Monday, September 23, 2013
4:00 - 6:00 PM Registration, NIU Conference Center Lobby
5:30 Opening Reception
6:30 Dinner
7:20 - 8:30 PM Opening Session - NIU Conference Center
7:20 Welcome Larry Miller, DISCOVER Conference Series and DC26 Co-chairs Rich Erdman, University of Maryland and Mike VandeHaar, Michigan State University
7:30 Keynote Address: What are our Opportunities for Improving Dairy Feed Efficiency? (Mike VandeHaar, Michigan State University)
8:30 ADJOURN

Tuesday, September 24, 2013
7:00 - 8:00 AM Continental breakfast, NIU Conference Center Lobby
8:00 - 11:45 AM Session 1 – The Biology of Feed Efficiency. Moderator: Mike VandeHaar
  Welcome and Announcements
  Biological Limits to Feed Efficiency (Rich Erdman, University of Maryland)
  Efficiency of Producing Milk Components (Mark Hanigan, Virginia Tech)
  Discussion
  9:55-10:25 Break
  Molecular and Physiological Basis of Residual Feed Intake (RFI) and Feed Efficiency (Diane Spurlock, Iowa State University)
  Discussion
  11:45-12:45 LUNCH
1:00 - 5:00 PM Session 2 - Nutritional Aspects of Feed Efficiency. Moderator: Rich Erdman
  Introduction – Nutrition 101 (Rich Erdman, University of Maryland)
  Improving Dairy Feed Efficiency by Means Other than Dilution of Maintenance Costs (Bill Weiss, Ohio State University)
  Optimizing Dietary Energy and Protein to Maximize Feed Efficiency. (Lou Armentano, University of Wisconsin)
  Discussion
  2:55-3:25 Break
  Optimizing Feed Efficiency at Different Stages of Lactation (Mike Allen, Michigan State University)
  Discussion
  Panel Discussion
  5:00 ADJOURN

Wednesday, September 25, 2013
7:00 - 8:00 AM Continental breakfast, NIU Conference Center Lobby
8:00 - 12:00 PM Session 3 - Genetics of Feed Efficiency. Moderator: Diane Spurlock
  Introduction - Genetics 101—Heritability, Genomics, and Breeding Indexes
  Genetics of Feed Efficiency: What we know in dairy, and what we have learned from other industries (Donagh Berry, Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Cork Ireland)
  Global Efforts to Understand the Genetics of Feed Efficiency (Roel Veerkamp, Wageningen University)
  Discussion
  9:55-10:15 Break
  Integration of Feed Efficiency into a Selection Index (Kent Weigel, University of Wisconsin)
  Genomics and the Improvement of Feed Efficiency: Where are we headed? (Curt Van Tassel, USDA-ARS Animal Improvement Laboratory)
  Discussion
  12:00-1:00 LUNCH
1:15 - 4:45 PM Session 4 - Management Strategies to Improve Feed Efficiency. Moderator: Lou Armentano
  Management Strategies to Reduce Feed Losses: From Harvest to the Feed Bunk (Rick Grant, Miner Institute)
  Grouping Strategies to Improve Feed Efficiency (Victor Cabrera, University of Wisconsin)
  Discussion
  3:00-3:30 Break
  Strategies to Improve Whole Farm Feed Efficiency Through Optimizing Herd Structure (Albert De Vries, University of Florida)
Thursday, September 26, 2013
7:00 - 8:00 AM Continental breakfast, NIU Conference Center Lobby
8:00 - 11:45 PM Session 5 - Effects of Feed Efficiency on Economics and Sustainability. Moderator: Kent Weigel
   Strategies to Improve Economic Efficiency and Reduce Feed Costs (Normand St-Pierre, Ohio State University)
   Fitting Feed Efficiency into the Dairy Enterprise (Luis Rodriguez, Zinpro Corporation)
   Discussion
9:45-10:15 Break
   Feed Efficiency and Sustainability: How High Feed Efficiency Reduces the Environmental Impact of the Dairy Enterprise
   (Frank Mitloehner, University of California, Davis)
   Discussion
   Concluding Remarks (Rich Erdman and Mike VandeHaar)
11:45 ADJOURN