



The AABP Post-Conference Newsletter is Sponsored by Hoard's Dairyman



AABP had a “Focus on Value” at 2025 Annual Conference



The American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) 2025 58th Annual Conference Sept. 11-13 in Omaha, Neb., assisted bovine veterinarians to “Focus on Value”. Beef and dairy veterinarians, students and registered veterinary technicians gathered

for one of the largest annual conferences to date for cutting-edge continuing education. Preconference seminars were held earlier in the week for in-depth instruction on a variety of topics.

Dr. Jim Pillen, 41st Governor of Nebraska who was trained as a swine veterinarian, welcomed AABP attendees in the opening session. “Feeding the world is important, and food security depends on us,” Pillen said. “We raise the best beef in the world and much of that veterinarians are responsible for.”

Keynote speaker Natasha Nicholes, founder of We Sow We Grow, an urban agriculture initiative in Chicago, presented “Bridging Fields: Aligning the Values of Urban Agriculture and Bovine Practice”.

New AABP President and 2025 Program Chair Dr. Callie Willingham said, “It's always great to see attendees catching up with old friends and colleagues and meeting new ones. This year's theme of ‘Focus on Value’ was top of mind for the program committee as they put together an exciting array of speakers and topics to bring value to our attendees.” The conference offered the latest research updates

to clinical skills and hot topic sessions on New World Screwworm and immigration.

AABP Immediate Past President Dr. Dave Sjeklocha said the conference was a resounding success and that the AABP's commitment to the next generation was also clear as AABP distributed \$115,000 in financial support for students to go on externships and seek out educational opportunities. Additionally, \$343,000 was awarded to students in the form of scholarships. “Our future colleagues are the lifeblood of the profession, and AABP has demonstrated a strong, continuous commitment to them.”

The 2025 conference gave in-person attendees up to 24.25 hours of continuing education on beef, dairy, clinical skills, mental health, welfare topics, practice management, student/new graduate topics, practice tips and other sessions, plus preconference seminars and clinical forums. Awards, a scholarship auction and a 5K were also highlights of the conference.

“I am also thankful to all of our members who come to our conference to socialize, network and learn about bovine medicine to advance their careers,” said AABP Executive Director Dr. Fred Gingrich. “Omaha is a great conference location for AABP and it was wonderful to surpass our attendance from 2024.”

Introduction of the 2025 AABP vice president candidates, Dr. Eric Behlke and Dr. Daryl Nydam, gave members a chance to get to know their potential leadership. Vice President ballots are open at <https://aabp.org/ballot/>, and will close Dec. 11, at 5 pm Eastern.

**Find more conference recaps and photos
on the AABP Facebook page!
#AABP2025**

Keynote by Nicholes Showed Commonalities between Bovine Medicine and Urban Gardens



What does an urban farming initiative in Chicago have to do with bovine medicine? Maybe more than you think. Nataasha Nicholes, founder of We Sow We Grow, an urban agriculture initiative, presented the keynote address, “Bridging fields:

Aligning the values of urban agriculture and bovine practice”. “What could rooftop gardens and cattle clinics possibly have in common?” Nicholes asked. “This question became the foundation for exploring one of the most surprising partnerships in modern agriculture: a collaboration between two professions that appear worlds apart, but share remarkably similar values, challenges, and aspirations.”

Nicholes said the urban agriculture practitioners and bovine veterinarians are actually partners in the same fundamental mission: ensuring healthy food systems that serve their communities. “Both professions work daily to maintain health – whether plant health in urban environments or animal health in agricultural settings – with the ultimate goal of safe, nutritious food reaching our tables.” Nicholes said urban agriculture is more than just having a rooftop garden. It has evolved far beyond community gardening into a sophisticated professional field requiring specialized knowledge in soil science, integrated pest management, food safety protocols, and community health education.

“Both practices are about changing fundamental resources to nourish and sustain us,” Nicholes said. “Plant health in urban environments and animal health strive to provide safe, nutritious food for our communities. Everyone on the planet deserves to eat. It’s a fundamental right.”

Nicholes suggested attendees go home and connect with an urban ag person in their area to stay in the same ecosystem. “Connect, form partnerships. Urban is not a word you need to be afraid of.”

