

The Mission of the Northeast Iowa Community Based Dairy Foundation is to enhance and grow the dairy industry through people by providing education, demonstration and research.

Vision: Successful dairy farm families supported by a thriving dairy industry which in turn supports vital local communities.

The Northeast Iowa Community Based Dairy Foundation works with Northeast Iowa Community College and Iowa State University to offer educational programs to students and existing dairy farm families to help them prepare for the future.

Thank you for your generosity & memberships!

A huge thank you to the individuals and corporations who have recently become members and/ or made contributions

Barbara Ashby
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Mike Ferring

If you are interested in learning more about making a tax-deductible contribution to the Dairy Foundation to strengthen the future of the dairy industry, or supporting us with a lifetime membership, please contact Megan at 563-534-9957, ext. 107 or email kregelm@nicc.edu.

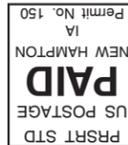
Have an idea, comment or suggestion for the Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation?

Let us know!

Call 563-534-9957, email info@iowadairycenter.com or talk to a member of the executive board. Thanks!

Be sure to visit us online at www.iowadairycenter.com

Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation • 1527 Hwy. 150 South • Calmar, IA 52132 • Phone: (563) 534-9957 • www.iowadairycenter.com



Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation
P.O. Box 400
Calmar, IA 52132
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



DAIRY CENTER Connection



News from the Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation

HUNDREDS ATTEND ROBOTICS MILKING OPEN BARN EVENT AT IOWA'S DAIRY CENTER

Over 700 community members attended the Robotic Milking Open Barn on March 27 at Iowa's Dairy Center. Community members observed demonstrations of a completed robotic milking system and toured the facility.

making the robotic milking system a success were thrilled with the turnout of producers and community members," Megan Kregel, dairy center coordinator. "We certainly thank everyone for their support throughout the building and learning process, and we are happy so many

celebrated this success with us." National, state and local agricultural leaders and dignitaries who attended the celebration at Iowa's Dairy Center included Mike Naig, Iowa deputy secretary of agriculture, G. Joe Lyon and Maynard Lang. *continued on page 4*



Megan Kregel, Dairy Center Coordinator, Kathleen Nacos-Burds, Vice President of Academic Affairs, NICC President Liang Chee Wee, Ph.D., Dr. Ken Reimer, President of NICC Board of Trustees, Gary Kregel, Dairy Foundation President, Dave Lawstuen, Chair of Dairy Operations and John Noel, Vice President of Finance and Administration

A Word from the President - Gary Kregel

A giant leap forward could easily describe the past twelve months here at your NE Iowa Dairy Foundation. A year ago we were presented with the proposed robotic milking project; one year later it is a reality and a very successful reality at that. While the timeline was a little longer than we wanted, it happened and the cows adjusted extremely well. The layout of Jerseys on one robot and Holsteins on the other will offer some unique study opportunities of cow behavior and income generation analysis based on breed.

The robot project also afforded us the opportunity to welcome some new partners to the Dairy Foundation. We value those who see this center as an excellent chance to tell the dairy story and foretell what is in the future for our industry. It is partners like these that ensure the longevity of your Dairy Foundation and continued education of both our students, making sure we have dairy leaders of tomorrow as well as producer education.

The robot project is creating another opportunity. That is to really evaluate the herd's efficiencies, or lack of, in some areas. A real cost benefit analysis is being started to try to benchmark ourselves to other dairies and created the chance to streamline our labor organization and seriously look at job descriptions to make sure we have no management voids or overlaps. We anticipate this will result in less labor per pound of milk sold. This will also put greater emphasis on all facility management both for appearance, cow comfort and worker safety.

In closing, your foundation has been blessed with great leadership starting with your first president till the present. When accepting the challenge to lead this organization I committed to being your chair for



two years. Well that turned into three years. I firmly believe others should be given this opportunity. We currently have terrific talent on your executive board, any of which can lead this organization going forward. I want to thank the many of you that supported me the past three years, especially that first year when we went thru some challenging times. However, I can say without a doubt we are a stronger organization today because of those challenges. I can also say without reservation that today we have a much enhanced bond with NICC and our partner Iowa State. Let's keep it going. Thank You.

New Employee Feature- Jeremy Walz

Jeremy Walz is the Senior Dairy Herdperson at the Dairy Center and is a 1994 graduate of Northeast Iowa Community College's Dairy Herd Management program. After graduating from the College, Jeremy worked with several dairy herds in the Calmar area prior to becoming Ingvalson Hilltop Farms' dairy herdsman in Caledonia, Minn., for more than 12 years, where his work in dairy production garnered multiple awards. Jeremy has lived in Calmar for over 20 years and is originally from Elkader, where he grew up on an 80-cow dairy family operation. As the Dairy Center's senior herdperson, Jeremy oversees milk quality and production, herd health and animal well-being, vaccinations and protocol management. During his decades of work in the dairy industry, he has seen tremendous changes in technology and advancement, and especially so with the introduction of the new robotics milking system.

"Robotics is the progression of the industry – it's the

next phase," Jeremy says. "It's exciting. As things have progressed over time, we have gone from milking by hand to pipelines to parlor to robots. The robots are a great tool, but it's still something that requires management."

He views the addition of robotics as a welcomed development among young people in the area and an opportunity for students to see different ways of managing a herd. "Hopefully the new system will give young people an opportunity to be excited about the industry and stay involved," Jeremy says.

His future goals for the dairy center are to improve production and the quality of milk, provide hands-on learning for students and to be a quality leader with a quality team of people.

Jeremy and his wife, Becky, have three children – Alex (19), Andre (17), Ashley (15), and Allison (14). Becky Walz is the editor of the Ossian Bee newspaper.



