

Dairy Technology Tours • Oct. 14, 15 & 16

Registration fee covers bus transportation, lunch, snacks and beverages. Each tour will start and end at the designated location.

Circle Date(s) Participating: **Oct. 14** **Oct. 15** **Oct. 16**

Member Registration Rate

	One Day	Two Days	Three Days	Total
First registrant	\$100	\$175	\$250	\$ _____
Each add'l registrant	\$ 75	\$150	\$225	\$ _____
Total Due				\$ _____

Non-Member Registration Rate

	One Day	Two Days	Three Days	Total
First registrant	\$175	\$275	\$350	\$ _____
Each add'l registrant	\$125	\$250	\$300	\$ _____
Total Due				\$ _____

Name _____
 Business/Company Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone with Area Code _____
 Email Address _____
 Names of Others Attending with You _____
 Credit card payment information (circle one) Visa MasterCard Discover
 Name on Card _____
 Card No. _____
 Expiration Date _____ CVC (back of card) _____

Register at www.pdpw.org or call PDPW at 800-947-7379.

If paying by check, make checks payable to PDPW and mail completed form to: PDPW | 820 N. Main St., Suite D | Juneau, WI 53039



Professional Dairy Producers™

820 N. Main St., Suite D
 Juneau, WI 53039

DAIRY.

Technology Tours

Featuring Robotic Milking



Dairy Technology Tours

Oct. 14, 15 & 16

See innovative dairy technology firsthand and hear from those using the technology on a daily basis.



CEU Credits Available:

UW-SVM: Up to 9.6 credits per day



ARPAS: Up to 8 credits for all three days



October 14, 15 & 16

- Three farm stops per tour day
- Check out the latest innovative on-farm technologies
- Network and learn from fellow producers, industry professionals



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Professional Dairy Producers™

Busses board each day at 8:30 a.m. and depart promptly at 9:00 a.m. Busses will return to their morning loading location by 5:00 p.m.



Jim Salfer, Dairy Specialist, University of Minnesota Extension, will be on board the bus each day and will share information and results from his recent research on robotic milking. Salfer's work involved 52 farms in

Wisconsin and Minnesota and focused on factors regarding housing, management, animal welfare and production as well as the financial side of the robotic milking equation.

In addition to addressing the robotic milking research findings, Salfer will answer your questions about this technology and its on-the-farm use.

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www.pdpw.org



Day 1 Tour – Tuesday, Oct. 14

Busses board and return to Fleet Farm
2421 Old Humes Rd. • Janesville, Wis.

Stop 1: Riedland Farm Monroe, Wis.

Dan Rieder and his son Nick milk 120 cows—most of them registered Brown Swiss along with several Holsteins. In June 2013, the two replaced their 10-year-old, double-eight herringbone parlor with two robotic milkers and are enjoying the benefits of it and a robotic feed pusher.



We will observe two robotic milkers and learn about the dairy's...

- *Wealth of knowledge robotics provide about milk quality and the cows*
- *Learning curve*
- *Labor savings*
- *Needed ration adjustments*



Stop 2: York Dairy Lake Geneva, Wis.

This state-of-the-art dairy owned by Thomas and Carty York is barely a year old. Tom and his wife started the 240-head Jersey dairy from scratch last year and incorporated technology wherever feasible. The dairy features four robotic milkers, with the cows free to visit the robots on their own schedule. Currently, the average cow visits the robot for milking 3.1 times per day.

We will observe four robotic milkers and see the dairy's...

- *New six-row, freestall barn—tunnel ventilated*
- *Manure separator—bed with solids*
- *Robotic feed pusher*
- *Cable alley scrapers*
- *Cow responders to monitor rumination, aid heat detection*

Stop 3: Leedle Farms – Black Cat Dairy Lake Geneva, Wis.

This family-run dairy, which milks about 455 cows and has a new freestall barn, has been using robotic milkers for close to two years. The decision to go the robotic route helped the dairy expand cow numbers without expanding workforce numbers. Family members working on the dairy include owners Tom and Jennifer Leedle, their son and his spouse, their daughter and two grandsons. The dairy crops 900 acres and manages with just two additional employees: one full-time and one part-time.



We will observe eight robotic milkers and learn about the dairy's...

- *Feed pusher*
- *Manure pusher*
- *Automatic calf feeder*
- *Activity collars on breeding-age heifers*
- *Activity/rumination collars on all milk cows*
- *Milk taxi*

Day 2 Tour – Wednesday, Oct. 15

Busses board and return to the PDPW Office
820 North Main St. • Juneau, Wis.