Find out more about We Sow We Grow at <https://wesowwegrow.org/>.

Nebraska Governor, a Swine Veterinarian, Makes an Appearance

Dr. Jim Pillen, swine veterinarian and governor of Nebraska, made an appearance at the keynote session. Pillen noted, “Feeding the world is important and food security depends on us. We raise the best beef in the world, and much of that veterinarians are responsible for.”



Pillen also discussed Nebraska’s Elite 11 program to get more food animal veterinarians into the pipeline. This was the first time a sitting governor has made an appearance at an AABP Annual Conference.

2025 AABP Annual Conference Program Committee

Your 2025 Annual Conference Program Committee.



Front Row, L-R:

Dr. Mariana Guerra Maupome (Beef), Dr. Jess Simons (Dairy), Dr. Jen Roberts (Students/New Grads), 2025 Program Chair and AABP President-Elect Dr. Callie Willingham, Dr. Angel Abuelo (Research Summaries/Posters)

Back Row, L-R:

Dr. Monika Dzuiba (Practice Tips), Dr. Mark Hardesty (Practice Management), Dr. Jen Sexton (Research Summaries/Posters), AABP Vice President Dr. Mark Hilton (Preconference Seminars), Dr. Clare Scully (Clinical Skills)

Not pictured:

Dr. Dan Cummings (Beef), Dr. Michael Pesato (AASRP)

2025 AABP Awards

Boehringer Ingelheim Bovine Practitioner of the Year

Dr. Mark Thomas
Torréon, Mexico

Pictured with presenter Dr.
Daryl Nydam, left



AABP Award of Excellence

Dr. Renée Dewell
Nevada, Iowa

Pictured with presenter
Dr. Christine Navarre, right

Merck Animal Health Mentor of the Year

Dr. Hunter Lang
(posthumously)
Prairie du Sac, Wis.

Members of Lang's
family with presenter Dr. Jonathan Garber (second
from right)



Zoetis Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Pat Gorden
Ames, Iowa

Pictured with
presenter Dr. Phillip
Jardon, left



James A. Jarrett Award for Young Leaders

Dr. Michelle Schack
Phoenix, Ariz.

Pictured with presenter
Dr. Gaby Maier, right



Other awards given at the 2025 58th AABP Annual Conference include:

2025 AABP Foundation Competitive Research Grant Award

- *Bud-in or bud-out? A randomized field trial comparing two cautery disbudding techniques on wound healing in dairy calves*
Matthias Wieland, DVM, PhD, DECBHM
Cornell University
- *Evaluation of intrathecal lidocaine hydrochloride euthanasia under intravenous anesthesia in cattle and resulting tissue residues*
Celeste Morris, DVM, MBA, MPVM, DACT
University of Missouri
- *Does giving a single injection of a neonatal diarrhea vaccine to pregnant beef cows increase antibody transfer, calf health and growth?*
Lisa Gamsjäger, Mag.med.vet., PhD, DACVIM
North Carolina State University

2025 AABP Research Summaries Graduate Student Awards

- **First Place**
Jackson Seminara, Cornell University
Associations of early postpartum inflammation measured at 2 DIM with metrics of lactational success
- **Second Place**
Jordana Zimmerman, Kansas State University
Feedyard cattle facial images at the time of bovine respiratory disease treatment to predict negative outcomes

- **Third Place**

Torre Dunlea, Kansas State University
A quantitative model of the risk of FMD transmission following cattle movements during an outbreak

2025 Student Case Presentation Competition Winners

- **Overall Winner**

- Cady McGehee-Siemers, University of Wisconsin
Cluster of bovine hematochezia cases at a cattle exhibition

- **Clinical Case Report**

- First Place – Cady McGehee-Siemers, University of Wisconsin
Cluster of bovine hematochezia cases at cattle exhibition
- Second Place – Alyssa Otto, Texas A&M University
Limb edema in a 2-year-old black Angus bull

- **Research Report**

- First Place – Maggie Cronk, Iowa State University
The first 48 hours: Analyzing behavioral traits of chronic feedlot cattle based on final outcome
- Second Place – Kenson Boelke, University of Minnesota
Field validation of a commercial pasteurizer system to heat-treat small volumes of colostrum

Omaha Welcomes AABP!



