

# DAIRY 2014 FOCUS GROUP MEETING

**Objective 1: Describe baseline dairy cattle health and management practices and trends in dairy farm health management**

- **Cow Comfort / Animal Welfare / Longevity**
  - Animal health / lameness
    - Proper nutrition, disease (Johne's), reproduction failure, hoof disorders
  - Breeding (cross bred, other genetics)
  - Handling
    - Pain management, dehorning, castration, low stress
  - Housing/ Environment
    - Flooring - cement surfaces, overcrowding, bedding, cleanliness
    - Facility/ stall size, dimensions, climate control, ventilation
  - Mortality and culling rates
    - Early lactation- involuntary culling, high rates
    - Short life span (higher production)

**Objective 2: Evaluate management factors that are related to optimal cow comfort and reduced removal rates.**

- **Biosecurity / Costs of Disease**
  - Diseases
    - BVD, Johne's, Leptospirosis, subclinical mastitis
  - Strategies
    - Identification of disease
    - Treatment/ No treatment –
      - Economics, cost controls
      - Cost of a biosecurity program
    - Risk assessment
    - Prevention- colostrum, vaccination
  - On farm
    - Biocontainment
    - Bioterrorism

**Objective 3: Describe current biosecurity practices and determine producer motivation for implementing or not implementing proper biosecurity practices**

- **Udder Health (including pathogens)**
  - Milking: routines, procedures, management
    - Effects on quality
    - Udder prep
    - Conformation
  - Pathogen Identification

- Staph, mycoplasma, klebsiella, environmental, E. coli, contagious, chronic,
- Mode of transmission
- o Prevention/ treatment
  - Mastitis
  - Dry cow
  - Culling
- o SCC (high vs. low)
  - Testing and culturing

**Objective 4: Describe current milking procedures and determine the prevalence of common mastitis pathogens**

- **Nutrition**

- o Rations
  - Forage quality
  - Grazing management
  - Nutrient (starch) availability
  - TMR
  - Transition cow diets, maintenance
- o Diseases
  - Acidosis
- o Mycotoxins

**Objective 5: Determine the extent of mycotoxin contamination of feeds**

- **Calf health and management**

- o Nutrition
  - Calf milk replacer, waste milk, pasteurization
  - When offered hay, grain and water
  - starter formulation
- o Housing
- o Diseases
  - Johne's
  - Scours – E. coli
- o Prevention/ Management
  - Colostrum – passive transfer measures
  - Vaccination
  - Sanitation

**Objective 6: Describe dairy calf health and evaluate nutrition and disease prevention practices**

- ***Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (Johne's)**

- o Prevalence
- o Diagnosis
  - Herd screening/testing
- o Prevention

**Objective 7: Determine the U.S. herd-level infection prevalence**

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- **Lameness / Hoof Health / Injury**

- o Prevalence
- o Causes
- o Diseases
  - Hairy heel warts, foot rot, sole ulcers, laminitis, hypocalcemia
- o Housing
- o Prevention
  - Foot bath, other treatments
  - Proper hoof care

**Objective 8: see objective 1**

- **Calf Diarrheal Diseases**

- o Prevalence
- o Passive transfer
- o Pathogens
  - Coccidiosis, Cryptosporidium, E. coli
- o Treatment
- o Prevention/management
- o Mortality rate

**Objective 9: Determine the percent of calves with failure of passive transfer and evaluate the association between herd level management and reported disease prevalence**

- **Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)**

- o Prevalence
  - Vaccinations
- o Identifying, monitoring PI
- o Prevention
  - Herd screening/testing

**Objective 10: Determine the prevalence of infected operations and evaluate testing options for bulk milk**

- **Food Safety Pathogens (Salmonella, Campylobacter, E coli.)**

- o Prevalence
- o Diagnosis
- o Management
  - Monitoring
- o Prevention
  - Vaccination

**Objective 11: Determine the prevalence of specific food safety pathogens**

