Speakers:

Dr. Bennet Cassell was raised on a SW Virginia farm unique from today's commercial agriculture – 18 dairy cows, a 60-head cow-calf beef operation, and 90 commercial ewes. Most were crossbred to some degree. Dr. Cassell obtained BS and MS degrees from Virginia Tech, and a PhD in Animal Breeding from North Carolina State. He has been Extension Dairy Scientist-Genetics and Management at Virginia Tech since 1982. In 2002, Dr. Cassell implemented a joint Virginia Tech/U of Kentucky/North Carolina State crossbreeding project utilizing pure Holsteins and Jerseys, and reciprocal crosses of the two breeds.

Mr. Brad Heins, a native of Lake City, MN, received his MS in dairy cattle genetics from the U of Minnesota, and is working on a PhD with Dr. Les Hansen. Mr. Heins is researching the effects of crossbreeding on production, fertility, and longevity using data from 7 California dairies. He is also studying the effects of crossbreeding in U of Minnesota herds.

Mr. Kevin Prins operates a 560-cow dairy near Modesto, CA. Cows are grazed on 130 acres for 7 months and are confinement fed the remainder of the year. The Prins have been crossbreeding their cows for 7 years. Their dairy currently has a replacement heifer for every cow in the herd. Kevin indicates crossbreeding has resulted in them having "cows coming out of our ears".

Dr. Paul VanRaden grew up on an Illinois dairy and became interested in genetics while working as a DHI supervisor. He completed a BS at the U of Illinois and a PhD at Iowa State. Dr. VanRaden joined USDA's Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory at Beltsville, MD, in 1988. He introduced genetic evaluations for Productive Life and Daughter Pregnancy Rate, and has combined all available traits into the Net Merit index published since 1994. He currently conducts research on international evaluations, genetic markers, inbreeding, and cross-breeding.

Dr. Morten Kargo Sørensen grew up on a dairy farm in SW Denmark and completed an MS at the Danish Agricultural University in 1992. He worked as a dairy breeding adviser for 3 years before returning for a PhD. Dr. Sørensen is jointly employed by the Danish Agricultural Institute, Foulum, and the Danish Cattle Federation, Aarhus. His research emphasizes inbreeding, cross-breeding, and sustainable breeding goals for dairy cattle, and he works closely with the dairy breeding industry in Denmark and throughout Europe. His efforts are focused on implementing optimum crossbreeding systems for Danish dairy producers.

Directions:

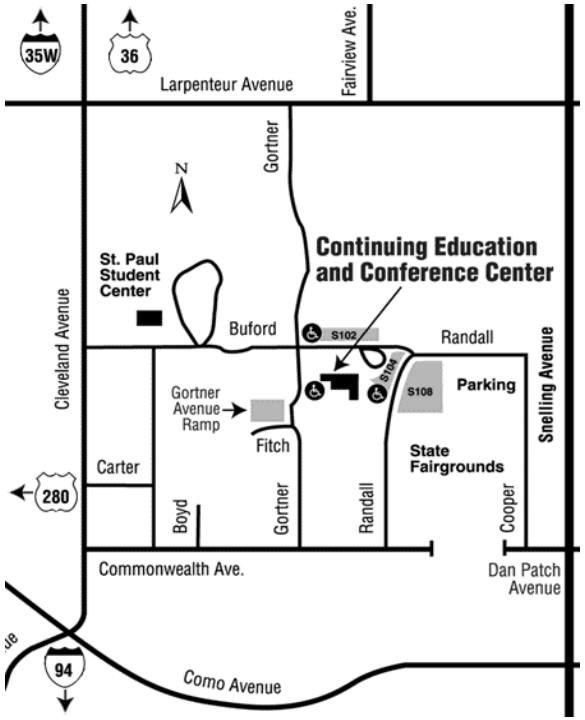
Continuing Education & Conference Center
University of Minnesota
1890 Buford Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

From I-694: Take 35W south to the Cleveland Ave exit (left exit); follow Cleveland to Larpenteur Ave; go east (left) on Larpenteur to Gortner; turn south (right) on Gortner to Buford Ave; turn east (left) on Buford to the State Fairgrounds parking area.

From I-35W: Take the Hwy 36 exit and turn south on Cleveland Ave to Larpenteur Ave; go east (left) on Larpenteur to Gortner; turn south (right) on Gortner to Buford Ave; turn east (left) on Buford to the State Fairgrounds parking area.