Conference By the Numbers

AABP Executive Director Dr. Gingrich shares these stats from the 2025 AABP Annual Conference:

- 1,074 AABP members
- 292 veterinary students
- 79 exhibiting companies/organizations with 239 exhibitor representatives
- 71 accompanying persons
- 144 signed up for the 5K Stampede Fun Run/Walk

Welcome Reception Sponsored by Merck Animal Health

What better way to kick off the Annual Conference than the Welcome Reception Wednesday evening sponsored by Merck Animal Health!



Conference Spotlight: New World Screwworm

In the Hot Topics session, Dr. Bud Dinges offered updated information on New World Screwworm. Dinges says some general preventive management for screwworm includes to:

- Routinely inspect livestock for maggots, in pastures, pens or prior to or post-transportation.
- Prevent wounds. Treat wounds quickly to prevent and/or reduce infestations.
- Schedule birthing of animals to coincide with cooler months when flies are at a minimum.



- Choose cooler months to perform procedures causing an opening in the skin:
 - Castration
 - Dehorning
 - Tagging
 - Vaccination
 - Shearing
 - Branding
 - Ear marking
 - Tail docking
 - Implants

If you have suspected screwworms and want to take samples, Dinges says you will need these supplies:

- Gloves
- 70% alcohol (ethanol or isopropyl)
- Forceps
- Screw cap vial or container
- Ziploc-type bag
- NVSL Parasite Submission form VS5-38

Dinges notes that USDA needs to be informed prior to submissions of suspected screwworm samples. Visit AABP's New World Screwworm resources at https://aabp.org/resources/screw_worm/.

2025 AABP Scholarships

In 2025, the AABP Foundation received 369 scholarship applications and awarded 42 scholarships, totaling \$343,000. Adding to the Amstutz scholarship funds were the Amstutz Live and Silent auctions, the annual 5K Stampede Fun Run sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim and donations from members.

2025 Amstutz Scholarship Recipients

Ten veterinary students received the \$11,500 2025 Harold E. Amstutz Scholarships. Funding comes from AABP member contributions, investment fund interest and dividends, proceeds from the 5k Stampede, and proceeds from the AABP Live and Silent Auctions and raffle. The 2025 recipients are:

- Bailey Bailey, Washington State University
- Thomas Christensen II, Kansas State University
- Chrissy Hansen, University of Calgary

- Madelaine Kuwada, North Carolina State University
- Kaitlyn McFarlan, The Ohio State University
- Eliza Merges, University of Minnesota
- Sarah Nafziger, University of Pennsylvania
- Elizabeth Skapley, Cornell University
- Kagan Migl, Texas Tech University
- Meghan Van Althuis, Cornell University

2025 Merck Animal Health Bovine Veterinary Student Recognition Awards

Nine 3rd and 4th year veterinary students will receive this \$10,000 scholarship generously sponsored by Merck Animal Health. The 2025 recipients are:

- Brian Birkenhagen, University of Calgary
- Thomas Christensen II, Kansas State University
- Kaden Eisenbraun, University of Minnesota
- Matthew Holton, University of Georgia
- Chance Marsh, Washington State University
- Eliza Merges, University of Minnesota
- Kagan Migl, Texas Tech University
- Maggie Moe, Texas Tech University
- Gus (Aaron) Peterson, Iowa State University

2025 Zoetis Foundation Scholarship

Veterinary students graduating in 2025 were eligible for the Zoetis Foundation Scholarship. This year, 16 students received the \$7,500 award which is generously funded by the Zoetis Foundation. The 2025 recipients are:

- Thomas Christensen II, Kansas State University
- Haley Dueñas, Texas A&M University
- Ivy Elkins, Kansas State University
- Alek Goll, Iowa State University
- Matthew Holton, University of Georgia
- Justin Huff, University of Illinois
- Rachael Klueppel, Mississippi State University
- Madelaine Kuwada, North Carolina State University
- Allison Leschke, University of Wisconsin

- Adrianna Mann, Purdue University
 - Cady McGehee, University of Wisconsin
 - Eliza Merges, University of Minnesota
 - Gus (Aaron) Peterson, Iowa State University
 - Abigail Reid, Cornell University
 - Madison Thieman, University of Minnesota
 - Shelly Underwood, Virginia-Maryland
-

