

Michigan State University

Dairy Cattle Teaching & Research Center

Summer 2026



Summer Updates

- ◆ Back in April, we were honored to host the USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins for a tour of the farm.
- ◆ On June 1, we had our new Assistant Farm Manager, Riley Baker, officially start.
- ◆ The finishing touches are finally coming together in and outside the new facility.
- ◆ There has been a summer baby boom with calving's.
- ◆ We had our first open house of the summer on June 13th, and our 2nd on July 11th, with 1 more additional event planned this summer.
- ◆ Research continues to thrive and milk production has remained steady.

Farm Manager Report

It's amazing to think we are having our 1 Year Anniversary of being in the new Dairy Cattle Teaching & Research Center.

This first year of transitioning our herd and the purchased herd to the new facilities has been very successful. Currently, we have nearly the same amount of milking and dry cows that we started with when moving into the new facility. The cows in milk total approximately 530 that are averaging around 86 lbs of milk daily. In addition, the butterfat of this herd is 4.4% and the protein is 3.5%. The impressive somatic cell count is also still averaging 70,000. All these good results are only possible because of the dedicated hard work done by the entire dairy farm team throughout the past year. We are looking forward to the upcoming year that will be filled with more progress and lots of great research!

—Jim Good, Farm Manager

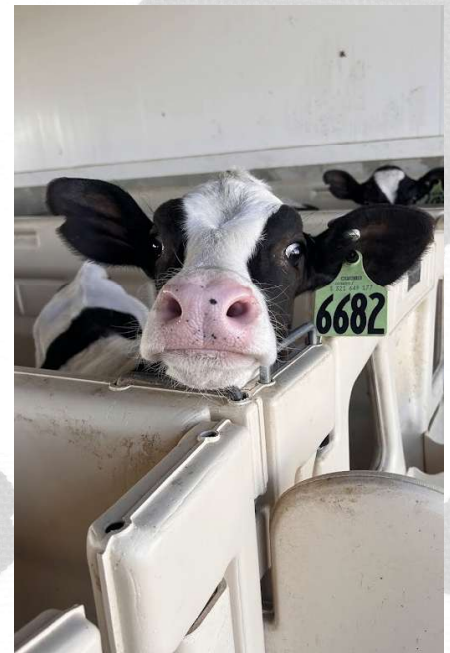
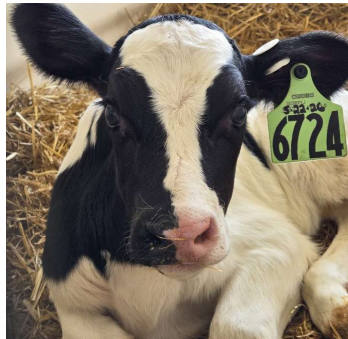
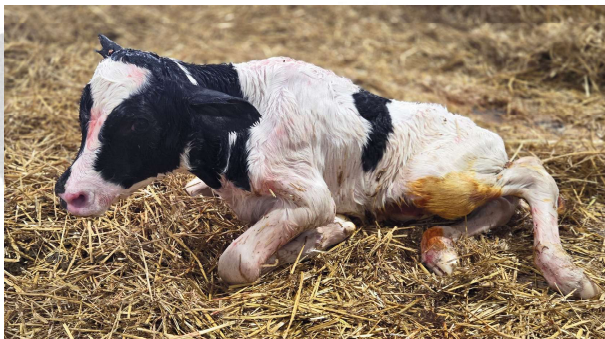
USDA SECRETARY VISITED THE FARM



We were honored to welcome U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins to the farm in April. During her visit, she announced \$275 million in USDA grant funding to support the U.S. specialty crop industry. We're excited to continue working together to strengthen and advance Michigan agriculture!

SUMMER BABY BOOM

It's been a busy calving season on the farm. Since May 1, we've welcomed 150 calves, with another 100+ expected before summer is over.



NEW ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER



Riley Baker is our new Assistant Farm Manager! Riley is a graduate of MSU with a Animal Science degree with a Dairy Concentration and a minor in Agri-business Management. His passion for dairy began growing up around his grandparents' dairy farm, in addition to being actively involved in FFA. Riley is excited to step into this role and bring his knowledge, passion, and fresh ideas to the farm.

SUMMER OPEN HOUSES

On June 13th, we hosted our first public open house, where registered guests enjoyed guided tours of the new facility and refreshments. Our second open house was another incredible success, welcoming nearly 300 visitors who came to explore the farm and learn more about dairy farming. Now, we're looking forward to our third and final open house of the summer on August 8th. These events have been a wonderful opportunity to showcase our new facility, connect with our community, and share how today's dairy industry continues to evolve through innovation, research, and education.





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THE FINISHING TOUCHES

Many of you may have noticed our new decorative cows out front of the building! We know they have already spiked some controversial conversation, but they're another exciting sign that our new facility is almost complete.



Now, all that's left is the inside of the visitor center!

HAY FEVER

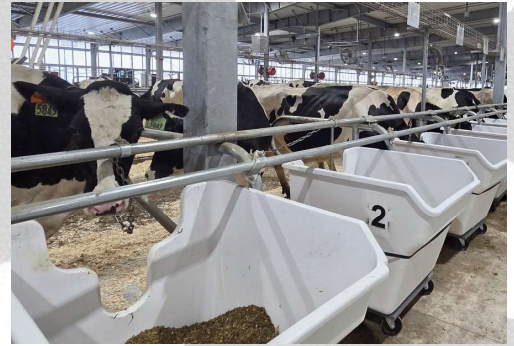
We have been having a great hay season so far. Even with the dry summer that we've had, we are still having great yields. After 3rd cutting, we are up to over 900 acres of haylage at roughly 2,100+ ton of silage. Here's to finishing off the summer strong!

One of the newest changes in our feed center is the start of our drive-over silage piles. Now with the old dairy buildings gone, that leaves us plenty of space to utilize for silage drive-over piles.



RESEARCH UPDATES

Back in late April through the first part of June, Barry Bradford conducted the first tie stall research study at the new facility. There was a learning curve, especially for some of the newer cows that were purchased, but it allowed Bradford's team to determine whether polyphenol extract from cherry pits helps cows recover from endotoxin-induced mastitis.



Dr. Augusto Madureira is evaluating whether an "internal cooling" feed additive can reduce heat stress during the summer conditions, aiming to improve dairy cow welfare, productivity, and sustainability.

Dr. Adam Lock is researching how feeding high levels of whole cottonseed (10% of diet) to high producing dairy cows is influenced by both forage level and metabolizable protein (MP) supply.

Dr. Andres Contreras is conducting a study to determine the effects of metabolic acidosis and alkalosis on metabolic function and production during postpartum and early lactation cows.

Dr. Mike VandeHaar is researching alternative calf starter ingredients to determine the effects on growth, feed efficiency, health, rumen development, and cost effectiveness in calves from birth to 8 weeks.

TOURS

The farm is not currently open to the public. If you are interested touring the farm, please scan the QR code below, or email ABR.DCTRC.Admin@msu.edu, and we will do our best to make the accommodations.

HOST YOUR NEXT TEAM MEETING OR EVENT HERE!

Scan the QR code to reserve a classroom, conference room, or a tour of the farm.



**3965 N. College Road
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Support the Dairy
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