

Impact of the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference (2007)

Maurice L Eastridge¹
Department of Animal Sciences
The Ohio State University.

The success of the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference is demonstrated by attendance (Figure 1) and citation or reprinting of proceedings manuscripts in the scientific, international, and popular press literature. The Conference has resulted in major impacts to the feed industry and dairy producers, and influenced students seeking careers in animal nutrition and the direction of some research programs. The results from the 2007 survey distributed to attendees revealed the following:

- 1) Attended the Conference on average for 8.2 years (+ 4.3; n = 86).
- 2) Approximately 21,696 dairy producers impacted by those in attendance.
- 3) What are the 5 major factors that will likely impact your business during the next 5 years. (n = 61)? Feed costs; environmental regulations and manure management; changes in the feed industry (consolidation, competition); change in number and sizes of farms and herds; animal health.
- 4) What are the top areas of dairy nutrition that need additional research during the next 10 years. (n = 63)? Protein feeding (amino acids, protected, lysine sources); by-product feeding (especially distillers grains); forage (quality, digestibility, grass diets, haylage vs corn silage, high forage, no forage, pasture); environmental impacts of nutrients; impact of nutrition on reproduction; transition cow management.
- 5) Practices for feeding dry cows have changed during recent years.
 - a. 68.4% indicated that topics discussed about feeding dry cows at the Conference has changed some of their recommendations (n = 79)
 - b. If those who had changed some of their recommendations for feeding dry cows, some of the changes within the past 5 years included:
 - Decreased percentage of CP from 15.7 to 14.3% (n = 12)
 - Increased percentage of CP from 12.9 to 14.6% (n = 6)
 - Began using the following feed additives: Rumensin (5), rumen protected choline (3), rumen protected amino acids, animal protein, fat for reproduction, wet distillers grains, organic Se, biotin, Biochlor
 - Other practices: Feed straw (10), reduced energy in diet (7), beet pulp, used CPM software, improved housing, controlled K, increased Mg, created transition pen, balanced amino acids more closely, balanced Se, vitamin E, yeast, used 4-Plex, went back to one group.
 - c. 63.9% of the respondents (n = 72) recommended two groups of dry cows [far off and close up; with general differences in diets being lower DCAD (8), increased nutrient density (5), and more additives in close-up group; use two groups with larger farms (2)] and 36.1% recommended one group of dry cows.
 - d. The length of the dry period typically recommended (n = 77) is:
60 to 56 days – 35.1%, 55 to 46 days – 55.8%, 35 to 45 days – 7.8%, 34 to 30 days – 1.3%
 - e. Of the respondents, 31.4% had decreased the recommended number of days dry, 22.9% increased number of days dry, and 45.7% had not changed their recommendation for number of days dry.

¹Contact at: 2029 Fyffe Court, 221B Animal Science Building, Columbus, OH 43210-1095, (614) 688-3059, FAX: (614) 292-1515, Email: eastridge.1@osu.edu

- 6) Of the herds for which nutritional service was provided, the following proportion of the herds regularly use MUN in nutritional management (n =76):
 < 20% of herds – 21.1%, 30 to 50%– 27.6%, 60 to 80%– 35.5%, > 90% of herds – 15.6%
- 7) 30.8% of the respondents (n =78) provided nutritional service for herds that are certified organic or

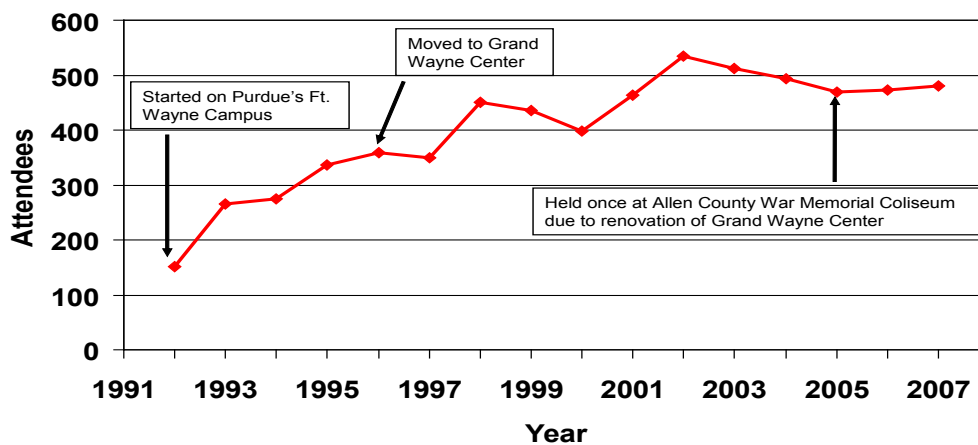


Figure 1. Attendance at the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference.