



# Dairy Heifer Care and Management Workshop

...for the serious heifer raiser

October 31 & November 1, 2006

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## Workshop objectives:

Participants will increase their fundamental knowledge and skills critical to successful heifer rearing. They will understand how to apply this knowledge and these skills in their own heifer-rearing capacities.

We will:

- explore and understand the “whys” behind “what is” and best practices
- practice skills in hands-on learning labs

## Intended Audience:

Calf and heifer caregivers, managers, students, interested industry personnel.

## Location:

The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center at Wooster.

The Administration Building  
Krauss Dairy Center

## Workshop Sponsors:



**The Extension Center at Wooster  
Veterinary Preventive Medicine  
Department of Animal Science**

**Select Sires, Inc.**

## Registration:

Workshop size is limited to ensure quality and quantity of hands-on and discussion time for each participant. Registration includes: extensive resource materials, weigh tapes and growth charts, 2 sets of disposable coveralls, boots and gloves for lab work; lab supplies, lunches and refreshments.

Discounted rates are available for additional participants from a registered farm as well as participants from the Neonatal Calf Care and Management Workshop who bring their notebook and reference materials.

## Accommodations:

Participants wishing to stay overnight in the Wooster area may make their own arrangements. Mention the “*Heifer Workshop at OARDC*” to receive discounted rates at:

### Amerihost

2055 E. Lincoln Way (old US 30)  
(330) 262-5008  
\$60 per night plus tax

### Hilton Garden Inn

959 Dover Rd. (SR 250)  
(330) 202-7701  
\$72 per night plus tax

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**Day One:**

**9:15 Registration & Refreshments**

Administration Building,  
room 208

**9:45 Welcome & Introductions**

Topics for the day:

**Growth**

- How much is enough?  
Setting attainable goals based on mature cow size, genetic potential and breeding goals.
  
- Monitoring rates of gain, measuring and tracking growth.

**Nutrition**

- Nutrition strategies  
Basic nutrient requirements and rations for the stages of heifer development: transition, growing, breeding, gestating and prefresh.
  
- The grazing option for raising heifers

**Health...Diagnosis, Treatment, Prevention**

- Identifying the unhealthy heifer  
  
Discussion of common health issues of heifers, when heifers are susceptible, signs of illness, long term health impacts and causes of death.

- Prevention of poor health
  
- Vaccination programs  
Who should be vaccinated for what and when? Optimizing the vaccination investment.  
Vaccination needs and issues.

- Rational parasite control
  
- Heifer mastitis  
Preventing mastitis in heifers. Should heifers be treated for mastitis? Discussion of current management and treatment strategies.

**Managing the Heifer Enterprise**

- Welfare issues facing the industry
  
- Budgeting and controlling costs  
What does it cost to raise a heifer? Where are cost control and profit opportunities?
  
- Record keeping  
What information should be recorded and used to effectively control the heifer enterprise?

**5:00 pm Adjourn**

**Dinner on your own**

**7:00 pm Optional Informal Evening Discussion**

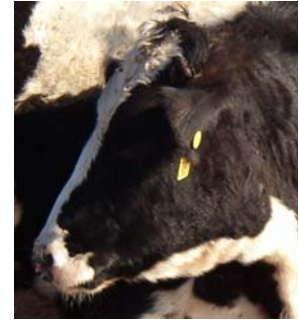
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**Day Two:**

**8:30 am Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 am Back to work!**



***Housing & Handling***

- Housing options for heifers as they grow from weaning to freshening.
- Designing working facilities for safe and efficient management and handling of heifers.

***Reproduction***

- Basics of heifer reproduction
  - Review of the heat cycle, when to start breeding, optimal time to breed, challenges of breeding heifers.
- Heat detection: methods and tools
- Synchronization and timed breeding options

***Communication***

- How well is information shared?  
Which heifer is in heat? Should she be bred? Which heifers aren't feeling well?
- Tips for getting the information that is needed to the right people at the right time.

***Lab I: Up close with reproductive tracts***

We will be studying heifer reproductive tracts, learning their anatomy and how a heifer's tract differs from the mature cow.

We will study where correct placement of semen and other reproductive tools should be.

***Lab II: Successful heat detection***

Out in the barn for a hands-on look at signs and symptoms of heats, correct and incorrect use of heat detection aids such as pressure-sensitive mounting patches, paint, chalk and other heat detection systems.

***Lab III: Measuring Growth***

A hands-on session to apply what we learned, measuring and setting growth goals for the heifers. We will use weigh tapes and various measuring tools to determine if goals are being met for growing, bred, prefresh and fresh heifers.

**4:30 pm Safe Trip Home**

## Workshop Teachers:

### **William Epperson, DVM**

Extension Specialist, Dairy  
Veterinary Preventive Medicine  
The Ohio State University

### **Ray Nebel**

Select Reproductive Solutions Specialist  
Select Sires Inc.

### **Maurice Eastridge**

Extension Specialist, Ruminant Nutrition  
Department of Animal Science  
The Ohio State University

### **Stephen Boyles**

Extension Specialist, Beef Production  
Department of Animal Science  
The Ohio State University

### **Tom Noyes**

Dairy Extension Educator, Emeritus  
The Ohio State University Extension

### **Richard Meiring**

DVM  
Veterinary Preventive Medicine  
The Ohio State University

### **Dianne Shoemaker**

Extension Specialist, Dairy  
The Ohio State University Extension  
Center at Wooster

### **Joe Hogan**

Mammary Health  
Department of Animal Science  
The Ohio State University

### **Duane Rader**

Agriculture Program Assistant  
Richland County Extension

### **Chris Zoller**

Ag and Natural Resources  
Extension Educator  
Tuscarawas County Extension

### **Normand St. Pierre**

Extension Specialist, Dairy  
Department of Animal Science  
The Ohio State University

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## Questions?

For additional information, contact Dianne Shoemaker at (330) 257-3377 or [shoemaker.3@osu.edu](mailto:shoemaker.3@osu.edu)

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The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center is easily reached from all over Ohio. The Research Center is located south of U.S. 30 just outside of Wooster which is between I-77 and I-71.

Detailed directions will be sent to all participants with their registration confirmation.

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Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, OSU Extension TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868



Heifer Care and  
Management Workshop  
October 31, November 1, 2006  
Wooster, Ohio

Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Farm or Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of additional attendees from same farm or business:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make:

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration(s) at \$195 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes all reference materials)

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration at \$155 if you participated in the  
Neonatal Calf Care and Management Workshop  
(March 2006), and bring your reference notebook. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional registration(s) at \$155 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(share reference materials with first registrant)

\_\_\_\_\_ ODP Members discount, \$10 per member farm \$ (\_\_\_\_\_)

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check size(s) for lab coveralls \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL

Do you have any special food or handicapped accessibility needs?

**Make checks payable to:** OSU Extension – Center at Wooster

**Mail registration form and check to:** OSU Extension – Center at Wooster  
Attn: Sue  
1680 Madison Avenue  
Wooster, OH 44691

**Questions?** 330-263-3799

Workshop size is limited. Registrations accepted until October 24<sup>th</sup> or when the workshop is full.