



Reproductive success takes many forms

These farms employ a variety of strategies in their breeding programs, but they all achieve exceptional results.

THIS 16th year of the Excellence in Dairy Reproduction Awards presented by the Dairy Cattle Reproduction Council (DCRC) may have been one of the most diverse yet. One hundred farms from 13 U.S. states and six additional countries were nominated by their consultants to have their reproductive performance anonymously evaluated in a number of categories including service rate, reproductive culling, heat detection, and much more. We thank everyone who nominated a farm!

After a panel of experts analyzed each semifinalist's herd management software data, their rankings were compiled to identify the top 24 herds. All winners are recognized on page 598. The six farms highlighted in this round table were the best of the best and secured Platinum honors in this year's contest. They have found success with Holsteins and Jerseys, using activity monitors and visual heat detection, and breeding off of synchronization as well as natural heats. They have adopted new technologies and beef semen breeding. Most importantly, they aim to take high-quality care of their animals to run a profitable dairy business. Read on to learn more about this year's Platinum winners.

What are your reproduction goals and who helps you achieve them?

Crosswind Jerseys LLC: The goals of our reproduction program are to get the cows pregnant as quickly as possible once they pass our 60-day voluntary waiting period (VWP). Other goals include keeping our reproduction program as simple as possible and producing high-quality Jersey females (only the amount we need) out of the best genetics we have. The lower genetic animals are used to produce beef calves to sell.

I work with my veterinarian and nutritionist to design the protocols for hormone administration and calving. We use CowManager to optimize conception with the timing of A.I. in the cows. We have used that system for a little over five years now and haven't changed our breeding program

since we started.

Hendriks Dairies Ltd: Our goal is to have cows in-calf as quickly as possible once they cross our VWP threshold of 60 days. Reproduction discussions occur with herdsman Tyler Hendriks, veterinarian Niki Alsop, A.I. technicians and consultants Mike VanMiltenburg and Gary Markus, and nutritionist Jesse Flanagan.

High Noon Dairy LLC: Our goal is to have as many cows pregnant as fast as possible after our 70-day VWP. We have a team of people that are involved with reproduction: two or three breeders, three people administering hormones, two or three in the maternity pens, and two more with fresh cows. Our reproduction is constantly reviewed by our team, which includes Progressive Veterinary Services and our nutritionist.

LDT Keller Farms LLC: We are continuously improving our processes while exceeding the industry standards. Dan and Heidi Keller manage cow reproduction; Ron and Cole Thieman manage heifer reproduction. Dale Keller, our A.I. technician, performs all breedings. The staff does the daily milking, scraping, and calf care. Our outside consultants are Bekah Meller (COBA/Select Sires), Angie Koesters (Coldwater Animal Clinic), and Ryan Aberle (Cargill Animal Nutrition).

Trailside Holsteins: Our goals are to have a high first-service conception rate and get any open cows bred back immediately. We want to maintain at least a 60% first-service conception rate year round. If we can do this, it makes everything else easier.

Michael does a majority of the reproductive work with help from Jon. We are always looking to our nutritionist, A.I. company representatives, and veterinarians for advice and recommendations to improve and become better caretakers of our cows.

Verhoef Dairy Farm Inc: Our goals would be to reach around a 40% pregnancy rate, 70% heat detection rate, and 50% conception rate.

Reinoud Verhoef looks after all the reproduction. Reproduction is discussed with Matt Stoop

from Alta Genetics and our nutritionist from Parion, T.J. McDougal.

How do you detect heats in heifers?

Crosswind: We use the Allflex heat detection system with ear tags for heifers. We begin breeding them upon standing heat once they surpass 335 days. The ideal age at first calving is 21 months of age.

Hendriks: Heifer heat detection is done visually by Tyler and Henry. The ideal age for first calving for our farm is 20 months.

High Noon: We chalk heifers once a day and breed everything showing signs of heat on the same day. We start breeding at 13 months of age, so our goal for heifers is calving by 21 to 22 months old.

Keller: We use tail paint to detect heat in heifers. We begin breeding them at 414 days, and our ideal first calving age is 23 months.

Trailside: We detect heat in heifers using CowManager. We begin breeding heifers at 420 days. Our ideal age at first calving is 23 months.

Verhoef: All our heifers have a Nedap neck strap. We start breeding them at 13 months of age so they will calve at 22 to 23 months.

How do you detect heats in cows?

Crosswind: We use CowManager for heat detection in the milking herd. Our voluntary waiting period is 60 days in milk, but for the elite producers, we will wait to breed them until 75 days in milk.

Hendriks: Heat detection is done by Tyler and all milking staff. Having 3x milking provides lots of time for pen observations. Our VWP is 60 days.

High Noon: Our VWP is 70 days in milk. We use chalk once a day.

Keller: We use the Afi system to detect heats in cows and use the activity from the leg pedometer tags. The voluntary waiting period is 75 days.

Trailside: We detect heats in cows using CowManager. Our VWP is 85 days in milk.

Verhoef: All the cows have Nedap neck straps.



A simple reproduction system is the goal at Crosswind Jerseys in Elkton, S.D., where 2,450 cows are cared for. The farm's team works to achieve this by using ear tag monitors for heat detection in both cows and heifers and setting clear goals around reproductive culling. They also genomic test all replacements to customize a beef semen strategy that allows them to make the right number of high-quality Jersey females. Pictured are those who do the farm's breeding. They are, from left to right, supervisor Luis Vasquez, herdsman and hoof trimmer Ever Aguilar, herd manager Rolando Cortez, co-owner and operations manager Stefan Temperli, and herdsman Kevin Santos. Martin and Maggie Temperli are also owners of the dairy farm.



Hendriks Dairies in Brucefield, Ontario, invested in a new dairy facility in 2017, and the tunnel-ventilated, sand-bedded freestall barn houses the entire milking herd of 110 Jerseys as well as dry cows. The cows are averaging 24,750 pounds of milk with 4.8% fat and 3.9% protein. Tyler Hendriks and his team aims to have heifers calve in at 20 months of age and breed back as soon as possible after their 60-day voluntary waiting period. Milking 3x in their double-8 parlor provides plenty of time for visual heat detection, Tyler said. Pictured here are, from left to right, veterinarian Niki Alsop, A.I. technician Mike VanMiltenburg, Henry Hendriks, Emily Hendriks with Ada Hendriks, Tyler Hendriks, Liam Hendriks, and nutritionist Jesse Flanagan.



Excellence in reproduction is just one result of the efforts High Noon Dairy in Hereford, Texas, has made to build a strong team and take high-quality care of their animals. Investing in good people and taking the time to develop their skills has allowed them to be a multi-year Platinum winner in this contest. The farm milks 3,300 cows in a drylot setup in the Texas panhandle and is part of a group that also operates D&D Dairy in California and Darlington Ridge Dairy in Wisconsin. High Noon's Jerseys, Holsteins, and crossbreeds are averaging 70 pounds of milk with 4.6% fat and 3.5% protein. Pictured here are Pedro Bellido and Santos Gutierrez, who do heat detection and breeding at High Noon Dairy.



Nutrition and cow comfort are areas the Keller family of LDT Keller Farms focuses on to keep their cows performing at a high level of production and reproduction. Forage quality is top of mind when making feed for the herd of 1,050 Holsteins in Fort Recovery, Ohio, that is averaging 30,057 pounds of milk. Cows are housed in a drive-through freestall barn constructed in 2010 and milked 3x in a double-20 parallel parlor. Pictured in the barn are, from left to right, Shelbie Keller, Aaron Keller with Ivy Keller, Ron Thieman, Heidi Keller, Dan Keller, and Cole Thieman. Seated are Jayne Keller and Luke Keller. Dan and Heidi manage milking herd reproduction while Ron and Cole oversee heifer reproduction.

Our VWP is 77 days. This used to be 67 days, but we moved it back because the production was still too high at dry-off.

Is a synchronization protocol used?

Crosswind: Nearly all (97%) of first service inseminations are done on standing heats using the heat detection system. For the remaining 3% that don't show a heat, they are enrolled in an ovsynch program. Of cows that are checked open on pregnancy checks, 25% are enrolled in an ovsynch program and 75% are given prostaglandin and rebred with the heat detection system depending on where they are in their cycle.

We have been using this protocol for five years. We were using similar protocols before but were breeding a few more cows with a synch program and a few less cows in standing heats with visual observation. For many years, our conception rates have always been higher for cows bred in standing heat versus any synch program.

Hendriks: Our farm uses presynch and ovsynch programs with a resynch for vet checks. We have used this protocol for five years but have recently switched to double ovsynch.

High Noon: We have used a standard double ovsynch for first service, but the ovsynch protocol we have more recently been using is a double dose of 4 milliliters of GnRH, prostaglandin seven days later then also the next day, a single dose of GnRH a day and a half later, then timed A.I. 12 hours later.

At pregnancy check, we enroll open cows in ovsynch-56. Cows that lose a pregnancy at their second, confirmation pregnancy check receive prostaglandin, and if the heat is "clear," we breed them or enroll them in ovsynch-56 the next week.

We have been using this protocol for first service for over a year, but the only change from our previous system is the double dose of GnRH. Double ovsynch has been our protocol for more than seven years.

Keller: We use presynch or ovsynch for first service on all cows. At 28 days, we draw blood for pregnancy status. Open cows will go to ovsynch. Pregnant cows get vet checked at 46 to 60 days. This process has been utilized for years and deemed successful.

Trailside: We use a double ovsynch synchronization protocol. We have been using this for almost three years. We do not resynch cows before

first pregnancy check. If cows are found open, they will start on an ovsynch or controlled internal drug release (CIDR) synch protocol depending on if they have a good corpus luteum or not.

Before double ovsynch, we were using our activity monitoring system solely until 100 DIM, and then nonbred cows would be put on a synch protocol as needed. Switching to double ovsynch lowered our twinning rate, tightened up our days at first breeding window, and improved our first-service conception.

Verhoef: Milking cows have all received double ovsynch for the last seven years. We used to have SCR heat time and no ovsynch program.

Are beef and/or sexed semen used?

Crosswind: We use both sexed semen and beef. Here is a breakdown of calves born on our dairy: Jersey females, 28%; Jersey males, 2%; Angus-Jersey crosses, 70%.

I genomic test all Jersey females and use both the genomics and cow performance to determine which females will be bred to sexed or Angus semen. Of all the Jersey females born, roughly 30% are born from cows and 70% from heifers.

We produce Angus-Jersey beef calves with our lower genetics. We keep a small portion of our beef calves to fill in the empty space in our calf raising facilities, which we own, and sell the rest of them within the first week after birth.

Hendriks: Our dairy uses Angus semen on 5% of cows that are identified as the bottom of the herd for milk yield and also genetic index. We have a strong replacement market, so we look to make as many female Jersey calves as possible.

High Noon: Our heifers receive dairy female-sexed semen for the first three services. Sometimes, first-lactation cows also receive sexed semen at first service. Other animals and services are serviced with beef semen.

We use beef male-sexed semen for fourth and fifth services on heifers, second to fourth services for first-lactation cows, and first to fourth services for older cows. We also use conventional beef semen for fifth to seventh services for milking cows. We have been using SimAngus semen. We sell our beef calves when they reach 400 pounds.

Keller: We use Angus beef semen on average or below average production cows. All first lactation cows receive sexed semen first service. Conventional semen is used after the first service.

Good production cows get serviced with Holstein semen. We sell dairy-beef calves by using a contracted beef calf buyer.

Trailside: We use beef semen on the lower genetic animals. This is based off of genomic data and is typically our bottom 80% of lactating animals and bottom 20% of virgin heifers. The higher genetic animals will receive two services of sexed Holstein semen and then beef. We rely on Kim DeFrang from Select Sires to help us make these decisions. We are aiming for a certain number of heifer calves born each month, with a goal of 70% replacements to cows. We use Angus semen, and we sell these calves privately twice each week.

Verhoef: We use Angus semen on 30% of lactating cows based on genetics/performance and time of the year. For virgin heifers at first service, 15% receive sexed semen. The Angus calves are sold direct to local grower

Do you use any embryo transfer or in vitro fertilization?

Crosswind: No. We used to do a lot of in vitro and embryos with our best genetics, but we stopped implanting embryos about two years ago as I felt it complicated our reproduction program. I also felt it was taking too much of my time to manage the program that could be better spent in other areas.

