

Fenceline

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My job is always changing! I never know exactly what I will face each day, and that's a good thing. This week I learned all about lameness in dairy cattle. It was quite fascinating. Dr. Jeff DeFrain from Zinpro is an expert of the subject, as evidenced at a local dairy at the conclusion of the day.

Trimming dairy cattle feet correctly, helps them be Happy Cows! Happy Cows give more milk, which makes the dairyman happy.

While dairy productivity has doubled in the last 50 years, it's not keeping pace with population growth. Globally there's 14% less milk per person than in 1961.

On average around the world, we have access to about one 8 ounce glass of milk a day. The global recommended intake is two glasses a day. Current per capita milk production around the world isn't meeting basic nutritional needs.

The findings of the 2013 Global Feed Forward Analysis estimate that based on current production paths, we won't have access to one glass of milk a day on average by 2020. Based on this evaluation, 4.5 billion people won't meet their nutritional needs by 2040.

A landmark observational study in Kenya demonstrates that when children's diets are supplemented with meat or milk, learning and resulting test scores improve, particularly compared to those just given increased energy from oils and the control group given a typical meal.

When nutrition improves, health improves, learning improves and ultimately incomes and societies improve. This from a recent paper, Achieving Global Food Security: How the Nutritional Impact of Animal Source Foods Enriches Lives.