2025 James H. Bias Scholarship

James H. Bias was the first Black man to graduate from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1910. He went on to establish veterinary medicine as a critical component of the Tuskegee agricultural science department, and fostered a positive image of veterinarians in the community. This influential \$5,000 scholarship is named in honor of this historic trailblazer who opened many doors for veterinary students of color. The 2025 recipients are:

- Katherine Choo, University of California-Davis
 - Abigail Reid, Cornell University
-

Hunter Lang Dairy Welfare Scholarship

The purpose of the \$2,000 Hunter Lang Dairy Welfare Scholarship is to provide a one-time financial award to a veterinary student interested in dairy practice and animal welfare. This scholarship was created by the family of Dr. Hunter Lang who served on the AABP Board of Directors, AABP Animal Welfare Committee and as an AABP delegate in the AVMA House of Delegates. The 2025 recipient is:

- Madilyn Prive, Western University College of Veterinary Medicine
-

2025 Francis Welcome Future Dairy Practitioner Scholarship

The Francis Welcome Future Dairy Practitioner Scholarship supports superior 3rd year veterinary students who demonstrate the character, knowledge and potential to become outstanding dairy veterinarians upon graduation. This \$2,000 memorial scholarship was created by the Welcome family to

honor the memory of AABP Honor Roll member Dr. Francis (Frank) Welcome.

- Hailey Atwood, University of California-Davis
 - Cady McGehee, University of Wisconsin
-

2025 Edwin Robertson Memorial Scholarship

The Edwin Robertson Memorial Scholarship, administered through the AABP Foundation, provides a \$1,000 award to one veterinary student each from Auburn University and Lincoln Memorial University to help fund a theriogenology, embryo transfer or advance reproductive techniques experience. The 2025 recipients are:

- Ben Dentlinger, University of Minnesota
 - Cady McGehee, University of Wisconsin
-

Conference Spotlight: What do Beef Producers Want from Their Veterinarians?



Iowa beef producer Lydia Grant talked about what producers want from their veterinarians. Effective communication with beef producers was a key part of her message. “Strong communication isn’t just helpful; it’s essential to the foundation of veterinarian-producer partnerships,” she said. “Clear communication builds trust, strengthens partnerships and keeps herds healthier.”

From the producer’s point of view, effective communication includes several key elements:

- Approachability: Producers need to feel safe asking questions even the basic ones. Condescension shuts down trust. Respect must go both ways.
- Responsiveness: Timely responses matter. Whether it’s a call, text, or office follow-up, knowing that help is reachable reinforces reliability.
- Empathy and passion: When a veterinarian shows they care, we notice. Relationships are built on more than service; they’re built on genuine connection.
- Adaptability in delivery: Every producer is different. Adjusting communication style, detail level, and tone shows respect and builds strong trustworthy partnerships.

“The bottom line is that it’s not just what you say, it’s how you say it,” Grant noted. “Communication is a tool for connection, not just information.”

VOTE for AABP VP!

AABP Vice President candidates Dr. Eric Behlke (left) and Dr. Daryl Nydam introduced themselves in the Keynote session. Voting is open! Log onto the AABP website and click on the ballot on the scrolling banner or go to <https://aabp.org/ballot/>.



You can read candidate bios on that page. The November AABP newsletter also has a Q&A with each candidate. The direction of AABP depends on its members! Your vote counts!

Deadline to vote is December 11, 5pm Eastern.

Zoetis Sponsors Thursday Morning Breakfast

It's always great to start off the day with breakfast and food for thought! Thanks, Zoetis, for sponsoring the Thursday breakfast. Dr. Mike Overton presented "Pitfalls and Opportunities of Using Farm Data for Decision Making".



Conference Spotlight: What can Organized Veterinary Medicine do for You?

What can organized veterinary medicine do for you? A whole lot! In her presentation "Ringing your own cowbell: How to engage in organized vet

med", AABP District 1 Director Dr. Elizabeth Brock addressed students, but her message applies to all.

"Organized veterinary medicine plays a critical role in shaping the future of the profession, supporting individual veterinarians and advocating for animal and public health," Brock said. "Active involvement in organized veterinary medicine by veterinarians early in their careers – through professional associations, student organizations and specialty groups – offers benefits that extend from personal career development to sustainability in practice."