Hendriks: Currently, there is no embryo transfer happening, but we are looking into using embryos in bottom-end females instead of beef semen to aid in calving ease on multiparous cows and also improve our genetics faster.

High Noon: No, we don't use it.

Keller: We do not use any embryo transfer or in vitro fertilization.

Trailside: No, we do not. We have experimented with putting in beef embryos, but currently the economics do not justify continued use.

Verhoef: We do not use it.

What traits do you look for when selecting service sires?

Crosswind: I look at a variety of traits including cheese merit (CM\$), pounds of fat and protein, Jersey Udder Index (JUI), daughter pregnancy rate (DPR), leg set, and all the health traits available, depending on the semen company where the bulls are from. I use only the top bulls in the Jer-



sey breed with high fertility. Most importantly, we observe the conception rate of all semen and eliminate semen that has below average fertility. In the beef semen, we look at calving ease and fertility numbers.

Hendriks: The top traits we look for in sires are Net Merit (NM\$) or Jersey Performance Index (JPI) score, milk and combined pounds of fat and protein, and DPR.

High Noon: We want high DPR, solid conformation traits, and high health traits based on what we see in the genomic results of the animals at our Wisconsin dairy.

Keller: We consider components, production, health traits, teat placement, and animal size when deciding what sires to use in our herd.

Trailside: We look for sires with strength, positive production, and extremely high health traits. We have used all genomic sires for many years.

Verhoef: We look for high milk, fat, and protein. We also want high DPR and productive life. We do also use aAa codes.

How do you check pregnancy status?

Crosswind: We pregnancy check all cows and heifers bred at least 30 days weekly with an ultrasound. My herd manager does all the pregnancy checking. We note in the cow cards if cows are diagnosed with twins but don't treat them any differently.

Hendriks: Pregnancy checks are every two weeks on our farm; the threshold is 25 days. Our veterinarian performs palpation with ultrasound. Cows with twins are recorded, but no special attention is given.

High Noon: All animals are pregnancy checked with ultrasound at 32 to 38 days since last heat. We also do a second pregnancy check at 80 days carried calf to confirm the pregnancy. It is noted in the computer at pregnancy check if a cow is carrying twins, and we will dry those cows off 10 days early.

Keller: We check pregnancy at 28 days by drawing blood. Open cows go on the ovsynch program. Pregnant cows then get checked by the vet at 46 to 60 days. Any cows carrying twins get dried off early.

Trailside: We pregnancy check at 29 days post breeding and again at 64 days via ultrasound. Cows pregnant with twins will be dried up and moved into the transition area one week early.

Verhoef: We ultrasound every two weeks. Cows with twins are flagged in DairyComp 305 and dried off seven to 10 days early.

What data do you monitor closely?

Crosswind: We use DairyComp 305 for record-keeping and closely monitor milk production, conception rate, 21-day pregnancy rate, days open, and sire conception rates on individual bulls.

Hendriks: Pregnancy rate and insemination rate are the main metrics we look at every two weeks. Technician conception rate, sire conception rate, and average days open are checked monthly. All information is entered into DairyComp 305.

High Noon: We use DairyComp 305 as our herd management software. On a weekly basis, we review heat detection rate, conception rate, first-service conception rate, conception rate for cows bred in heat, pregnancy rate, and number of cows missing on pregnancy check day. We also monitor other data like metritis and milk fever on a monthly basis.

Keller: The reproduction data we monitor is production, days in milk, body score and transition history. These numbers are provided by the Afi system.

Trailside: We closely watch weekly conception rate and average days open. We have moved our VWP back twice as our average days open dropped below 100. We record information in DairyComp 305. I have an Excel sheet I enter certain information in monthly to watch trends and observe progress toward specific reproduction and herd demographic goals. I also rely on my monthly Select Sires reproduction reviews for additional monitoring of data.

Verhoef: All cow data is recorded in DairyComp 305. We most closely watch 21-day pregnancy rate, services per conception, and sire conception rates on individual bulls.

How are dry cows cared for?

Crosswind: Dry cows are housed here at the dairy in a tunnel-ventilated barn with stir fans above the stalls. The far-off dry cows do not have soaker lines at the feedbunk, but the close-ups do.

