

ISAE Creativity Award

Prof. Marina (Nina) von Keyserlingk

Professor, Applied Biology (Animal Welfare Program)
Director, UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre
The University of British Columbia
NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Dairy Cattle Research

The recipient of the 2024 ISAE Creativity Award was Professor Nina von Keyserlingk. She was nominated by Dr. Kathryn Proudfoot and supported by Drs. Maria José Hötzel and David Kelton. Dr. von Keyserlingk has profoundly impacted the fields of applied ethology and animal welfare, redefining our understanding of dairy cattle behavior and fostering innovations that resonate with societal values.



Over the last two decades of her career, Dr. von Keyserlingk has authored over 330 peer-reviewed publications, garnering more than 30,000 citations and achieving a Google Scholar h-index of 99. Her pioneering work seamlessly integrates applied ethology, animal welfare science, and social science, addressing pressing issues in animal agriculture such as health challenges, lameness, and early cow-calf separation. By blending scientific rigor with practical solutions, she has empowered farmers, veterinarians, and policymakers to adopt sustainable, welfare-oriented practices.

Dr. von Keyserlingk's creativity shines through her innovative research, supported by consecutive Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery grants. Her groundbreaking studies have explored topics from the feeding of dairy cattle to personality traits, mood, and resilience. These insights have reshaped animal care standards and informed welfare guidelines globally.

A dynamic communicator and mentor, Dr. von Keyserlingk has delivered over 15 talks annually, reaching thousands of individuals across diverse audiences, including farmers, professionals, scientists, and students. Her ability to inspire, challenge norms, and motivate meaningful change cements her reputation as a global leader in applied ethology.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. von Keyserlingk for this well-deserved honor and for her unwavering commitment to advancing animal welfare through creativity and collaboration.

More information about Professor Nina von Keyserlingk can be found [here](#).

Selected relevant publications:

1. von Keyserlingk, M.A.G., and D.M. Weary. 2010. Feeding behaviour of dairy cattle: measure and applications. *Canadian Journal of Animal Science* 90 (3):303-309 <https://doi.org/10.4141/CJAS09127>
2. Proudfoot, K.L., D.M. Weary, and M.A.G. von Keyserlingk. 2012. Linking the social environment to illness in farm animals. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 138: 203-215 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2012.02.008>
3. von Keyserlingk, M.A.G., and M.J. Hötzel. 2015. The ticking clock: Addressing farm animal welfare in emerging countries. *Journal of Agricultural Environment and Ethics* 28: 179-195 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10806-014-9518-7>

4. von Keyserlingk, M.A.G., Cestari, A.A., Franks, B., Fregonesi, J.A. and D.M. Weary. 2017. Dairy cows value access to pasture as highly as fresh feed. *Scientific Reports*. 7: 44953. <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep44953>

5. Lecorps, B., D.M. Weary and M.A.G. von Keyserlingk. 2021. Captivity induced depression in animals. *Trends in Cognitive Science* 25, No. 7 539-541
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2021.03.010>