Most organizations share common missions revolving around three main pillars – advocacy, continuing education and outreach. "Advocacy is essential to maintain the veterinarian's ability to do their job protecting animal health and welfare against well-meaning, but uneducated, bills that would stand in their way," Brock explained. "Most practice-specific organizations like AABP and AAEP focus their efforts on providing continuing education opportunities for members. This work ensures that members can stay current on the latest evidence-based practices in their field for their clients. Many organizations conduct outreach activities, ranging from representing veterinarians in community events to providing resources for the public on issues related to our specific practice types."

Brock gave specific examples of the benefits of a AABP membership including:

- Mentorship Program (<https://aabp.org/jobs/mentorship/0>)
- Guidelines and position statements (https://aabp.org/about/Guidelines_Position_Statements.asp)
- Timely updates on situations such as H5N1 (<https://aabp.org/resources/iaav/>) and New World Screwworm (https://aabp.org/resources/screw_worm/)
- Mental health resources (https://aabp.org/committees/Mental_Health.asp)
- Leadership programs and continuing education.

She encouraged attendees to get involved with veterinary organizations. "Good organizations welcome all veterinarians as servant leaders, regardless of experience, practice type or social group," she said. "It is important to question imposter syndrome if it arises in oneself to check if

the barriers are real or perceived. It is also important to push against social norms to ensure all veterinarians are represented in leadership in organized veterinary medicine. Sometimes when one feels like an outsider, it is even more important to get involved."

AABP Leadership and Board of Directors



Front Row, L-R: Dr Erick Stoltzfus (District 2), AABP Vice President Dr. Mark Hilton, Dr. Sam Bryant (District 7), AABP Immediate Past President Dr. Michael Capel, AABP President Dr. Dave Sjeklocha, Dr. Murray Gillies (District 12) and Dr. Paul Cook (District 10).

Back Row, L-R: Dr. Ryan Rademacher (District 13), AABP Treasurer Dr. Brian Reed, Dr. Erika Nagorske (District 6), Dr. Jennifer Koziol (District 8) Incoming AABP Treasurer Dr. Kaitlyn Briggs, Dr. Jenna Bayne (District 3), Dr. Justin Kieffer (District 4), Dr. Liz Brock (District 1), AABP Parliamentarian Dr. Dick Wallace, Dr. Julia Herman (District 9), Dr. Lynne Acebey (District 5), Incoming Vice President Dr. Elizabeth Kohtz (District 11) and President-Elect Dr. Callie Willingham.



Conference Spotlight: That's a Wrap! Practice Tip

Talk about low-tech making a big difference! In the Practice Tips session Dr. Tony Martin presented "That's a Wrap!". At an operation with animals that had not gone through alleys and chutes, Martin used black plastic pallet wrap to wrap pipe fence to give the appearance of it having solid walls. He said it cost \$176 for rolls from Uline.



"The first day it lasted four hours with 75 cows going through, and the second day it lasted three hours with 125 cows," he explained.

Other ways to use the heavy plastic sheeting is in portable chutes, lanes, panels and making "solid" walls in holding pens. "It's a great way to try before spending money on new solid gates, etc.," Martin said.

McGehee-Siemers Wins Student Case Competition

Cady McGehee-Siemers, University of Wisconsin, was the overall winner of the Student Case Competition with "Cluster of bovine hematochezia cases at a cattle exhibition".

She presented her case again on Friday in the Exhibit Hall.



Conference Spotlight: Money MOOves to Make



Financial concerns are of importance to all bovine veterinarians, and maybe more so for those just starting out. Dr. Anne (Budzinski) Satkowiak presented "Money MOOves to make" in the Students/New Grads session to discuss financial issues and strategies for those anticipating or entering practice.

Satkowiak shared a couple of things to help make sticking to a financial plan a bit easier. "If possible, take advantage of automation," she said. "Utilities, insurances, mortgage, debts and some other consistent expenses that are on the 'need' side can be auto-paid from your bank account. This allows you to focus on the ones that are not regular and gives you peace of mind that those important ones are taken care of." She added that many times companies give you a perk such as lower interest rate or discount for enrolling in auto-pay. "You also can do this with some savings accounts so you can work toward those savings goals and not have to think about it."