From downtown St. Paul: Go west on I-94 to Snelling Ave; go north on Snelling to Larpenteur Ave; go west (left) on Larpenteur to Gortner; turn south (left) on Gortner to Buford Ave; turn east (left) on Buford to the State Fairgrounds parking area.

From downtown Minneapolis: Go east on I-94 to MN-280, exit 236 (left exit); merge onto MN-280 north; exit at Larpenteur Ave; go east (right) on Larpenteur to Gortner (3rd traffic light); turn south (right) on Gortner to Buford Ave; turn east (left) on Buford to the State Fairgrounds parking area.



W. E. Petersen Symposium

The Department of Animal Science invites you to attend the 4th Biennial W. E. Petersen Symposium

Crossbreeding of Dairy Cattle: The Science and the Impact

April 2, 2007

Continuing Education & Conference Center
University of Minnesota
St. Paul Campus

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
University of Minnesota

Crossbreeding of Dairy Cattle: The Science and the Impact – April 2, 2007

W. E. Petersen Symposium:

Professor W. E. Petersen was a highly influential dairy scientist at the University of Minnesota in the mid-1900s. In honor of his memory, Dr. Petersen's family established a fund in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Minnesota to sponsor dairy-related symposia. The first biennial symposium was held in 2001.

The 4th biennial symposium will address the science and impact of crossbreeding of dairy cattle. Crossbreeding is the hottest topic at this time in dairy genetics, and the University of Minnesota has taken a lead in conducting new research. Furthermore, the University of Minnesota has provided international leadership in educating dairy producers on implementation of crossbreeding systems.

We invite you to attend the public symposium on Monday, April 2, 2007. Internationally renowned researchers, as well as dairy producers from Minnesota and California, will discuss their perspectives on crossbreeding of dairy cattle. Prior registration is not required, and there is no fee for attendance.

For further information or to request a copy of the proceedings, please contact the Department of Animal Science at the University of Minnesota.

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Supplemental financial support provided by MN Select Sires.

Program Agenda:

12:30 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
Dr. Jim Linn, Interim Head & Professor
Department of Animal Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul

12:35 p.m. **Mechanisms of Inbreeding Depression and Heterosis for Profitable Dairying**
Dr. Bennet Cassell, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg

1:20 p.m. **Impact of an Old Technology on Profitable Dairying in the 21st Century**
Mr. Brad Heins, University of Minnesota, St. Paul

1:50 p.m. **Experience with Crossbreeding–Replacing Headaches with Happiness**
Mr. Kevin Prins, Dairy Producer, Modesto, CA

2:20 p.m. **Refreshment Break**

2:45 p.m. **Genetic Evaluation Using Combined Data from All Breeds and Crossbred Cows**
Dr. Paul VanRaden, USDA, Beltsville, MD

3:30 p.m. **Crossbreeding–An Important Part of Sustainable Breeding in Dairy Cattle and Possibilities for Implementation**
Dr. Morten Kargo Sørensen, Danish Agricultural Institute, Foulum, and Danish Cattle Federation, Aarhus

4:15 p.m. **Panel Discussion of Minnesota Dairy Producers**
Moderated by Dr. Les Hansen, Department of Animal Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul
- Dana Allen, Eyota
- Joe Becker, Eden Valley
- Joe Molitor, St. Cloud

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Event Organizers:

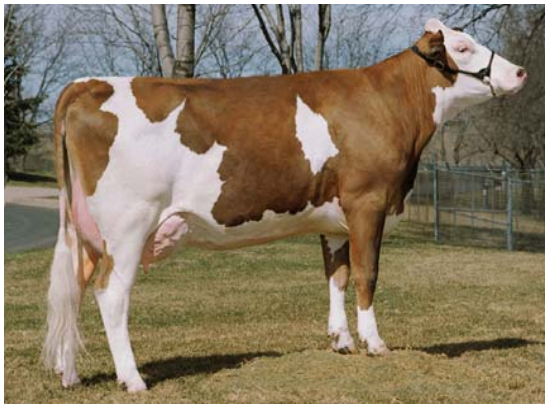
Dr. Les Hansen
Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor
University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Dr. Dennis Johnson
Professor
West Central Research & Outreach Center, Morris, MN

Mr. Jim Dickrell
Editor
Dairy Today

Dr. Dana Allen
Dairy Producer
Eyota, MN

Mr. Joe Molitor
Dairy Producer
St. Cloud, MN



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To request disability accommodations, please contact:
Dana Souther, Department of Animal Science
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