

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.

Thank you to all of the supporters of the Midwest Dairy Day event, focusing on genomics.

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.

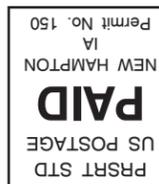
Have an idea, comment or suggestion for the Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation? Let us know!
Call 563-534-9957, email info@iowadairycenter.com or talk to a member of the executive board. Thanks!

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 400
Calmar, IA 52132

Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation



DAIRY CENTER Connection

News from the Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation



Midwest Dairy Day Focuses on Genomics

Midwest Dairy Day provides a one day learning opportunity for producers and industry to network and engage in a current topic. With support from the dairy industry and business community, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Northeast Iowa Community College, and the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, this program has continued to provide valuable information.

This year's topic focused on utilizing genomics and putting the technology to work in dairy herds. Over 65 people attended the event on December 4. Dan Weigel, Director of Outcomes Research with Zoetis shared his knowledge of genomics from calf to cow. Using current data from the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation dairy farm, Dan was able to explain how genomics works and how to interpret the data. Carla Stetzer, Regional Program Specialist with Accelerated Genetics, discussed with the audience how genomics can work in various herd situations, the process for starting to use genomics, and costs associated with the program.

The program was enhanced by a panel of five successful dairy producers who shared their experiences of how they use genomics. The panelists were: Brady Goetz, Strief Dairy; Dennis Mashek, Hilltop Acres; Sheri Regan Danhof, Regancrest; Dan Weigel, Weigeline Holsteins; and Jon Huseth, Clay View Dairy.

Improvement of dairy herd genetics can affect herd health, longevity, reproductive traits and many other vital aspects of dairy cattle production. It can also lead to increased milk production, milk qual-

ity and overall animal performance. Over the past few years, the integration of genomic information into statistical tools used to make selection decisions has enabled gains in predicting accuracy of breeding values for young animals. The possibility to select animals at an early stage allows new breeding strategies to be defined and aimed at boosting genetic progress while reducing costs.

Attendees gained a better understanding of the technology, how to evaluate and apply the technology to their farm, and learned more ways to look at the genomic information.



Carla Stetzer discussing increased reliability when utilizing genomics.

Senator Grassley Q&A

January 7, 2016, 1:45 – 2:30pm

Iowa's Dairy Center, Calmar, IA

Save the Date:

Dairy Foundation annual meeting, March 17, 2016

A Word from the President - Phil Hemesath

As we approach the end of 2015 with Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas approaching, we are reminded of how much we have and really need to be grateful for. Focusing on the negative around the world would be easy, but I prefer to look at the positive things in our lives. So I will wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in hopes that 2016 will be even better than 2015.

The Dairy Center continues to be a source of pride for me and the Foundation board. Our visitors and guests are shown a well-run, clean facility with top notch production. I think the future looks bright for the Center because of excellent leadership from Foundation staff, the board and NICC. Dr. Wee has appointed a committee whose task is to review and coordinate physical changes (e.g. expansion, improvements, etc.) to the Dairy Center site. This is important so future changes will mesh well with the goals of the Foundation and the College.

Speaking of goals and changes, the board and NICC still have remodeling and improvements on our to-do list. A larger calf barn is at the top of the list, but that project needs more study before it becomes a reality. Tight finances and proper location are primary issues to be dealt with. Dr. Wee's committee with input from our Foundation members will be an essential part of these decisions.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for March of 2016. We are looking for candidates to serve on the board from throughout the northeast



Iowa area. If you or someone you know are interested, would you please contact a board member or contact Megan Kregel about running for a place on our board of directors. It is a vibrant, active board and I am sure we have producers who would enjoy being part of the experience.

In closing, I will again wish everyone a Merry Christmas as well as a safe and prosperous New Year.

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

Join the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation and contribute to the future of the dairy industry!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

County _____

Mail to: Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, Attn: Coordinator
P.O. Box 400, Calmar, IA 52132

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.



Agriculture Winter/Spring Courses 2016

Artificial Insemination - Bovine

This is a 3-day, intensive hands-on class for those who wish to AI their own cattle or gain experience to work for others. The class will cover all aspects of bovine reproduction, from anatomy and hormones to heat detection. Support materials such as a "Breeding Betsy" and an endoscope will be available for practice before going to the barn. Students have actual insemination practice on cattle at Iowa's Dairy Center. Seating is limited and preregistration is required.

