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Top Honors Awarded to AABP Beef and Dairy Veterinarians

Prestigious awards were given to several bovine veterinarians at the American Association of Bovine Practitioners 2026 59th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

(ASHLAND, Ohio) September 1, 2026 – The top honor that an American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) member can obtain in his or her career is the **AABP Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim**. At the 2026 59th AABP Annual Conference which was held Aug. 27-29 in Minneapolis, Minn., Dr. Mark E. Fox, Sandusky, Mich., received this prestigious honor. This award honors a veterinarian in active practice who is active in organized veterinary medicine and has made significant contributions to bovine medicine.

Several other bovine veterinarians were also honored at the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon on August 29. They are:

AABP Award of Excellence

Sponsored by AABP, recipients must be involved in teaching, research, industry or government areas. The recipient's professional activities must have had a consistent and direct influence on daily activities of veterinarians in bovine practice. The 2026 recipient is:
Dr. Richard Wallace, Bonita Springs, Fla.

Merck Animal Health Mentor-of-the-Year Award

The recipient of this award is an AABP member who has been engaged in the field of veterinary medicine for at least 25 years and has served as both advisor and role model to pre-veterinary and/or veterinary students. This award is given to a member who embodies this spirit whether in practice, the clinic, or the classroom. The 2026 recipient is:
Dr. Margaret Masterson, Plain City, Ohio

Dr. James A. Jarrett Award for Young Leaders

Recipients of this award have graduated veterinary school within 10 years, have given extraordinary service to the AABP in a manner that significantly enhances the mission of the organization, and whose contributions will help ensure the current and future success of the AABP. The 2026 recipient is:
Dr. Kaitlyn Briggs, Sherburne, N.Y.

Other awards given at the 2026 59th AABP Annual Conference include:

2026 AABP Foundation Competitive Research Grant Award

- **Dr. Jenna Bayne - Auburn University**
Diagnostic imaging agreement and the feasibility of diagnostic stifle arthroscopy via needle arthroscope in cattle

- **Dr. Marc Caldwell – University of Tennessee**
Assessing the Impact of Maternal Mannheimia haemolytica Vaccination and Passive Immunity on Respiratory Clinical Outcomes, Performance, and Acquired Immunity of Pre-Weaned Dairy Calves
- **Dr. Lisa Gamsjaeger – North Carolina State University**
Impact of Reconstitution Temperature on Antibody Concentration in Commercial Bovine Colostrum Products

2026 AABP Research Summaries Graduate Student Awards

- **First Place**
Katherine Koebel, Cornell University
Antimicrobial use indicators, patterns and attitudes on five New York dairies
- **Second Place**
Erica Schmidt, University of Minnesota
From fast-acting to long-lasting: Comparing cornual nerve blocks in goat kids
- **Third Place**
Grace Jakes, Colorado State University
Effects of a parental innate immune stimulant on calf vaccine responses and bronchoalveolar lavage fluid cell gene expression

2026 Student Case Presentation Competition Winners

- **Overall Winner**
Macy Moore, Iowa State University
Antemortem vs. Postmortem: Creating a Real-time Electronic Dashboard to Evaluate Diagnostic Accuracy in Three Large Commercial Feedyards
- **Clinical Case Report**
 - First Place – Sonati Puri, Texas A&M University
Bilateral pyelonephritis and elevated copper in a 4-year-old Brahman
 - Second Place – Fredrick von Lillienkjold, Texas A&M University
Ashes, ashes, the Brangus fell down
- **Research Report**
 - First Place – Macy Moore, Iowa State University
Antemortem vs. Postmortem: Creating a Real-time Electronic Dashboard to Evaluate Diagnostic Accuracy in Three Large Commercial Feedyards
 - Second Place – Rachel Antonutti, University of Minnesota
Effect of maternal bovine appeasing substances versus a placebo

Find more conference recaps and photos on the AABP Facebook page. #AABP2026

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Next up will be the 10th Annual AABP Recent Graduate Conference February 13-14, 2026 in Baton Rouge, La.

The 2026 60th AABP Annual Conference will be held September 16-18, 2026, in Louisville, Ky.

AABP is a membership-based, not-for-profit organization serving cattle veterinary medicine professionals across the United States, Canada and other countries. Visit <https://aabp.org> and like us on Facebook.