PhD; Dairy Analytics and Innovation Scientist at Holstein Association USA	
10:45 AM	<b>Beef on Dairy Panel. Beyond the boom: Beef on Dairy's next chapter in 2026</b> Panel: Delbert Hollis, Pres. CMS; Laphe Laroe; Cattle Feeder, Chair TCFA; Jon Robison, PhD, JDR Livestock; Lauren Kimble, Select Sires. Panel moderator Joe Dalton, PhD, Professor, Un. of Idaho.	<b>Sponsored by CMS</b>
11:45 AM	<b>Lunch</b> <b>Sponsored by Reinert Hay &amp; Commodities</b>	
1:00 PM	<b>Agronomy Panel - Updates on growing sorghum for silage</b> Panel: Lyndon Luckasson (Sherer Roller Mills), Jourdan Bell, PhD (Texas A&M AgriLife), Douglas Duhatschek, PhD (Parnell), Braden Gibson (Gibson Farms). Panel moderator John Paul Heavyside (DFA Farm Services)	<b>Sponsored by DFA Farm Services</b>
2:00 PM	<b>Feeding dairy cattle under water constraints: tactical strategies for herd resilience</b> Paul Kononoff, PhD; Professor & Dairy Nutrition Extension Specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
2:45 PM	<b>Break (30 min.)</b>	
3:15 PM	<b>Panel on Monetizing Manure in a water-limited world: profit, nutrients, and compliance.</b> Panel: Ben Laine (Terrain), Bruce Knight (Consultant), Michael Bocadoro (Dairy Cares) Panel moderator: Kevin Abernathy, GM MPC	
4:15 PM	<b>Panel on Protecting the Milk Supply: Managing Risk, Safety, and Continuity in 2026.</b> Panel: Dee Ellis, DVM MS VSCP, Texas A&M AgriLife; Samantha Holeck, DVM, NM State Veterinarian; Jason Lombard, DVM, CSU AgNext; Karen Bohnert, Farm Journal. Panel moderator: Dan Rice, Sr. Consultant.	<b>Sponsored by Nationwide Insurance</b>
5:15 PM	<b>Adjourn</b>	