Date: Tu,W,Th Jan 5-7, 2016 **Time:** 9am-3pm **Location:** Calmar/IA Dairy Ctr Room 111
Instructor: Accelerated Genetics **Fee:** \$149 **Class #:** 42086

What's All the Mooing About? Robotic Milking 101

Dairy producers using this cutting edge technology are spreading the word about the benefits of robotic milking. Join this workshop, held at Iowa's Robotic Dairy Center in Calmar, Iowa where you will hear and see for yourself how robotics is revolutionizing dairy operations. Representatives of Lely North America, will address and demonstrate many aspects of robotic milking, including history of the technology, barn design, financing options and general data information.

Date: Tues, March 8, 2016 **Time:** 10am-2:30pm **Location:** Calmar/IA Dairy Ctr Robotic Room R100
Instructor: Lely North America **Fee:** \$39 **Class #:** 47432

Learn More.

800.728.2256, ext. 399

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Annie's Project Continues Helping Iowa Women

The Moeller family recently expanded their dairy farm operation by 100 cows. As if 800 cows on their dairy farm wouldn't keep them busy enough, they also farm 3,000 acres and finish 2,500 hogs in five barns. It's no wonder it's a challenge to keep everything straight. Gayleen manages to do just that and is an accountant by trade "I'm in charge of the human resources and do all the paperwork," says Gayleen. Her husband, Kevin, oversees the cropping program and the general health of the animals.

Gayleen and Kevin have four grown kids and four grandkids. Tye is the oldest (28) and farms with them. Their daughter, Nessa (26), is an Iowa State University (ISU) graduate from the College of Veterinary Medicine and now is a practicing vet for dairy cows in Wisconsin. Tara (23) graduated from ISU in Agricultural Biochemistry and is currently going to graduate school in ISU's Department of Agronomy specializing in plant breeding. Arley (20) is the youngest and graduated from the Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) John Deere TECH program, and has decided he wants to farm with the family. With both boys interested in farming alongside them on the family farm, it was important to Gayleen to take Annie's Project since she knew she'd be dealing with succession planning. Originally, Gayleen took Annie's Project in February and March of 2012 in Calmar, Iowa.

Gayleen says taking Annie's Project helped them "get the conversation started with our children" regarding the future of the farm. They are in the process of updating their wills and held their first family meeting. "That was hard," says Gayleen. At

the meeting she handed out a spreadsheet and had family members write about where they saw themselves in five years.

More recently, Gayleen took the new Heartbeat of the Farm: Human Resource Management class ISU Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) held in Calmar in March 2015. The new course was developed by a team at ISUEO was led by Madeline Schultz, ISUEO Women in Ag Program Manager, and is now a four-session course designed to give women strategies for effectively managing family and employees. "Our farm was getting larger and the safety issues were changing. I wanted resources and awareness of legal issues around that," says Gayleen. Taking the Human Resource Management course translated into action steps for her and more awareness of the safety issues involved with their operation, she was able to get some things in writing. "I really needed to get operating instructions written up and in Spanish so some of our Latino workers could use them," says Gayleen.

In addition to written protocols to address safety issues on their farm, they put up signs and conducted additional training for employees to ensure they could keep themselves and the animals safe. They also updated their I-9 forms so they would be ready in case they were ever part of an I-9 audit. An Employee Handbook is this winter's project says Gayleen.

After the Heartbeat of the Farm: Human Resource Management course, Gayleen also conducted job performance



reviews with their employees for the first time. "They went really well," says Gayleen, "I think they really appreciated being heard." Gayleen appreciated the tips she learned on how to conduct interviews and write up job descriptions from the class, too. Heartbeat of the Farm also helped them understand the importance of OSHA and INS compliance. Gayleen knows having operating instructions written out helps ensure all their employees are getting the same level of training and are in a safe, productive environment.

What makes the Moeller farm so successful? "We work really hard," says Gayleen. "The bank see's we're hard working and sees continuity for succession planning and we care about our animals and the crops." It is clear this couple that met in high school through FFA has created a successful, well run business they will be able to hand on to the next generation. Annie's Project played a significant hand in that.



