May 27 Tuesday (evening session)

4:00 PM Registration
5:30 Welcome and Dinner
7:20-8:30 PM Opening Session
Welcome Larry Miller, DISCOVER Conference Series and DC27 Co-chair(s)
The Importance of Dairy Welfare for our Industry LuAnn Troxel, Dairy Producer.

May 28 Wednesday

8:00-11:30 AM Morning Session 1 - What is Animal Welfare? (Jan Shearer, Moderator)
Welcome/Sponsor Recognition. Larry Miller and Co-chairs
Understanding Animal Welfare David Fraser, University of British Columbia
Retailer Perspective Christine Summers, Costco Wholesale
Lessons Learned from Other Food Animal Species: The US Egg Industry David Inall, United Egg Producers
10:15 -10:30 BREAK
Group discussions: For one of the following topics, identify all of the animal welfare issues in that sector, from various ethical perspectives (producer, veterinarian, allied industry, milk buyer, public, activists)
- dairy beef/cull cows
- milk-fed calves
- replacement heifers
- lactating/dry cows
11:30-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-5:00 PM Afternoon Session 2 - Understanding and Clarifying Attitudes of Animal Welfare (Candace Croney, Moderator)
Pork Perspective on Corporate Consumers, Industry-wide Branding and Assurance Programs Sherrie Niekamp, National Pork Board
Animal Welfare: What's Behind a Label David Main, University of Bristol, UK
Discussion
Assessing Best Practice through Audits: A Processer Perspective Juan Velez, Aurora Dairy
Approaches to Addressing Dairy Welfare in the US and Abroad: an Overview. Cassandra Tucker, University of California, Davis
Discussion
3:45-4:00 BREAK
Group discussions (same groups as in the morning): For the topic you worked on in the AM, brainstorm the requirements needed to demonstrate/assure welfare to the various ethical perspectives (producer, veterinarian, allied industry, milk buyer, public, activists). What are key features of this assurance?
- dairy beef/cull cows
- milk-fed calves
- replacement heifers
- lactating/dry cows
5:00 Poster Session Reception, opportunity to interact with researchers

May 29 Thursday

8:00-11:30 AM Morning Session 3 - Housing and Management of Dairy Cows: Future Concerns (Susan Eicher, Moderator)
Animal Welfare in the Context of Sustainability. Dr. Nina Von Keyserlingk and Dr. Dan Weary, University of British Columbia
Discussion
9:30-10:00 BREAK
Monitoring the Individual Animal on Large Farms: Technological Innovations and Engineering Solutions Marcia Endres, University of Minnesota
Selected talks by researchers attending conference
11:30-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-5:00 PM Afternoon Session 4 - Facilitating Change: Benchmarking and Best Practices on the Dairy Farm (Amy Stanton, Moderator)
Facilitating Change – The Role of Benchmarking as Sound Business Practice; Implementing the Lameness Assessment Program Lindsay Collings, NOVUS International Inc.
Implementing the Change: Canadian and US Producer Perspectives Ron Maynard, Canada and Dean Strauss, Majestic Crossing Dairy, US
Role of Veterinarians in Facilitating Change Nigel Cook, University of Wisconsin
Discussion
3:30-4:00 BREAK
Group discussions (Groups will report back on May 30)
- dairy beef/cull cows
- milk-fed calves
- replacement heifers
- lactating/dry cows
Using the list generated of welfare concerns generated on Wednesday, brainstorm how the US industry should move forward to address them. Groups should be prepared to discuss 1) how to achieve national change for the top issue on your list and 2) how to demonstrate this change to all interested parties (e.g. public, milk buyer, retailers).
5:00 Sponsor Reception: Table Top Displays related to dairy cattle welfare

May 30 Friday

8:00-11:30 AM Morning Session 5 - Developing a Strategy for the US: Moving Forward (Cassandra Tucker and Mike Schutz, Moderators)
Facilitated Discussion: Next Steps in Developing a Comprehensive Strategy for Dairy Cattle Welfare in the US
Synthesis of breakout work groups and discussion (dairy beef/cull cows; milk-fed calves; replacement heifers; lactating/dry cows)
9:30-10:00 BREAK
Dairy Cattle Welfare in the US and Beyond: Synthesis and Ways Forward David Fraser, University of British Columbia
Discussion
11:30 ADJOURN