

# Dr. Mike Steele

Professor Steele's research surrounds the physiology and metabolism of dairy and beef cows and calves. He is best known for his research on milk feeding and weaning, including the effects of extended colostrum and transition milk feeding in early life, as well as advancing knowledge on weaning to establish best practices for calf health. The Steele lab has collectively contributed to more published research on colostrum than was available prior to their work in the field. Many of these research findings have been quickly adopted by farmers, such as enriching low quality colostrum with more IgG and feeding transition milk to calves in the first few days of life.

Most recently, the Steele lab has been focusing on early life dairy beef rearing. Steele noticed a gap in dairy beef research, where the majority of studies focus on the feedlot, but there is minimal knowledge as to what occurs before then. His group is looking to fill that gap and determine how early life intervention could change meat quality down the line. Currently, the Steele lab is investigating how nutrition and management in the first months of life can impact the animal, as well as how early life rearing and genetics can be refined to produce healthier and more robust animals.

Connecting with producers is top priority to Mike Steele. He believes creating a communicative culture and establishing a working relationship between producers and researcher ideas, is the best method to keep developing applied research ideas. One strategy is hosting conferences or workshops for producers to observe on-going research and recent findings, but also express challenges they are facing on their farms and contribute to new research ideas. Steele also highlights the effectiveness of social



media. Offering short, 30-second, easily digestible pieces of information has shown to be an approachable and successful method of presenting research.

When not immersed researching or discussing cattle, Mike Steele channels his passion for music. While his busy schedule leaves little time for playing music now, he still expresses his love for music through listening and playing music whenever the opportunity arises.