Risk Management Education for Farm and Ranch Women

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

2016 DAIRY DAYS



LOCATIONS

Waverly

Monday, January 18 | 9:30 a.m.
Civic Center, 200 1st Street NE

Calmar

Tuesday, January 19 | 9:30 a.m.
Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation,
Hwy 150 South

Riceville

Wednesday, January 20 | 9:30 a.m.
Windy Tree Café, 101 E. Main St

Bloomfield

Monday, Feb 1 | 9:30 a.m.
ISU Extension and Outreach Davis
County Office, 402 E. North St.

Kalona

Tuesday, Feb 2 | 9:30 a.m.
Chamber of Commerce, 514 B. Ave.

Holy Cross

Wednesday, Feb 3 | 9:30 a.m.
Neumann's Bar & Grill, 927 Main St.

Ryan

Thursday, Feb 4 | 9:30 a.m.
River Valley Coop, 605 Franklin St.

TOPICS

Maximize Economic Returns to Fertilizer Expenses
Brian Lang and/or local agronomist

Putting Forages to Work in Your Transition Cow Program
Dr. Hugo Ramirez, assistant professor of animal science

Benchmarks for Transition Cows / Producer Survey
Jenn Bentley, dairy specialist

LUNCH

Precision Technology: Update from ISU Dairy
Dr. Leo Timms, Morrill professor and dairy specialist

Is Organic Dairying a Viable Option?
Larry Tranel, dairy specialist

Advances in Reproduction Programs
Dr. Ryan Breuer, DVM dairy specialist

A \$15 registration fee covers the noon meal and proceedings costs. Pre-registration is requested by the Friday before each event to reserve a meal. For more information contact your ISU Extension and Outreach county office:

The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the Agriculture and Natural Resources County Extension Program.

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

Coordinator Message - Megan Kregel

It has become my tradition in the December newsletter to reflect on the year that has passed and look toward the future. When I was little I would hear adults talking about another year 'flying' by, well, I get it now. I'm really not sure where the last year has gone, but it came and went very quickly.

World and National events this year have definitely made me take stock of my own future.

I listen to the news every morning and it has been consumed with stories highlighting violence, hate, and disrespect of authority. Turn on your radio, television, or computer and you'll hear about Paris, San Bernardino, or police actions brought into question similar to the classroom incident in South Carolina. What is my point of bringing this up? Someday I will be a parent and I'm sure it will be everything everyone tells me: exhausting, messy, frustrating, but extremely rewarding and the happiest time of my life. The world I will raise my future children in worries me. A world where we question the motives of police officers who vow to protect us and put themselves in harm's way, a world where we don't expect teenagers to know the difference of right from wrong, a world where if our child isn't performing well in the classroom we blame the teacher instead of working more with our child.

In the face of all of this, I'm certain of one thing: my future children will be raised with the values that were instilled in me by my parents, among these are hard work, dedication, respect, and morality. I believe it to my very core that farm work is the best type of work, and best environment to raise a family. It provides an appreciation for the land

and livestock that is unparalleled. "But in today's America, for whatever reason, we seem to want to fight. Instead of food being a unifying opportunity, a place where we can create consensus and bring people together, there are some that want to divide us over this issue," states Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

I consider myself an AGvocate, meaning I will do everything I can to support agriculture and to educate others. You've all undoubtedly heard about Subway's transition to serving only protein from animals that have never received antibiotics across all of its 27,000+ U.S. restaurants in early 2016, with a full transition by 2025. When Subway announced it would be going "antibiotic-free," the agricultural industry was quick to respond. Although the chain hasn't changed its tune, it has issued a statement about the benefits of antibiotics to treat sick animals. We of course know that all meat (and milk) is antibiotic free, as regulated by the FDA, otherwise it wouldn't enter the food chain.

I am disappointed in these activist-driven agendas; however, movements like this demonstrate how crucial it is for every producer to stand up for what you do and educate the public about how we produce food, along with the uses and benefits of antibiotics. It is sometimes necessary to treat animals that become ill, no different than giving medicine to a sick child. Consumers: please ask a farmer, we are the experts in our fields. Farmers: welcome consumers to your farms, seeing is believing and you do great work!

The holidays are a great time because they're centered around food and family. In the United States,



we spend about 10 percent of our income for food. Anywhere else in the world, people spend 20 to 25 percent, or maybe as high as 50 percent, of their paycheck for food. Food safety isn't an issue here; we have the most readily available food in the world. Too many times we take that for granted.