Become a Dairy Foundation Member today! Also 'like' us on facebook @ facebook.com/neiowadairyfoundation

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Mail to: Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, Attn: Coordinator
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Please make checks payable to the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation.

Thank you for your contribution. A receipt will be mailed to you.

Please credit \$25 as my annual membership

Please credit \$250 as my lifetime membership

Please update my membership record with the information at left.

Please call me to discuss a gift idea.

I would like to include the Dairy Foundation in my estate plan. Please call me to discuss.

The Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation was created for educational purposes and has been designated as an IRS Sec. 501 (c)3 public charitable educational organization for federal income, estate and gift tax purposes.

Dairy Science Student news



A successful sale was once again held by the NICC Dairy Science Club with a sale average of \$2,300. Pictured with the club is the top selling animal for \$9,000, consigned by Select Sires.

AgriScience Banquet Awards



Student award winners:
 Outstanding Dairy Internship- Joris Boelen
 Outstanding Beef Science Student- Jacob Schafbuch
 Outstanding Dairy Science Student- Dillan Schumacher
 Josh Evers Award- Corey Tieskoetter



Above: Outstanding Dairy Alumni Lance Shutte of Monona, Iowa; presented by Isaac Whiteaker.

Right: Dairy Friends of Distinction Dale and Bonnie Hackman of Fort Atkinson, Iowa; presented by Melanie Woods.

Breakfast on the Farm

Make plans now to be part of this fun family event! Enjoy a wholesome breakfast featuring Dad's Belgian Waffles, learn about modern agriculture practices, and tour the Dairy Center's 260-cow farm. This year will feature the *NEW* robotic milking units.

Parking will be available on-site.



Date **June 21, 2014**

Time **8:30 a.m. - noon**

Place **Iowa's Dairy Center
Calmar, IA**

Donations accepted



Coordinated by:



Find out more: www.iowadairycenter.com or call 563-534-9957

Mark your calendars!

Open Barn continued...

Lyon was the principal player in developing Lyon Jerseys, which is among the most recognized and appreciated Jersey herds in the country. In addition to his work as a founding member of the National Dairy Board, Lyon continues to support dairy promotion. He represents Midwest Dairy Association on the Midwest Dairy Foods Research Center Advisory Board.

Lang is a long-time Brooklyn dairy farmer and supporter of the dairy industry and 4-H. In addition to his extensive involvement in 4-H throughout his life, Lang has served as chairman of the National Dairy Board, Midwest Dairy Association, the Central Division of Dairy Farmers of America, Iowa State Dairy Association and Midland United Dairy Industry Association.

Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation President Gary Kregel said the new \$1.7 million robotic milking system, which was installed by Fitzgerald Inc, of Elkader, is a technological advancement in agriculture that is well suited to dairy operations in northeast Iowa. Completed and installed in winter 2013, the advanced robotic milking system at the center will teach students, consumers, youth and area dairy producers about advancements in dairy science. A new barn addition on the site was constructed to accommodate the technology and provides enhanced stall conditions for the dairy herd, including improved ventilation and bedding with sand for animal comfort.

Iowa's Dairy Center is a fully-functioning dairy operation, and the facility serves NICC students to gain critical hands-on learning experiences. The new robotic milking system will greatly enhance the agricultural education of students who plan to begin careers in dairy science and for area consumers, FFA and 4H youth and dairy producers.



Above: Standing room only at the open barn event.



Right: The conference room in the new robotics center is named to honor G. Joe Lyon and Maynard Lang for their contributions to the Iowa dairy industry.

WCDI HONORS IOWA'S DAIRY CENTER WITH IMPACT AWARD

Winneshiek County Development Incorporated (WCDI) honored Iowa's Dairy Center with the organization's Impact Award at its annual luncheon on Feb. 3.

The WCDI Impact Award recognizes the economic contribution of businesses in Winneshiek County. Iowa's Dairy Center was selected as the recipient for its focus on the education of students, dairy producers and consumers. In 2013, the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation installed two robotic milking units at the center to offer expanded opportunities for the community to learn about technological advancements in the dairy industry.

Completed and installed in winter 2013, the advanced robotic milking system will teach students, consumers, youth and area dairy producers about advancements in dairy science. A new barn addition on the site was constructed to accommodate the technology and provides enhanced comfort conditions for the dairy herd.

Iowa's Dairy Center is a fully-functioning dairy operation, and the facility serves NICC students enrolled in Dairy Science, Large Animal Veterinary Technician, Pre-Veterinary Medicine and other agricultural programs.

Photo: Nina Taylor, President WCDI Board; Megan Kregel, Coordinator, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation and Dr. Liang Chee Wee, President of NICC.



Upcoming Events for Iowa's Dairy Center

Call 563-534-9957 if you are interested in learning more about any of these programs/events. A current calendar of events can be found at www.iowadairycenter.com.

- April 24 – DairyLab Services Tech Conference
- April 25 – Dairy Story, Waukon
- May 1 – Dairy Story, West Central
- May 2 – 1st Grade Tour
- May 7 – Dairy Story, South Winn
- May 8 – Dairy Story, Postville
- May 9 – Dairy Story, St. Joseph, Nashua Plainfield
- May 12 – DNR Meeting
- May 14 - Dairy Story, Decorah
- May 15 – Dairy Story, Decorah
- May 16 – Dairy Story, New Hampton
- May 16 – Operations/Executive Meetings
- May 20 –Kindergarten Tour
- May 22 – 2nd Grade Tour
- May 23 – Dairy Story, North Winn, CFS
- May 26 – Campus Closed
- May 30 – Dairy Story, Turkey Valley
- June 4 – Dairy Iowa Meeting, Independence