However, she says if you are concerned about your budget or the numbers are not working out short term or long term, then she would recommend talking to a financial advisor. “Many banks and credit unions have them on staff, and they are free for you as a contributing member of that institution,” she says. “You can also pay a fiduciary advisor for guidance on your full financial picture and they are exceptionally knowledgeable.”



She acknowledges that budgets can get us frustrated by the time it takes to reach a goal or when we have a setback, so we need to remind ourselves that our finances are personal to us and we have goals to accomplish. “Reminding ourselves how far we have come and what we have completed thus far gives us motivation that we are

capable of achieving the goal in mind,” she says. “We often compare ourselves to others and what they have, but we should focus more on what we have done and where we are headed with our journey to financial freedom.”

Photo courtesy of Dr. Jody Kull

AABP Students Live It Up at the Endovac Student Reception



There were almost 300 veterinary students registered for the AABP Annual Conference, and it seemed like they were all in attendance at the Thursday night student reception sponsored by Endovac. Held at the

Old Mattress Factory in downtown Omaha, there was great food, drink, entertainment and hospitality!

Iowa State University student Anna Schmit was the lucky recipient of an Endovac \$500 scholarship.



Photos courtesy of Endovac Animal Health

Conference Spotlight: Maternal Interference and Calf Vaccination



In the Dairy session, Dr. Chris Chase presented information on maternal interference and calf vaccination.

One of the things he discussed was immunity in the stressed calf. He said in a stressed calf, several factors compromise immune function including the stress of transportation, dehydration, feed change (with the resulting negative energy balance), acidosis and associated microbial changes in the gut. “There is clear evidence that waiting at least two days and preferable as long as two weeks before vaccination will result in better immunity and less sickness in that adjustment period after the stress,” he said.

“The issues that were described above for the activation of a cytokine storm are present in the stressed calf. The good news is that macrophage activation in the stressed calf occurs over a much shorter period. Once the calves are back on feed and the microbiota is stable, the opportunity for a cytokine storm lessens dramatically.”

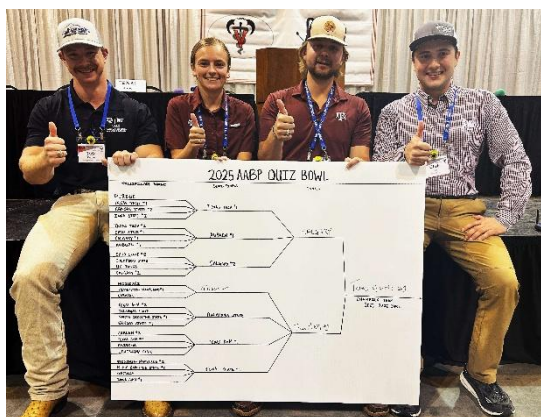


2025 AABP Quiz Bowl – Texas A&M Takes Home the Championship

It was Team #1 from Texas A&M University for the win! At the 2025 AABP Annual Conference, 27 Quiz Bowl teams vied for the coveted championship, and Team #1 (out of two TAMU teams) from Texas A&M brought it home against the team from the University of Calgary (Calgary won in 2022). At the afternoon break, the championship team went head-to-head against the “AABP Dream Team” which pulled out the win this year.

All the matches were spirited and showcased the knowledge of our future bovine veterinarians from across the U.S. and Canada. Quiz Bowl masters Drs. Leslie and Bryan Weaver once again administered the contest.

Many thanks to Vaxxinova for their continued sponsorship of the AABP Quiz Bowl and breakfast served to fuel up contestants before a morning of matches!



2025 Championship Quiz Bowl Team from Texas A&M, L-R: Jack Detten, Kailee Knezek, John Deramus, Chris Box



WOW that's a fine-looking group of students from 27 veterinary schools participating in the Quiz Bowl at the 2025 AABP Annual Conference in Omaha!

Childcare Room a Hit with the Kids!

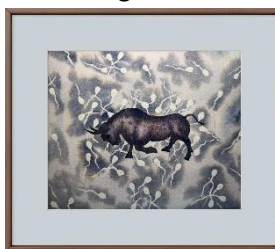
Heritage Vet Partners sponsored the very popular Childcare Room at the conference that was enjoyed by 20 families! Snacks, toys, games, TV, quiet area, mom's room, etc. were well-used by children, their parents or caregivers.



Amstutz Auctions Contribute \$72,000 to Amstutz and Foundation Scholarship Funds



At the conference, the live and silent auctions benefiting the Amstutz and Foundation scholarship funds raised just over \$72,000. There were 50 silent auction items donated by members, student chapters and exhibitors.



Thirteen items were featured in the live auction including the Mark Hopkins bronze bull, vacation homes, a Henry Big Boy rifle as well as a custom AABP 1911 pistol and “Fertile Ground” (above), an original watercolor painting by Past President Dr. Christine Navarre (which brought in \$1,500!), among other items.



Auctioneer Bryan Mergen helped AABP raise a lot of money for the Foundation and scholarships!

The auction was presided over by very entertaining and longtime auctioneer Bryan Mergen of Red Garage Auction Co.

Thank you, Zoetis, for once again providing the scholarship dinner prior to the auction. We appreciate your continued support!

AABP members are always invited and encouraged to donate to the AABP Foundation at <http://aabp.org/foundation/donate.asp>, and it's never too early to think about what you might want to donate to next year's auction!



Conference Spotlight: *Mycoplasma bovis* transmission and risk factors for calves

Mycoplasma bovis transmission to young calves is thought to primarily occur through contact with nasal secretions of shedding adults or other calves, or through exposure to infected milk, said Dr.



Fiona Maunsell in her Dairy session talk. "Feeding of waste milk to calves has been identified as a risk factor for *M. bovis*-associated disease, and calves can be experimentally infected by feeding *M. bovis*-inoculated milk," she said. She noted that although it appears to be uncommon, colostrum can also be positive for *M. bovis* in a small proportion

(generally < 2%) of cows in infected herds; calves that become infected from adults in the calving area or through feeding of unpasteurized *M. bovis*-positive colostrum could then transmit *M. bovis* to other calves via respiratory secretions. "In multi-age facilities, ongoing transmission from older to incoming calves may perpetuate infection in the facility."

At the calf level, feeding milk from infected cows (generally as unpasteurized waste milk), use of shared nipples, including automated feeder, group housing and larger group sizes, high stocking density, shared airspace with older animals, and direct contact with chronically ill calves are associated with increased risk of *M. bovis*-associated disease.

"Additionally, general risk factors for BRD in calves apply to *M. bovis* including poor colostrum management, poor weaning transition management, inadequate ventilation, undernutrition and adverse

weather events that are associated with increased risk of BRD in calves apply when *M. bovis* is present as a component of the BRD complex."

5K Stampede Race Results

Participants in the 2025 Stampede 5K Fun Run/Walk sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim on Saturday of the conference had a beautiful morning for the event to raise money for the AABP Amstutz Scholarship Fund! The Stampede 5K contributed \$7,200 to the Fund this year.

Overall winner (male) was Jonah Leppelmann with a time of 17:54, and overall winner (female) was Marta Pulfer with a time of



23:37. View race results and other medal winners at <https://runsignup.com/Race/Results/191654/#resultSetId=582960;perpage:100>.

Attendees were also honored by the presence of the late Dr. Hunter Lang's family as Dr. Lang was a longtime participant of the event and he raised additional funds by contributing money on behalf of everyone who beat him and everyone he outpaced in the run/walk. Later, the Lang family also accepted the

Merck Mentor-of-the-Year Award presented posthumously to Dr. Lang at the Annual Business and Awards Luncheon.

The Langs have also established a scholarship, the Hunter Lang Dairy Welfare Scholarship, to honor Lang's commitment to dairy cattle welfare. Find out how to contribute to this scholarship fund as well as all AABP Foundation-supported scholarships at <https://aabp.org/foundation/>.





Conference Spotlight: Utilizing RVTs and Assistants to Elevate Livestock Practice

Veterinary practices that effectively utilize RVTs and assistants unlock not only economic growth, but also professional sustainability. Employing support staff improves patient care, reduces burnout and strengthens client relationships.

