Initially held in December 2011, this second innovative conference will kick off with an evening session on December 12, 2012 designed specifically for producers who are new to using a group-feeding system. The day-long symposium program on December 13 is devoted to understanding the cause of diseases, particularly the effect of environment, and what the impact of changes to that environment through barn ventilation approaches may be. Three hurdles must be cleared in the first 60 days of a calf’s life to arrive at the other end of the replacement enterprise as a fully productive first lactation cow. Producers strive to ensure the calf receives enough immune proteins from birth to achieve a steady rate of gain, thereby helping them to fight environmental changes associated with group-housing and feeding systems.

Conference attendees will hear first-hand stories of measured results of on-farm innovations and have the opportunity to build and maintain a communication network among the growing number of users of these varied group-calf systems.

Further information, including a detailed agenda and registration information are at www.ansci.cornell.edu/prodairy/calfsystems. Contact Heather Darrow, Conference Coordinator, at (607) 255-4478 or hh96@cornell.edu. Early registration deadline is November 15, 2012.