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Bovine Veterinarians Tasked with “Developing Practices of Excellence” at the 2026 AABP Annual Conference

The 2026 59th AABP Annual Conference encouraged bovine veterinarians to develop practices of excellence.

(ASHLAND, OHIO) Sept. 1, 2026 – The American Association of Bovine Practitioners’ (AABP) 2026 59th Annual Conference Aug. 27-29 in Minneapolis, Minn., assisted bovine veterinarians in “Developing Practices of Excellence”. Beef and dairy veterinarians, students and veterinary technicians gathered for this conference for cutting-edge continuing education. Preconference seminars were held earlier in the week for in-depth instruction on a variety of topics.

Keynote speaker Dr. Eric Rooker presented, “Flourishing veterinary medicine: A game of dollars and sense”. He suggested to find some time as practice owners to let others, such as new associates, develop some competency of their own, and gave examples on how to do that. Following Rooker’s presentation, the 2026 AABP vice president candidates, Dr. Becky Funk and Dr. John Groves, were introduced to attendees.

AABP President and 2026 Program Chair Dr. Mark Hilton says, “AABP Annual Conference week is one of my favorite weeks of the year. I get to see many friends, former students and exhibitors. I leave the conference smarter because I have learned something to make my business better and the animals I treat healthier.” Hilton explains that the theme, “Developing Practices of Excellence,” represents the business of veterinary practice and the hands-on skill set of veterinary medicine.

“Our program committee found excellent speakers who could share information our attendees could take home and use the very next week, whether that was how to improve retention of recent hires or how to ultrasound lungs,” Hilton explains. “Every doctor on the program committee is either in private practice or has been. Our membership is largely private practitioners, and we wanted to keep that focus.”

AABP Immediate Past President Dr. Callie Willingham says the conference offered a wide selection of topics that supported the theme. “The new mixed-animal track was very well-received,” she notes. “Many of the presentations sparked conversations that continued well after the session ended. One of the things I value most about the AABP conference is the opportunity to meet new colleagues, reconnect with friends and deepen the relationships that strengthen bovine veterinary practice.”

Willingham encourages all members who were not able to attend to take advantage of the recorded sessions CE opportunity through Kansas State University’s Beef Cattle Institute, where all CE sessions are available.

The 2026 conference gave in-person attendees up to 26.25 hours of continuing education (plus more for preconference seminars) on beef, dairy, clinical skills, retention, hot topics, mixed-animal, practice management, student/new graduate topics, practice tips and other sessions, plus preconference seminars and clinical forums. Awards, a scholarship auction and a 5K were also highlights of the conference.

“It is always rewarding to see the efforts of our volunteers and staff come to fruition each year at the AABP annual conference,” says AABP Executive Director Dr. Fred Gingrich. “Providing continuing education for bovine veterinarians, veterinary technicians and students is a major mission of our

organization and this conference is our biggest event each year. I want to thank not only our volunteers who make this conference successful, but all of our members who attended.”

Gingrich shares these stats from the 2026 AABP Annual Conference:

- 909 attendees
- 269 veterinary students
- 8 veterinary technicians
- 83 exhibiting companies with 321 exhibitor representatives
- 56 accompanying persons
- 141 signed up for the 5K Stampede Fun Run/Walk

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.