Stop 1: Bacon's Rolling Acres & Gurn-Z Meadow Columbus, Wis.

Married in 2012, dairy owners Ed Bacon and Julie (Orchard) Bacon combined their two herds in a new 130-cow freestall facility. Installing robot milkers a year and a half ago has allowed Julie to keep an off-farm job and Ed to cash crop 800 acres and run a custom harvesting business – without hiring additional labor to milk cows. The dairy's naturally ventilated freestall barn features sand bedding, with a bedded pack area at one end of the barn for pre-fresh cows. The robot room, vet room, office and dairy center have in-floor heat.



We will observe two robotic milkers and learn about the dairy's...

- *Feed pusher*
- *Cow brushes*
- *Automatic alley scrapers*
- *Activity collars to monitor rumination and aid heat detection*



Stop 2: Laufenberg Farms Waunakee, Wis.

A partnership between brothers Dave and Fred Laufenberg, Laufenberg Dairy relies on robotic milkers, an automatic calf feeder and activity monitors on the cows to keep production up and the number of core team members at a minimum. The brothers' father, Walter, helps out with various duties around the dairy while Dave's wife, Kate, oversees the calves and Dave and Kate's teenage son pitches in after school and on weekends.

We will observe four robotic milkers and learn about...

- *The dairy's cross-ventilated slatted barn with eight rows of free stalls*
- *Recommended routine procedures to optimize calf growth*
- *The pros and cons of using robotic milkers and automatic calf feeders*

Stop 3: Adelmeyer Farms Theresa, Wis.

This family dairy, owned by Gerald and Rose Mary Adelmeyer and their two sons Brian and Dean, has undergone numerous updates and expansions since Gerald started milking 40 cows in 1961. Today the dairy milks 180-190 cows and farms 1,500 to 2,000 acres, depending on rental land available. Robot milkers have been used since April 2013, with a phone alarm system notifying management of any challenges. Their 206-freestall barn features cross ventilation and 310 feet of eating space on a center feed H-bunk.



We will observe three robotic milkers and see the dairy's.....

- *Dual chamber cow waterbeds that feature an extra front pillow to cushion a cow's descent onto the bed*
- *Cattle scale, milk scale and mastitis detection program*
- *Recycling of water*
- *Pasteurizer for waste milk*

Day 3 Tour – Thursday, Oct. 16

Busses board and return to Stony Creek Inn
3060 S. Kinney Coulee Rd. • Onalaska, Wis.

Stop 1: Pfaff's Prairie Dairy Melrose, Wis.

Five years ago, Tom Pfaff went from a stanchion barn to using seven robots to milk the dairy's 460 cows in production. Other technology in use includes automatic manure scrapers, automatic calf feeders and rumination and activity monitor collars. The dairy's naturally ventilated barn uses energy-efficient fans. The dairy recently installed a sprinkler system that's on a thermostat and timer system.



We will observe seven robotic milkers and learn about...

- *What influenced the dairy's decision to use robot milkers and other technology*
- *The value of using a system that provides an abundance of data*



Stop 2: Lane Creek Dairy LaCrosse, Wis.

Facing less and less help on the farm and a health challenge, Lane Creek Dairy's owners, Jeff and Johanna Berg, installed one robotic milker for their 60-65 cow herd in 2012. They also installed a robotic manure scraper and a robotic feed pusher. "We needed to either sell the cows or make improvements on the farm to allow us to keep the farm going for whoever of the children wanted to take it over in the future," Jeff states.

We will observe one robotic milker that has benefitted the dairy...

- *Less intense labor allowing Jeff to stay involved*
- *Increased cow numbers, cow comfort and production*
- *Sustainability of the family farm*

Stop 3: Kiefland Holsteins Utica, Minn.

The Kieffer family installed five robot milkers on this family-owned and managed dairy in 2011 and 2012 and haven't looked back. Additional technology on the farm includes a feed pusher, rumination tags and an activity system. The dairy's video camera records calving pen activity. With less labor needed for the milking herd, the dairy began feeding calves three times a day, which has improved calf health, particularly throughout the winter months.



We will observe five robotic milkers and learn about the dairy's...

- *Ability to move from 8 full-time equivalents to 4 full-time equivalents*
- *Keys to robot efficiency*
- *What to look at, and not look at, when first using robot milkers and other technology*