USAHA
COMMITTEE ON
CATTLE & BISON

Tuesday, October 20, 2026
10:15 AM - 12:15 PM CT
Ballroom AB

Time	Topic/Title	Presenter(s)
10:15 am	Welcome and Overview	Janemarie Hennebelle (GA) Amber Itle (WA)
10:20 am	NovoFly: Current progress implementing a new New World screwworm to protect US livestock	Alex Arp, Ph.D. (USDA ARS) *virtual
10:45 am	Genome Editing Opens a Path to Heritable BVDV Resistance in Cattle	Aspen Workman, Ph.D. (USDA ARS)
11:10 am	More Testing, More Culling?: Accounting for Imperfect Detection in Disease Management Strategies of *Mycoplasmopsis bovis* in North American Bison (*Bison bison*)	Maris Daleo, Ph.D., DVM candidate (U of Illinois)
11:35 am	Research Updates on HPAI Vaccines in Dairy Cattle	Kaitlyn Sarlo Davila, Animal Physiologist (USDA ARS)
12:00 pm	**Business Meeting**	Members
12:15 pm	**Adjourn**	

Mission Statement

The USAHA Committee on Cattle and Bison is to provide a national forum for discussions by committee members and other interested individuals on the current status of infectious diseases of cattle and bison, and to recommend action to eliminate or minimize their adverse effect on the U.S. animal industry or the ecosystem.

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Speaker Biographies

Alex Arp, Ph.D.
Alex Arp has been a Research Geneticist of Insects at the USDA Agricultural Research Service Knipling-Bushland US Livestock Insect Research Laboratory in Kerrville, TX, since 2019. His research is focused on developing novel solutions and improvements to the New World screwworm eradication program. Projects include evaluating genetically engineered male-only strains and developing cost saving measures for mass-rearing. From 2020-2024 he served as laboratory supervisor for the ARS Screwworm Research Laboratory held within the screwworm mass-rearing facility in Pacora, Panama.

From 2017–2019 he completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Max Scott at North Carolina State University and the US-Panama Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Screwworm (COPEG) in Pacora, Panama.

Alex completed his Ph.D. at the University of Florida in Entomology in 2017 and his master's degree at the University of Texas at Tyler in Biology in 2013. His graduate research focused on potato and citrus psyllids and the pathogens they vector.

Aspen Workman, Ph.D.
Aspen Workman is a Research Microbiologist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska. Her research focuses on developing innovative approaches to combat endemic diseases in cattle. In 2023, she received the Arthur S. Flemming Award in Applied Science and Engineering for research that produced the first gene-edited calf with genetic resistance to a major viral pathogen of cattle.

Maris Daleo, Ph.D., DVM candidate
Maris is a third-year veterinary student in the DVM/PhD program at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed the PhD portion of her program in 2025 in the Wildlife Epidemiology Laboratory, focusing on the health and management of confiscated box turtles. Her research now focuses on Midwest ungulates, including predicting chronic wasting disease spread in Illinois white-tailed deer and using computational methods to optimize detection of *Mycoplasmopsis bovis* in bison under Dr. Tom Bragg and Dr. Danielle Buttke.

Kaitlyn Sarlo Davila
Kaitlyn Sarlo Davila is an Animal Physiologist in the Ruminant and Diseases Research Unit at the USDA ARS National Animal Disease Center in Ames, IA. Her work focuses on mitigation strategies for mastitis, especially the genetics of susceptibility to mastitis. Following the 2024 outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy cattle she has focused on developing animal models to study the pathogenesis of HPAI and the efficacy of vaccines at protecting dairy cattle against HPAI.