It has been a rollercoaster year for agriculture. We saw sky-high prices for bull calves while milk continues to decline into at least the first quarter of 2016. Managers are faced with making adjustments to salvage cash flow without hurting the long-term performance of their cows. There are also many issues still to be dealt with on Capitol Hill that will impact dairy producers into the new year, and beyond.

As you gather with your family this holiday there is a lot to be thankful for. Animal agriculture continues to be a driving force in our state's economy and I want to thank each of you for your efforts to support and protect our state's animals and farmers. Challenges certainly continue to face livestock farmers, but your hard work helps make sure Iowa remains a great place to raise livestock and kids.

Have a Merry-DAIRY
Holiday Season!

Iowa State Dairy Association Update

New Employee

Mitch Schulte is the new Industry Relations Manager for Midwest Dairy Association and Associate Director for ISDA. Mitch is a graduate of Iowa State University where he earned his degree in dairy science. Mitch comes from Pioneer where he was a production tech, prior to that he worked as a federal food inspector for the USDA. Mitch grew up on his family's dairy farm, Schulte Bros, and still remains active. Schulte Bros focuses on cow families and show type, so Mitch is very involved in showing their Jerseys at several shows including World Dairy Expo.

Mitch will be working from his home in Van Horne and may be reached at mschulte@midwestdairy.com or mitchschulte@iowadairy.org or 319-775-3451.

ISDA Annual Meeting

The 2016 ISDA annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 8, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Prairie Links Golf & Event Center, 19 Eagle Ridge Drive in Waverly, Iowa. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

This year Gary Sipiorski, Dairy Development Manager with Vita Plus and Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey will be the guest speakers. After the presentations, lunch will be provided and the business session will begin with officer reports and activity updates. Changes to ISDA policy will be discussed and voted on by the 2016 ISDA voting delegates. Current ISDA policy can be viewed on the ISDA website at www.iowadairy.org.

There is no cost for to attend the ISDA annual meeting, but please RSVP by January 4, 2016 by calling (515) 965-4626 or email sueannc@iowadairy.org.

2016 Iowa Legislative Session

The Iowa State Dairy Association recently voted to hire Jill Altringer, a contract lobbyist for the upcoming legislative session which starts on January 11.

At the Capitol, Jill will monitor & review legislative bills informing ISDA of upcoming meetings and activities, facilitate introductions and appointments to maximize dairy farmer's time, and give monthly written reports for members. In addition to her Capitol work, Jill will work with the board to develop strategies on achieving the goals of ISDA, develop a plan for member interaction with elected leaders, arrange farmer visits to the Capitol, and assist with an annual dairy tour for elected officials. Sue Ann Claudon will work directly with Jill to represent dairy farmers and members.

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.

December 24-January 3 – Campus Closed

January 5 – Cow/Calf Forum, Iowa Cattlemen's

January 5-7 – AI Certification

January 8 – ISDA Annual Meeting, Waverly

January 11 – Spring Term Begins

January 19 – ISU Dairy Days

January 22 - Operations/Executive Meetings

January 28 – Pesticide Applicator Training

February 23-25 – Lely FMS L2 Training

February 26 - Operations/Executive Meetings

March 4 – Ag/Animal Science Visit Day

March 7-11 – Spring Break

March 8 – Robotic Milking 101, Robot Conf. Room

March 23 – Zoetis Veterinarian Conference

March 24 – All College Day, Campus Closed

March 25-28 – Campus Closed

Workshops to Maximize Economic Returns to Fertilizer Expense

ISU Extension is conducting small-group workshops for those wanting to understand soil tests and fertilizer recommendations. Even if you already have soil testing and recommendations hired out to an agri-business, you can still gain a very good understanding of how to manage one of the top three dollar per acre expenses on your farm. The program is free but seating is limited, so please RSVP to the County Extension office location listed below that you wish to attend. For more details about the program content, contact Brian Lang at 563-387-7058 or bjlang@iastate.edu

Dec. 18, 10:00 am to Noon, Dubuque Co.

Dec. 21, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Clayton Co.

Dec. 22, 10:00 am to Noon, Delaware Co.

Dec. 28, 10:00 am to Noon, Allamakee Co

Dec. 29, 10:00 am to Noon, Winneshiek Co.

Dec. 30, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Chickasaw Co.

Jan. 4, 10:00 am to Noon, Howard Co.

Jan. 5, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Fayette Co.