The far-off group receives a high-fiber ration with lots of straw, low-quality hay, some corn silage, and a mineral package with a little extra protein if needed. The close-up diet consists of

hay, straw, corn silage, and a mineral package with anionic salts, soybean meal, and vitamin D. The close-up diet is a lot more energy dense, and we always focus on buying low potassium hay and straw for this diet. An extremely important factor is feeding as little anionic salts and keeping intakes as high as possible.

Hendriks: Far-off dry cows are housed in sand-bedded freestalls, and close-up cows are on a straw-bedded pack. Both groups are in the main tunnel-ventilated dairy barn and both receive the same Goldilocks ration.

High Noon: Dry cows are housed in an open lot with plenty of shade to cool them when it's really hot. The ration is mostly a high-roughage diet consisting of cotton, wheat silage, ground corn stalks, and ground wheat hay.

Keller: Our dry cows are housed in freestall barns with fans. They have a low-energy diet containing straw and Western grass.

Trailside: Dry cows are housed in sand-bedded freestalls with fans. They currently do not have sprinklers, but we are in the process of looking at how to add them. Far-off dry cows receive a high-straw, low-energy diet with a balanced mineral profile. Prefresh cows receive a slightly higher energy diet that is negative dietary cation anion difference (DCAD) balanced.

Verhoef: Milking and dry cows are in a sand-bedded, drive-through, head-to-head freestall barn. Close-up cows (three weeks before due date) are in a sand-packed area. For heat abatement, we have open side walls and fans. Sand bedding is also cooler.

Close-up cows receive a Goldilocks ration.

We do not use dry treatment; cows are milked once a day for four days leading to dry-off. They are hoof trimmed and vaccinated with Bovigold and Scour Bos.

How are fresh cows monitored?

Crosswind: Fresh cows are locked in the headlocks daily and temperature checked. They are monitored visually and also with the health alerts from the CowManager system. They receive an oral drench at calving, calcium boluses if they are third lactation or greater, and IV calcium or dextrose as needed if they are off feed.

Fresh cows receive the same ration as the high-producing cows with the addition of a little extra alfalfa hay, dried distillers grains, and molasses.



Looking for ways to continuously improve and adopting new technologies has helped Trailside Holsteins, where Michael Johnson farms with his dad, Jon, care for their herd of 715 cows and achieve top-notch performance. One of their goals is to maintain at least a 60% first-service conception rate year round, and they have been able to do so while reaching a herd average of 32,300 pounds of milk. Pictured here are, from left to right, nominator Kim DeFrang of Minnesota Select Sires, veterinarian Megan Weisenbeck of Northern Valley Livestock Services, Margaret Johnson, Michael Johnson with Royal Johnson, Kevin Johnson of Minnesota Select Sires, and Jordan Hunt of GPS Dairy Consulting. In front are Clairra, Levi, Jacob, and Sawyer Johnson.



Comfortable and consistent is how the team at Verhoef Dairy Farm in Belmont, Ontario, aims to care for the herd of 250 Holsteins and Jerseys that is housed in a sand-bedded freestall barn and milked 3x in a double-10 parallel parlor. Three weeks before their due date, cows move to a sand-bedded pack from the freestalls, and they stay there for a few days after calving to allow for close monitoring. Rumination is monitored electronically, and they cite proper hoof care and immediate attention to lameness as two keys to success. Pictured above are, from left to right, Titia Kloosterman, Emma Durnin, Rick Verhoef, Klaartje Verhoef, Reinoud Verhoef, Julia Verhoef, Pieter Willig, nominator Matt Stoop of Alta Genetics, and nutritionist T.J. McDougall.



Hendriks: Fresh cows are moved to the fresh group as soon as possible. They are kept in an understocked milking group on sand-bedded stalls in the tunnel-ventilated barn. They get the same ration as the milking group with a topdress of canola and ground corn once a day and are locked up for visual observation of eating behavior. Cows in their third lactation and beyond also get a calcium bolus.

High Noon: They are monitored and temperature checked for 10 days postfresh. The fresh cow team marks all the fresh cows in the main barn daily, checking manure, udder fill, and more. They also perform preliminary checks to look for animals that may not feel well.

