

DAIRY VETERINARY NEWSLETTER

September 2025

USU Hires New Dairy Extension Specialist and New Extension Veterinarian

There is exciting news at Utah State University in the form of two new additions to the faculty within the realm of Extension; I am extremely glad that we could attract these two new people. Drew Swartz, Dairy Cattle Specialist in the Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences Department, and Dr. Chloe Stenkamp-Strahm, Extension Veterinarian in the College of Veterinary Medicine (in the CVM, we are currently all in one department, Veterinary Clinical and Life Sciences). They are both so modest that I had to coax them to tell just a few things about themselves and how accomplished they already are:

Welcome Drew Swartz - Dairy Cattle Specialist at Utah State University

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Drew Swartz as the new Dairy Cattle Specialist at Utah State University. Drew brings a strong interdisciplinary background in dairy science, veterinary medicine, and data-driven research to his new role, where he will focus on extension and applied research to support Utah's dairy producers.

Drew completed his Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences at the University of Missouri, where he developed a foundational interest in dairy production systems. He went on to pursue a Master's degree in Animal Science at the University of Minnesota under the guidance of Dr. Marcia Endres (2020–2022). [NOTE: Dr. Endres is probably the foremost expert in the world on the 7 brands of automated milking systems/milking robots. DW] His master's research focused on herd management practices in automatic milking systems, providing insights into how technology can shape daily operations on dairy farms.

In 2025, Drew earned his PhD from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, working with Dr. Gerard Cramer. His doctoral research centered on the use of autonomous camera-based systems to detect hoof lesions in dairy cattle, as well as exploring the perceived barriers that prevent producers and stakeholders from adopting automated technologies. This work combined technical innovation with social science inquiry, reflecting Drew's commitment to understanding both the tools and the people who use them.

At Utah State University, Drew's primary role is in extension, with a strong emphasis on producer-driven research. His vision is to engage directly with Utah's dairy producers to identify their needs, concerns, and priorities. With minors in data science and epidemiology, and training in social science methodologies, Drew is uniquely equipped to collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders, including hoof trimmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, and producers, to co-develop solutions that are both practical and evidence-based.

Drew's extension program will focus on:

- Conducting farm visits to build relationships and understand local challenges.

- Hosting workshops and webinars that highlight producer experiences and foster peer learning.
- Collaborating with stakeholders to identify data-driven solutions to operational issues.
- Listening to and involving the dairy veterinary community to ensure holistic support for herd health and management.

He is particularly passionate about helping producers make informed decisions about technology adoption by sharing real-world experiences and outcomes from other farms. His goal is to create a feedback loop between research and practice, where producer input shapes research questions, and research findings directly inform management strategies.

Drew is excited to be part of Utah's dairy community and looks forward to building strong relationships with producers, veterinarians, and industry partners. His commitment to collaborative problem-solving and continuous learning will be a valuable asset to the success and sustainability of dairy production in the state.



Drew Swartz with some Holstein friends in Minnesota

Welcome Dr. Chloe Stenkamp-Strahm – Extension Veterinarian at Utah State University

Chloe Stenkamp-Strahm has a background in research, teaching, and professional practice. She holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, an M.S. in Biology, and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology. She has worked on diverse research teams, mostly studying interactions between ruminant herd health and infectious disease. Her doctoral research at Colorado State University (CSU) focused on the epidemiology and ecology of bacterial pathogen shedding in dairy cows, and dairy management factors that affect heifer calf health. In addition to her Ph.D.

research, she worked with a multi-disciplinary group at USDA:APHIS to complete NAHMS Dairy 2014, contributing to multiple herd-health focused reports. After completing her Ph.D., she continued to work at APHIS, creating statistical and spatial models predicting risk of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) across the U.S. Her current research builds on this body of work. Since 2024 she has worked for CSU's AgNext as a post-doctoral researcher, collecting and analyzing data from dairy herds in multiple states that are affected by the ongoing HPAI outbreak. She and her colleagues at CSU hope to increase our understanding of how HPAI impacts dairy cow health, and develop strategies to safeguard U.S cattle from this disease.

In addition to her veterinary research, Chloe has worked as a mixed animal veterinarian at Blacksmith Fork Vet Clinic in Hyrum since the summer of 2020. She enjoys clinical problem solving, building relationships and communicating with clients, and performing routine and non-routine surgeries on a variety of species. While working as a mixed animal veterinarian, she also started teaching as an adjunct instructor for USU in 2023. She has taught courses for USU's Master of Public Health program (Applied Veterinary Epidemiology) and Professional Veterinary Medicine program (Clinical Communication).

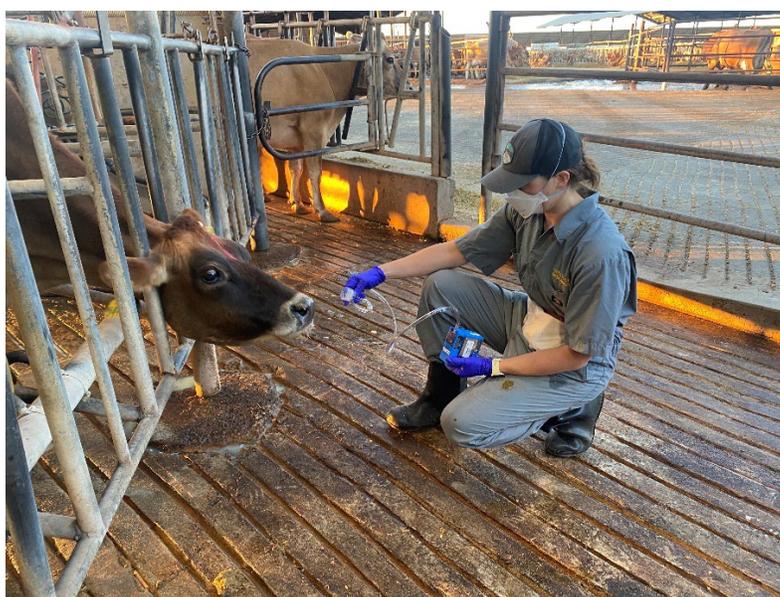
In her new role as USU faculty, Chloe will be:

- Functioning as both a veterinary college professor and a public health-focused extension veterinarian.
- Continuing high impact research on HPAI including in dairy cattle.
- Teaching the public health (and eventually a dual public health/epidemiology) course to the veterinary students.
- Serving to support faculty and staff at the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (UVDL), and complete epidemiological investigations that aim to better understand zoonotic infectious disease patterns and trends across Utah.

When Chloe is not working, she enjoys skiing, fly fishing, hunting, reading, and spending time with her husband ,Ben and young son, Wallace.



Dr. Chloe Stenkamp-Strahm with husband Ben and son Wallace



Chloe collects breath samples from a cow as a part of research into controlling the spread of HPAI among cows

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Please take advantage of the opportunity to communicate and work with these two new great additions to the USU support of animal agriculture and the dairy industry.

Please let us know your comments and suggestions for future topics. I can be reached at (435) 760-3731 (Cell), or David.Wilson@usu.edu.

David Wilson, DVM, Dairy Extension Veterinarian

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