HOW SHOULD WE MILK A COW? 
LET THE COWS DECIDE!

Bridging Gaps in the Dairy Industry 
Through Management and Medicine

October 9, 2018
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

DR. LAUREN STUMP
NCFAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speakers

DR. RONALD (R.J.) ERSKINE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Open Forum

Closing

DR. LAUREN STUMP

NCFAR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension, and education.
ABSTRACT
The U.S. dairy industry has undergone a rapid shift in demographics. Herd size is increasing as is the proportion of milk produced by large dairy farms. As a result, dairy farms are relying more on non-family labor and becoming increasingly diverse in terms of employment practices and organization. Many dairy managers have limited human resource knowledge and management experience, which often leads to frustration with protocol drift and a perceived lack of employee engagement. Taken together, these dynamics in the nation’s dairy farms are a form of cultural lag. That is, there is a gap between the human resource needs arising within the industry’s labor force and the capacity of producers and managers to address them. One of the simplest examples of how the disconnect between dairy producers and employees can affect the daily routine is the milking of cows. Improper milking can be detrimental to farm productivity, impair cow health, and decrease the amount of milk ‘in the pail’. Sometimes, it’s best to go back to basics and let cows themselves teach us how things should be done!

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Ronald (R.J.) Erskine, DVM, MS, Ph.D. is a Professor and Dairy Extension Veterinarian in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University. His research focus is bovine infectious disease, but especially antibiotic use and milk quality. He is the project director of a multi-institution, USDA-NIFA funded project to reduce mastitis and antibiotic use in dairy cattle, which focuses on employee training and engagement. Dr. Erskine has provided clinical service, research, and outreach on dairy farms throughout his career and has given over two hundred seminars and workshops to dairy producers, veterinarians, and allied professionals. Dr. Erskine earned a bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois. Following several years of private practice in rural Pennsylvania, Dr. Erskine received his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy from Penn State.
SEMINAR SERIES DESCRIPTION

NCFAR’s Seminar Series regularly presents leading-edge researchers to address pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. NCFAR and the Seminar Series serve as a resource to policymakers and staff.

Seminar Series Contributing Sponsors

Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science Societies
American Bakers Association
American Phytopathological Society
American Seed Trade Association
Bayer CropScience
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
Corn Refiners Association
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)
Council for Biotechnology Information (CBI)
Council on Food, Ag, and Resource Economics (C-FARE)
CropLife America
Dr. William Danforth
Eversole Associates
Experiment Station Committee on Organization & Policy (ESCOP)
Extension Committee on Organization & Policy (ECOP)
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Michael Newman, DVM
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC)
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)
Riley Memorial Foundation
The IR-4 Project
Syngenta
United Soybean Board
Weed Science Society of America
Western Skies Strategies

http://www.ncfar.org

R. Thomas Van Arsdall, Executive Director
Phone: (703) 509-4746 E-mail: tom@vanarsdall.com