Keller: Fresh cows are checked daily for temperature and ketosis for the first seven days. Then we rely on daily weights and components that are reported by the Afi system. They receive a specific formulated start-up ration.

Trailside: Fresh cows stay in a post calving pen for 15 to 21 days. They are monitored using CowManager and given individual care if they come onto the health list. If they show decreased rumination or eating time in the prefresh pen, they will be watched much closer after calving. The fresh pen receives a ration with dense sources of energy and effective fiber.

Verhoef: Fresh cows stay a couple days in a sand-bedded pack before moving in with the rest of the herd in the freestalls. They are monitored visually and with rumination and intake by their neck device. They are immediately on the milk cow ration. Third-lactation and greater cows get a calcium bolus.

How do you handle problem cows?

Crosswind: We base our reproductive culling decisions on milk production and days in milk (DIM). Our goal is to not breed any second-lactation and older cows producing less than 75 pounds of milk per day or cows exceeding 150 DIM. If

cows are only peaking at 75 pounds of milk, they will be labeled as a do not breed (DNB) before breeding as a low producer.

Hendriks: Problem cows are ones with feet problems, reproduction issues, low milk production, or poor milk quality. We try to have these cows identified as quickly as possible to assign them to the DNB list to avoid any type of mating investment. We give them a long lactation and cull when it's the optimal time.

High Noon: Cows that abort or have short pregnancies twice are marked DNB. So are cows that have had seven services and/or are 250 DIM and open. If any abnormality is diagnosed during pregnancy check and the vet recommends culling, they will also be put on the list.

Keller: Problem cows are handled on an individual basis. Culling decisions are based off of production, DIM, and if they've had problems during previous lactations.

Trailside: Cows without a corpus luteum at pregnancy check will receive a CIDR. Reproductive culling decisions are done on an individual basis. Generally, if a cow is greater than 225 DIM and not pregnant, it will be changed to a DNB.

Verhoef: After three unsuccessful breedings or 180 to 200 DIM, they go on the DNB list. Other factors considered are low production and bad legs.

What change has been most beneficial for your herd's reproduction?

Crosswind: The best decisions we made that affected reproduction have been tunnel ventilating the majority of our facilities and most of all using the CowManager system. This system has simplified our breeding protocols significantly and reduced our use of reproductive hormones almost entirely.

Hendriks: The most beneficial change made to our farm to date was to construct a new dairy site in 2017 and give the business a good foundation to build off of for the future. The building is a

sand-bedded, tunnel-ventilated barn that houses the entire milking herd and dry cow groups. The new site improved feed storage and manure management and provides a better work environment for employees, too.

High Noon: I believe the biggest investment we have made that has benefited us has been in our labor. It is not just a matter of finding the right person but training them and maintaining those skills year after year. The beginning was not easy, but we knew where we wanted to go. We provided education, equipment, a good work environment, rewards, constructive criticism, and appropriate compensation so that now we can harvest our investment with a happy, satisfied team of collaborators.

Keller: We have a heavy focus on nutrition as well as improved cow comfort with facility changes. In 2010, we built an 800-cow drive-through freestall barn. From a nutrition aspect, we strive for high-quality forage. Using fungicide on all corn acres has played an important role that helps keep toxins at a lower level.

Trailside: As they say, it's a thousand small things that add up to big changes, but if we had to pick only a couple, we'd have to say implementing the double ovsynch protocol in conjunction with the CowManager monitoring system have been the biggest beneficial changes we have made.

Verhoef: The double ovsynch protocols, a new facility, Nedap neck tags, and automatic sorting have all made a big difference.

On the nutrition side, we have benefited from compact feeding with a self-propelled Silo King TMR to allow for precision feeding as well as intake tracking.

What advice would you give others?

Crosswind: My advice is to first focus on the health of your cows, which consists of forage quality, cow comfort, and good cow care. There are many more things I could say, but these three are the most important things that come to mind. One other is to keep the reproductive program as simple as possible.

Hendriks: The best advice I would give to dairies looking to improve reproduction is to get a good herd management software system for tracking reproductive metrics. Once you can analyze and view your data, build a team of advisers that will help you achieve the reproduction goals you set and also be accountable.

High Noon: Reproduction is just the tip of the iceberg. Provide the best for your cows and employees. Be attentive to the whole picture, but don't miss the details, either, because they add up in the final result. Be sure of where you want to go and what you will need to get there. Share your goals with your team and get them involved in your journey. Invest in the right people.

Keller: Look at forage quality, cow comfort, and cow production status. Getting rid of poor producing cows and high somatic cell count cows are items to consider.

Trailside: Rely on a team approach and always be looking for ways to learn and improve.

Focus extra time and energy on transition cows. Make sure cows are starting their lactation well.

Embrace and trust new technologies and utilize them to help you do your job of caring for the cows in a more efficient and effective manner.

Verhoef: Provide the cow with a comfortable and consistent environment for feeding, milking, and cow handling. All of the small details matter, including having high-quality forage and managing the feedbunk well.

Maintain proper hoof care by addressing lameness immediately. Have a hoof trimming stall with good cow flow so that one person can get them trimmed easily. 🐮

PLATINUM WINNERS

Recipient	Nominator
Crosswind Jerseys, Stefan Temperli, Elkton, S.D.....	Brandon Thesing, Select Sires
Hendriks Dairies, Tyler Hendriks, Brucefield, Ontario, Canada	Niki Alsop, Heartland Veterinary Services
High Noon Dairy, manager Jody Cole, Hereford, Texas	Fabio Teixeira, Progressive Dairy Health Services; Kim Egan, Genex
LDT Keller Farms, Luke and Dan Keller, Fort Recovery, Ohio	Bekah Meller, COBA/Select Sires
Trailside Holsteins, Michael and Jon Johnson, Fountain, Minn.....	Kim DeFrang, Minnesota Select Sires
Verhoef Dairy Farm, Reinoud and Klaartje Verhoef, Belmont, Ontario, Canada	Matt Stoop, Alta Genetics

GOLD WINNERS

Recipient	Nominator
Britannia Dairy, Ben and Kevin Pearson, Flandreau, S.D.....	Corey Caraway, Zoetis
Davis Family Farm, Brad and Jayme Davis, Darlington, Wis.	Tim Heiring, Heiring's Heat Detection and A.I.
Elusive Hill Dairy, Luke Luchterhand, Spencer, Wis.	Bill Weich, Northside Elevator
Felling Dairy, Jason Felling, Sauk Centre, Minn.	Andrew Krause, STgenetics
Holmesville Dairy, Travis and Stephanie Holmes, Argyle, Wis.	Tim Heiring, Heiring's Heat Detection and A.I.
Pine Row Dairy, Brant Ryzebol, Mantorville, Minn.	Brandon Thesing, Select Sires

SILVER WINNERS

Recipient	Nominator
Campogallo SAS, Borgo Giovanni Marco, Schiavon, Vicenza, Italy	Mattia Lucia, Alta Italy
Enge Farms, Mike Enge, North Freedom, Wis.....	Kaylee Anderson, Lodi Veterinary Care
Holland Cattle Company, Bill and Lisa Holland, Apple River, Ill.	Abraham Trone, Lena Veterinary Clinic
Ripp Valley Dairy, Chuck Ripp, Dane, Wis.	Kris Gruenenfelder, Parnell Living Sciences
Riverside Dairy, Andy Fisher, Reedsville, Wis.	Taylor Wittmus, Parnell Living Sciences
Shady Acres Dairy, Chris Anker, Helm, Calif.....	Gustavo Peña, Zoetis

BRONZE WINNERS

Recipient	Nominator
A-Ok Farms, Mark Breunig, Sheboygan Falls, Wis.....	Craig Redeker, Genex
Full Flo Dairy, Mark Rauls, DeForest, Wis.	Steve Crego, ABS Global; John Ambrosy, Waunakee Veterinary Service
Jauquet's Hillview Dairy, Dave and Stacey Jauquet, Luxemburg, Wis.	Laura Styczynski, CentralStar
Kempthorne and Partners, Richard Kempthorne, Bodmin, Cornwall, U.K.....	Peter Jackson, Genus ABS
Newmont Dairy, Will Gladstone, Fairlee, Vt.	Duncan Bailey, STgenetics
Schumacher Farms, Kurt Schumacher, Elgin, Minn.	Kim DeFrang, Minnesota Select Sires