

DAIRY VETERINARY NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Thank You For 20 Great Years - Retirement Has Arrived

All of us have noticed that time passes faster and faster as one's years go by, and have likely heard someone say it when they retire: Where did the time go? I'm retired as of July 31, 2026, 20 years after coming to USU on August 1, 2006. Some of our readers have been with this newsletter since before I inherited it from Dr. Clell Bagley 20 years ago, and many others have joined along the way. (Clell was the dairy extension veterinarian for the state of Utah and USU from 1975 to 2007; we overlapped for one year, and between us we were the dairy extension veterinarian and faculty at USU for 51 years.) A number of readers have retired or passed away as time marches on.

You have helped me enjoy my time at USU immensely. The interactions with veterinarians, dairy producers, the dairy industry, students, and many colleagues here were the best I ever hoped for when I came here. My wife and I had never lived west of the Mississippi River, but had lived most of our lives farther east than that in Ohio, Michigan and Upstate New York. Our children were born in Upstate New York. We had seen the West on family vacations, but it was a huge move coming to Utah. It turned out to be great for all of us. One thing I did not realize until I moved here was that many people in the dairy industry, including those active in national organizations and conferences, from the eastern third of the country did not really know very many people in the western third of the U.S. There were a number of dairy industry veterinarians, nationally involved producers, and university researchers from the West that I knew, but in terms of contact, there are largely two different dairy industries from Minnesota and Wisconsin to the east, and from Colorado to the west. (I do not have dairy experience in the middle third of the country, but not as many Top 23 dairy states are there either.) Having been able to live and work in both worlds and continue to know many people in each of them has been fantastic. The practical differences between these two parts of the dairy industry are not nearly as great as I often hear people within them speculate that they are. The main difference is in the water supply, including rain, or lack thereof. The facts that it is hard work, raising and taking care of dairy cattle, selling a perishable commodity wholesale every day, buying nearly everything retail, and living as a speculator is the same. Thanks to all of you for your part in it. A few photos from the past:



Veterinary truck, Ohio, 1986. Ted the dog had to mark the tires every time it came home (vs. the farm dogs).



With Dr. Hong Ryul Han, veterinarian from S. Korea, during his sabbatical, Cornell, 1992.



Research project with Vince, me, Kerry and Joanne, New York, 1998. Kerry still works at Cornell and has sampled milk from 1.5 million teats. Vince sampled about 2 million before he retired.



Clouds, mountains, cows, Utah. This photo amazed a lot of people around the country and the world.



Bronchoalveolar lavage of dairy calves with Dr. Anne Justice - Allen, veterinarian and USU graduate student, 2008.



Checking out the bulk tank, 2012.



Cows drinking whey, 2012. This also fascinated a lot of people around the country and the world; they had never seen it.



With Dr. Kerry Rood in an old trigon (triangle shaped) parlor, converted to a break room, 2013. In the 80's, some producers furnished their trigon pits with easy chairs, TV's, etc. and milked about 2 hours per day.



Justine Britten, graduate student, mammary dissection, 2017.



Caine Dairy calf milk project, USU, 2024.



Many people around the world were amazed at the Jerseys and colored crosses we have in many Utah herds.

5600 Old Main Hill
Logan UT 84322-5600

Dr. Stenkamp-Strahm Takes Over, Future Plans

It so happens that I am retiring at a time when HPAI in dairy cattle, New World screwworm, and vesicular stomatitis virus (only in equines so far) outbreaks are all taking place in our region. As both a veterinarian and epidemiologist, I feel rather odd leaving with all this going on. However, Dr. Chloe Stenkamp-Strahm, who has been the USU extension veterinarian for other species for a year, is now also taking over as the Dairy Extension Veterinarian as well. She is highly experienced as a dairy veterinarian, and has some of the world's greatest expertise in investigating HPAI in dairy cattle, including in California and Colorado as well as Utah. We always envisioned this day, ever since we were able to attract her to USU. Along with Drew Swartz in the Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences department, as well as others, we have great expertise continuing forward. At least at this time, this ends the publication of the dairy veterinary newsletter.

My wife and I will be doing more of things we enjoy. I will be a professor emeritus, and remain on a few committees at the state level and at USU. Therefore, I still have my email address as David.Wilson@usu.edu. I hope I will continue to see you from time to time. Thanks again for everything.

"Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution."