



The Babcock Institute

for International Dairy Research & Development

Looking Back Over the Years, Issue 2

In This Issue

Sino-US Dairy Research and Development Center

"Ag 101" Training for Wisconsin Army National Guard

UW's Connection to Kosovo

Training for German Dairy Farmers

Looking Toward the Future

Quick Links

[About the Babcock Institute](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Welcome to the second issue of the Babcock Institute's "Looking Back Over The Years" newsletter series. In this issue, we provide highlights of Babcock Institute's greatest accomplishments over the years.

Thanks for staying connected!
-The Babcock Team

Sino-US Dairy Research and Development Center

In 2004, the Babcock Institute and colleagues, Professors Li Defa and Li Shengli, at Beijing's China Agriculture University (CAU) saw the fruit of years of preparation and planning in the creation of the Sino-US Dairy Research and Development Center.

In March of 2005, the opening ceremony for the center was held on the first day of the 1st Sino-US Dairy Development Seminar. More than 180 participants attended this event. The Beijing seminar included technical presentations and on-farm workshops by UW-Madison and Chinese professors as well as an exhibition of US and Chinese dairy-related organizations and products. Representatives of China's leading dairy farms were on hand to share their management experience. The Sino-US Dairy Research and Development Center is highly regarded by the dairy industry because of its rich technological and cutting edge dairy science experts.



The mission of the Center is to promote cooperation in the dairy industries of the US and China, as well as to increase educational exchange. The Center's goals are to improve the yield-per-cow of high quality milk in China in line with the needs of population. The 10th Sino-US Dairy Center Seminar is being planned for April 2015. [\[Read more\]](#)

Check out [photos](#) taken at the 9th Sino-US Dairy Center Seminar!

"Ag 101" Training for Wisconsin Army National Guard

In 2011 and 2012, Babcock Institute organized two "Ag 101" training sessions for Agribusiness Development Teams of the Wisconsin Army National Guard. The training sessions were 40-hour programs developed to help the team prepare for their deployments to Kunar province of Afghanistan. The team members worked with the people in rural Kunar province to rebuild the agriculture industry, teach new farming methods, and to help improve the livelihood of residents. The training programs were held at the Arlington Agricultural Research Station, West Madison Agricultural Research Station, on the UW-Madison campus and on a number of area farms. We are very grateful to the numerous UW and UW Extension instructors, and farmers who worked so hard developing and conducting this course! [\[Read more\]](#)



Check out our Facebook page for [photos](#) from these events!

UW's Connection to Kosovo

The Institute has been connected with the dairy industry in Kosovo since 2009 when the Babcock Institute and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection implemented an intensive 10-day training and strategy development program to aid Kosovo's agricultural ministry leaders to work together to form the new country's agricultural policy framework. The program resulted in consensus among the trainees on strategies, capacities, and policy and program mechanisms to provide a long-term policy and business environment that facilitated and helped to sustain growth in the number of dairy farms, milk production, milk and meat quality improvement, and in-country food processing. [\[Read more\]](#)



The UW-Madison also worked with Kosovo dairy leaders on a USDA International Scholarly Exchange program grant with the University of Prishtina, the Ministry of Agriculture and Kosovo's Extension system for developing a risk assessment tool and improving milk quality and safety. This three-year project, led by Dr. Pamela Ruegg, focused on assessing food safety risks and improving milk quality. Due to the strong relationships developed before the project began, cooperation was successful and a risk assessment tool for use on farms, at collection centers, and in dairy processing plants was developed and tested in Kosovo. This tool could now be used in the United States for on-farm dairy processing facilities and in developing dairy systems throughout the world. [\[Read more\]](#)

As a result of our continuing partnership with Kosovo, we also hosted a USDA Borlaug Scholar, Hysen Bytyci, from University of Prishtina in 2011 and University of Mitrovica visitors in 2014. [\[Read more\]](#)



Training for German Dairy Farmers

Since 1996, the Babcock institute has helped host a total of 1,956 German dairy farmers for about 40 week-long training programs. These programs have been organized and led by Dr. Dave Wieckert, University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Emeritus in collaboration with his good friend and colleague, Professor Gus Wilke and Gus' daughter, Jutta Berger. The groups received lectures from leading University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW-Extension faculty members on topics ranging from basic nutrition, farm expansion, cattle housing, reproduction, proper milking and ration delivery systems. These lectures were followed by practical learning opportunities touring Wisconsin dairy farms. During the nearly 20 years that these German dairy farmers visited Wisconsin, they have been graciously hosted by the farmers at Crave Brothers Farm, Rosy-Lane Holsteins, Truttmann Dairy and Larson Acres, among others. [\[Read more\]](#)

Looking Toward the Future

Although the Babcock Institute will be suspending operations at the end of this year as a consequence of the elimination of federal funding through USDA Special Grants, the University of Wisconsin-Madison will continue its collaboration with the China Agriculture University through the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences International Programs Office. In addition, the Babcock Institute [website](#) will continue to provide links to valuable resources for the next few months.

While we are saddened that we will longer be able to serve as a crossroads for international dairy industries, we are very grateful to have had an impact and success over the past 24 years. This work has only been possible through wonderful collaborations and partnerships.



Karen Nielsen
Director

Jaime Sawle
Communications Intern

