

DCHA: BE A DRIVER OF CHANGE

THE DAIRY CALF AND HEIFER ASSOCIATION (DCHA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE will be held April 1-3 at the Hyatt on Main, Green Bay, Wis. The conference will welcome a wide variety of industry experts to Wisconsin to share research, expertise and advice on calf and heifer management.

New this year, the conference sessions will be split between classroom settings and on-farm visits, with research shared in the classroom and management practices demonstrated on area farms.



DAY 1 of the conference will offer separate tracks for farm employees and owners/managers.

Employee sessions will focus on watching for signs of wellness in the calf pens, featuring Gary Geisler, Purina Animal Nutrition; and improving employee leadership performance, featuring representatives from Zoetis.

Manager sessions will focus on calf health, featuring J P Hall, Halls Calf Ranch; Mike Larson, Larson Acres Dairy; and Joel Sutter, Fertile Ridge Dairy. That will be followed by a session on factors affecting silage quality, by Dr. Limin Kung, University of Delaware, Dairy Nutrition and Silage Fermentation Lab.

Break-out demonstrations at farms return to further illustrate topics discussed in the classroom presentations.

- **TOUR STOP A** will be at one of the largest and most successful calf-focused operations in the Midwest, highlighting ventilation, sanitation and health diagnostic considerations.
- **STOP B** will focus on “what goes in and what comes out.” Featured topics will include NIR technology and monitoring dry matter levels in forages, TMR audit and manure management strategies (specific to calf and heifer raising).

THE SECOND DAY of the conference will include presentations on:

- **EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT SIMPLIFIED**, by Tom Wall, Dairy Interactive, LLC and Language Links, LLC
- **USE OF TELEMEDICINE IN DISEASE SURVEILLANCE**, by Dr. Scott Nordstrom, Merck Animal Health
- **FEDERAL POLICY & THE DAIRY INDUSTRY: HOW WASHINGTON, D.C. AFFECTS YOUR CUSTOMERS**, by Charlie Garrison, The Garrison Group

Highlighting Day 2 will be keynote speaker, Donald Driver, discussing experiences and challenges he overcame to be a success. Driver will discuss his experiences from growing up homeless and how he was able to overcome seemingly every obstacle to become the Green Bay Packers all-time leading wide receiver, a Super Bowl champion, “Dancing with the Stars” winner, 2013 AMVETS Humanitarian of the Year and New York Times bestselling author.

The evening will wind down with a networking reception at Lambeau Field and optional behind-the-scenes tour.

THE THIRD AND FINAL DAY will begin with a producer panel discussing how and why they seek to increase the value of what they do in raising and caring for dairy calves and heifers. It features Laura Daniels, Star Blends; Brett Barlass, Yosemite Dairy; and Lane Sollenberger, Dream Farms.

Industry experts in breeding programs and the use of genetic technology will share thoughts at the conference center before final tours commence, featuring Dr. Kim Egan, Genex Cooperative; and Tami Smith, Neogen Corporation.

The afternoon again features tours:

- **TOUR STOP C** will be a visit to one of the industry’s major artificial insemination and breeding technologies headquarters.
- **TOUR STOP D** will be a full scope dairy operation, featuring on-site demos that will help anyone raising calves and heifers understand the value they put into the young animals leads to a more productive dairy animal.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS for the 2014 conference include a trade show focused specifically on calf and heifer products and services.

Custom heifer raisers, dairy producers, veterinarians, nutritionists and anyone with a vested interest in raising calves is invited to attend the conference.

Register by visiting www.calfandheifer.org or calling 855-400-DCHA (3242). The complete agenda can be found online at: http://bit.ly/DCHA_2014ConferenceAgenda