In her presentation on utilizing registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) and assistants, Dr. Oberlin McDaniel said economic analysis suggests return on investment for hiring staff ranges from \$80,000 to \$150,000 annually per veterinarian, with additional intangible benefits including continuity of care, safer working conditions and improved job satisfaction.

McDaniel said veterinarians interested in incorporating RVTs and assistants into their practice can begin with small, practical steps:

- Evaluate current time sinks and missed revenue opportunities
- Hire for cultural fit and willingness to learn, not just credentials
- Use DISC® assessments to understand team dynamics
- Gradually delegate technical and administrative tasks
- Establish clear expectations for supervision and legal compliance
- Review workflows regularly and adjust as needed

Effective utilization of RVTs requires understanding state practice acts and supervision requirements. Tasks delegated to credentialed technicians may require immediate, direct, or indirect supervision depending on state law.

Find AABP's guidelines "Credentialed Veterinary Technicians in Bovine Practice" at https://aabp.org/resources/AABP_Guidelines/VetTech2024.pdf.

Christian Veterinary Mission Breakfast

Dr. Gina Wintermantel presented to attendees at the Christian Veterinary Mission Breakfast on Saturday at the conference. The presentation by Wintermantel was titled "Fields of Faith: Growing the Kingdom through Livestock and Agriculture Training".



Dr. Gina Wintermantel



Dr. Brant Carpenter

Dr. Brant Carpenter led the music on his guitar. Find out more about the Christian Veterinary Mission at <https://cvm.org/>.

Get Your CE Certificate!

The 2025 58th AABP Annual Conference offered 24.25 RACE-approved continuing education (CE) credits. RACE approval is one benefit in addition to having online CE free of charge for AABP members.

If you attended the 2025 AABP Annual Conference you can access and print your CE certificate by logging on to the AABP website at <https://aabp.org>, and in the upper righthand corner at "Member Log On", click on "My CE Certificates". You can edit the certificate and check the presentations you watched, then click Create Your CE Certificate and print.

Conference Spotlight: Antibiotic Withdrawal Periods



Dr. Allison Vander Plaats discussed antimicrobial selection. On the subject of withdrawal periods, she said, "Meat and milk withdrawals may impact antibiotic choice. Obviously, longer withdrawal periods will impact the ability of a producer to harvest and sell meat or milk for human consumption. Longer withdrawal periods may not be practical for animals with a known show or market date either." For example, if a show steer is scheduled to go to market in two weeks, it would not be in the owner's best interest to treat with oxytetracycline or florfenicol, as both of these have withdrawals significantly longer than two weeks.

However, there must be a balance between what is in the owner's best interest and the animal's best interest. "If the best or only option is truly florfenicol, perhaps the owner can work out an alternative date or location for harvest so that the animal can receive

the treatment they need without completely derailing the owner's plans."

Another important thing to realize about antibiotic withdrawal periods is that they are determined in studies using healthy animals. Sick animals requiring antibiotic treatment may have differences in drug pharmacokinetics, including drug absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion, which can greatly impact drug depletion time and inadvertently result in violative residues. "Consider label withdrawals the minimum and contact FARAD with complete case details for guidance on how withdrawal periods might be extended," she said.

For dairy cattle, milk withdrawal periods are determined under the assumption that up to 30% of the cows going into the bulk tank are treated with the drug in question. Small operations with high treatment rates can result in violative residues, even when using drugs with zero-day milk withdrawals. The old adage "the solution to pollution is dilution" applies here, as larger operations have a larger dilution factor. "When in doubt, contact FARAD for guidance and consider extending milk withdrawals for systemically ill animals or when large proportions of the herd are treated," she advised.

Find Exhibitor Information!

Did you miss the annual conference and would like to contact one of our exhibiting partners? Visit <http://aabp.org/meeting/vendors/> to get contact information for them.

See you in 2025!

Plan ahead for 2025 AABP conferences!

- 2026 9th Recent Graduate Conference
Feb. 13-14, Lincoln, Neb.
(Registration is open at <https://aabp.org>)
- 2026 59th AABP Annual Conference
Aug. 27-29, Minneapolis, Minn.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



AABP post-conference newsletter created by Geni Wren, AABP Director of Marketing and Communications. AABP would like to thank those who contributed conference photos!