

## What is Bovi-Noticias?

Bovi-Noticias is a bilingual (English & Spanish) newsletter providing information to help dairy workers learn, understand, and grow in their job skills while improving on-farm safety.

Developed at UW-Madison Division of Extension, Bovi-Noticias is a collaboration between Educators on the Dairy team and Farm Management team. This bilingual (English & Spanish) newsletter was designed to support dairy farms and their employees. This publication delivers accessible, research-based information in both English and Spanish, aiming to:

- Provide relevant, practical insights for workers, managers, and owners.
- Increase awareness of the “why” behind practices to encourage employee understanding and enhance engagement of dairy teams
- Serving as a resource for team meetings, facilitating discussions between management and workers, and fostering problem-solving.

## Crowd gates done right: Best practices for cow comfort and welfare

A crowd gate is a movable barrier that runs from the back of the holding area to the front, gently guiding cows into the milking parlor. When used correctly, a crowd



gate reduces empty space in the holding area and improves cow flow, leading to more efficient milking. Good crowd gate use and proper holding area management create a calm, predictable environment for cows. Here are some helpful tips:

- Guide cows gently and calmly without pushing them with the crowding gate. Aggressive use can cause stress, pain, or injuries.
- Avoid overcrowding the holding area, it may affect welfare, production and health.
- Limit the time cows spend in the holding area to less than 1 hour per milking.
- Keep the gate at least 3 feet (1 meter) behind the cows. If it's too close, move it backward before pushing it forward again.
- Report when the crowding gate is not working so it gets fixed promptly.
- Avoid entering the holding area to chase cows, this may confuse them about when to move.
- Follow safe practices to prevent accidents, powered gates can be dangerous for workers and cows.

Visit <https://go.wisc.edu/BN25041>

Or scan the QR code to read the full article.



## CONTACT



Bovi-Noticias online  
[go.wisc.edu/BoviNoticias](https://go.wisc.edu/BoviNoticias)

## SAFETY FIRST

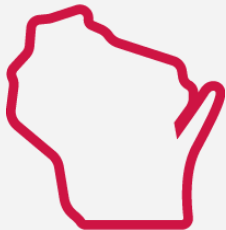
### Preventing back injuries in farming

Improper lifting is a major cause of back injuries in agriculture. Here are key lifting tips:

- Stand with feet shoulder-width apart.
- Bend your knees, not your waist.
- Grip the load firmly with both hands.
- Keep the load close to your body.
- Don't lift anything too heavy by yourself.
- Back injuries are common. Safe lifting habits can significantly reduce the risk.



## FUN FACT



There are  
**5,548**  
Dairy Farms  
in Wisconsin

## GAME ON!

### Learn cow handling skills with Mooving cows



Game-based learning is a fun way to learn new things. Mooving Cows is a game where players learn about dairy farming and how to handle cows. Created by Dr. Jennifer Van Os from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the app teaches how to move cows, use body language to communicate, and to understand how stress affects milk production. Download it now, on your iOS or Android and enjoy this game that will teach you real-life skills on farm while learning about animal welfare.

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## ACROSS THE FENCE

### Practical ideas from the farm next door

Mark the cows with a visible number on their back for quick identification, reduce lock-up time, and streamlining daily tasks.

