

January 2026



Kinder Ground
Where compassion grows

Kinder Hoof Care Academy Sponsorship 2026



Kinder Hoof Care
ACADEMY

**Our Approach Makes The
Difference**



KinderGround.org

Presented by
Jennifer Walker DVM PhD



Who We Are

Our Story & Our People



Lisa Cranfill CFO



Dr. Cassandra Tucker CSO



Dr. Jen Walker CAWO

About Us

Kinder Ground grew from a shared vision, applying lessons learned on the farm, at the university and across the supply chain.

Dr. Walker and Dr. Tucker recognized that audits and certification had become common place, but progress in animal welfare had stalled and had encouraged a habit of compliance, not compassion. The supply chain was demanding better but often lacked the expertise or bandwidth to help make it happen. Farmers felt like they were being policed rather than partnered with.

They knew we could do better. Farmers deserved better partners and the animals deserved lives worth living.

Vision



Our vision is a world that shares responsibility for cultivating kindness, compassion, and respect for the animals and people that sustain us. Together, we can make a difference.

Mission



The Kinder Ground mission is supporting the farming community to elevate the welfare of animals in food production



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Why

Kinder Hoof Care Academy

Lameness remains the most painful, persistent and prevalent disease in dairy cattle. Competent and compassionate hoof care professionals are essential to tackling a problem that impacts the health and welfare of an estimated 25% of cattle on any given day. Kinder Hoof Care Academy (KHCA) Trimmer Training was created to address a major hurdle to progress, training the next generation of hoof trimmers and building a community where professional trimmers can hone their skills.

Small group learning ensures **hands-on experience and practice on a commercial farm**. The 3-day course is designed to allow opportunity to practice in a step wise fashion to make sure confidence is built along with competence. Prior to training, attendees are given access to a learning portal to review modules created by Dr. Cramer to ensure trainees can hit the ground grinding

- Day 1 – The basics of anatomy, knife skills, including how to sharpen them, and trimming will be practiced on cadaver feet. If there is interest, we can open this day up to 8 -10 additional farmers interested in learning the basics (additional equipment will be required)
- Day 2 – Chute-side, real-life maintenance trimming of cows.
- Day 3 – Chute-side, firsthand experience with therapeutic trimming of lame cows.



Through the Kinder Hoof Care Academy, we estimate we have helped improve the lives of over

255,800

farm animals EVERY YEAR!



KHCA has become an exemplar of Kinder Ground's approach to change. The academy representing our most impactful work on a cost per animal basis, costing only 40cents per animal to make a difference.





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The Team

Managing hoof health on a dairy farm requires capable and compassionate support at every step. Kinder Ground has partnered with Dr. Gerard Cramer of the University of Minnesota and Jamie Sullivan of Rippleview Hoof Care to develop **on-line learning modules that are followed by hands-on training.**

KHCA is designed for farm staff, veterinarians, professional trimmers and other dairy professionals looking to gain experience and a better understanding of maintenance trimming and effective treatment of lesions. Competent and qualified hoof trimmers are in short supply. It's not easy putting together a training that offers hands-on experience. The teamwork of Kinder Ground, Dr. Cramer and Jamie is making sure that the future of hoof care is bright and in good hands training and mentoring a new generation of compassionate hoof care champions.



Dr. Gerard Cramer



Jamie Sullivan



Dr. Jen Walker





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Why

Partner with Kinder Ground

Teamwork makes the dream work. KHCA is not possible without the support of the dairy community. We rely on slaughter facilities to donate cow feet, on local veterinary clinics to donate space for the first day, and a local farm, willing to let trimmers learn, to host the days chute-side. Kinder Ground has given the time and money needed to launch KHCA and it has become a pillar of Kinder Ground's work. To ensure it continues and has the opportunity to reach tomorrow's trimmers it is critical that long term, dependable partnerships are created.

Your commitment to farmers and the dairy industry's success as a positive chang-maker and champion for dairy makes you a perfect KHCA partner. Consider this a kickstart to start the discussion. There is flexibility in what partnership looks like. The overview provided here is meant to provide a clear view of the KHCA, all that it accomplishes, and costs to deliver.



Building competent caregivers builds trust in the industry



Building community and confidence builds pride in the work and the industry

We share a common goal, to improve the welfare of dairy cattle. Together we can begin to make progress addressing what has thus far been an intractable problem for the industry. We may not be able to prevent every cow from become lame, but we can provide the training to help farmers make better decisions sooner and give every cow her best chance at recovery.

During a KHCA training, we go beyond the chute and talk about other factors that influence hoof health, from heat stress to animal handling and stocking density. KHCA is here to make sure caregivers can show up capable and with confidence.





KHCA Budget

Estimate



There is a lot that goes into each KHCA training. Below is a generic budget that includes the estimated cost of travel, equipment, supplies and hours required to coordinate and deliver the training. Cost will vary depending on location and availability of chutes.

- **Each training can accommodate no more than 8 attendees. Adding the Advanced Day decreases total cost per student and allows us to target more experienced trimmers.**
- **Training includes access on-line learning modules.**
- **The Advanced Day course offering includes monthly virtual workshops and discussion groups.**

Cost	Description	3-Day + Advanced Day
01	Program Coordination	\$14,500
02	Instructor 1 - Dr. Cramer	\$8,000
03	Instructor 2 - Sullivan	\$7,000
04	Lunches, Drinks & Snacks	\$700
05	Supplies - Recurring	\$6,120
06	Supplies - Non-recurring	\$2,500
Sub-Total	Cost to coordinate & deliver	\$38,820
Total	Cost to coordinate & deliver - Non-recurring supply cost	\$36,320

A core philosophy of Kinder Ground is that everyone needs to have skin in the game. The true cost to deliver each KHCA per person is approximately \$2,700. Financial support from Kinder Ground's champions thus far keeps the cost of registration low. Registration is only \$750 (US) per person for the 3-day course and \$300 (US) for the advanced day training.

Budget excludes the income from the sale of registrations which are considered as donations to be directed to future KHCA trainings. The host farm is invited to send 1 guest at no cost in gratitude for their support.

Enrollment paid for by a single farm or company is limited to 2 registrations per training.





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Thank You

We couldn't do this without your support



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Addendum



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Budget details

The budget includes the estimated cost of all travel, equipment, supplies and consulting hours required to coordinate and deliver the training.

Each training can accommodate no more than 8 persons per course. 16 total if adding Advanced Day.

Cost 01 Program Coordination

Includes management of the course, including shipment of supplies, travel, hotel, truck rental, meals and fuel.

Cost 02 & 03 Instructors

Includes days dedicated to the delivery of the course including hotel, travel and transport of chutes if needed.

Cost 04 Lunches, Drinks & Snacks

Attendees will be provided lunch, snacks and drinks each day. No host dinners are coordinated to encourage community and mentorship amongst the attendees.

Cost 05 Supplies - Recurring

Hoof blocks, hoof glue, shoe covers and other recurring supplies are managed by Kinder Ground. Each attendee is given basic equipment needed to practice safely and encourage good habits.

Every attendee is given a KHCA Starter Kit that includes:

1. Safety Glasses
2. Safety Vest
3. Cut Resistant gloves
4. Hoof knives, a hoof tester and a hoof gauge
5. Knife sharpening wheel, buffing wheel and polish
6. KHCA shirt & Certificate upon completion of the course

Cost 06 Supplies - Non-Recurring

Kinder Ground provides and manages transport of all of the equipment needed to deliver the course. Everything from grinders (12), wheels, torches, foot stands and glue guns to extension cords, transformers, first-aid kits and instructional material are provided.

