

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!

Thank you to the following supporters of the bus trip to World Dairy Expo:

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*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
P.O. Box 400
Calmar, IA 52132
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DAIRY CENTER Connection

News from the Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation



NICC Dairy Judging Team Tops Contests



Pictured at the World Dairy Expo awards ceremony are, left to right: Megan Kregel, Iowa's Dairy Center coordinator and coach, Carley Vinkemeier, Aaron Houdek, Ellis Frank, Chelsey Jensen, and Dave Lawstuen, NICC agriculture faculty.

The Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Dairy Judging Team won the International Post-Secondary Dairy Judging Contest and the Practical Contest at World Dairy Expo held Oct. 2 – 3 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wis.

The four NICC Dairy Science students on the winning team earned All-American honors and placed in the top three teams in every breed. Team members are: Carley Vinkemeier, of Norwood, Minn.; Aaron Houdek, of Caledonia, Minn.; Ellis Frank, of New Richmond, Wis.; and Chelsey Jensen, of Amery, Wis. The team was coached by Megan Kregel, Iowa's Dairy Center coordinator.

This event was divided into a Practical Contest and a

Traditional Judging Contest with separate awards presented for each. The practical portion was a team event – with the exception of linear evaluation – that included evaluation of a commercial heifer class, registered heifer class and sire mating scenario. The traditional contest included judging 12 classes and delivering four sets of oral reasons.

As national champions, the team has the opportunity to travel abroad for the International contest in Scotland. The trip, scheduled for June 17-July 4, 2017, also includes tours of European dairy farms. If you are interested in making a donation to the team in support of this once in a lifetime experience, please contact Megan Kregel at kregelm@nicc.edu.

A Word from the President - Todd Hendrickson

What a year 2016 has proven to be! Mother Nature provided us with many surprises along the way, including the record late season rainfall we have seen and tremendous yields on corn and soybeans. Some producers have also taken advantage of the extended growing season by taking a fifth cutting of hay. We are all fortunate to have ample supplies of feed on hand.

The milk price reflected the increased production with decreased prices. The summer months were especially difficult; the term living milk check to milk check was a tough reality. With low commodity prices across the board, it can be challenging to plan for the future. The 2017 milk price is forecasted to improve – we hope it proves to be true.

The Dairy Center is also experiencing difficulty looking into options that could cut costs and keep production. Sometimes there simply isn't much excess to trim from. We continue to strive to be efficient. One avenue we are looking at is trying to improve forage quality for a greater return on investment per acre of land.

The robotic milking is continuing to attract visitors. Tourism is at record levels including tourists from India and Russia.

Although the milk prices have been sluggish, there are many other positive things occurring at the Dairy Center each day. Congratulations to the Dairy Judging Team and coaches for accomplishing top honors at World Dairy Expo. As most of you know, it takes hard work and dedication to achieve such an honor.

On behalf of the Dairy Center, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May we all take time to celebrate with family and friends.



Start to Farm Series for New and Early Career Dairy Farmers Continues

Start to Farm: New Farmer Learning Networks are for beginning and early-career farmers looking for an edge in managing and growing their farm business. The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team will continue their dairy beginning farmer series to improve business practices and production techniques, tour successful farm operations, and to form a community to share new ideas and profitable farming methods.

Registration for the program is requested, but there is no participation fee. Start to Farm will be facilitated across the state and can attend all or some sessions. Dates in January include:

- Jan. 12 – The People Side of Dairy; ISUEO Farm Management Specialist, Melissa O'Rourke will provide communication strategies in working with family and non-family employees.

- Jan. 26 – Raising Calves & Heifers; ISUEO Dairy Field Specialist, Jennifer Bentley will provide guidelines and recommendations for raising both calves and heifers to maximize production in the milking herd.

Start to Farm is offered in four locations with the same topics presented at each site. Programs will start at noon and conclude by 2 p.m.

Dubuque County ISU Extension and Outreach Office
14858 West Ridge Lane, Dubuque
RSVP: tranel@iastate.edu, 563-583-6496

Iowa State University Campus
305 Kildee Hall, Ames
RSVP: hramirez@iastate.edu, 515-294-5517

Iowa's Dairy Center-Robotic Meeting Room
1527 Hwy 150, Calmar
RSVP: jbentley@iastate.edu, 563-382-2949

Dordt College-Campus Center Boardroom
498 4th Avenue NE, Sioux Center
RSVP: doranb@iastate.edu, 712-737-4230

For more information, contact your local ISU Extension and Outreach county office or ISU Extension and Outreach dairy specialists, Jennifer Bentley at 563-382-2949 or Larry Tranel at 563-583-6496.

Beginning Farmer Regional Workshops

The Iowa Agricultural Development Division is hosting a series of free Beginning Farmer Workshops throughout the state. The workshops are open to anyone interested in learning more about beginning farmer programs in Iowa.

Each workshop will include an overview of USDA-Farm Service Agency and Iowa Finance Authority Beginning Farmer Programs, as well as a lender panel with best practices in preparing loan applications, cash flows, financial statements and more!

Feb. 14: Northeast Iowa Community College, Calmar
Feb. 16: Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo
Feb. 22: Iowa Lakes Community College, Emmetsburg
Feb. 23: Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge
Feb. 28: North Iowa Area Community College, Mason City
March 2: Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny
March 7: Southwestern Community College, Creston
March 9: Indian Hills Community College, Centerville
April 4: Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids
June 6: Muscatine Community College, Wilton



IOWA AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

For questions, please contact Elizabeth Krugler at Elizabeth.Krugler@iowa.gov or 515.725.4935.

Workshop Agenda

8:30-9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00-9:30 a.m.	USDA-Farm Service Agency Beginning Farmer Programs
9:30-10:15 a.m.	Iowa Finance Authority Beginning Farmer Programs
10:15-10:45 a.m.	Community Bankers of IA ag lender's panel discussion
	•Working with and enhancing relationship with an ag lender
	•Preparing financial statements, cash flows and loan applications
	•Dos and Don'ts to improve your credit scores, etc.
10:45-11:00 a.m.	Follow up and adjourn

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 _____

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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.

Dairy Science Student news



DAIRY SCIENCE CLUB SALE • April 1, 2017

NORTHEAST IOWA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Save the date! The Dairy Club's annual sale will be April 1, 2017 at the Fairgrounds in West Union, Iowa. Feel free to contact one of the selection committee members if you're interested in consigning:
Ellis Frank 715-410-4491 Aaron Houdek 507- 450- 5669 Nick Bagge 563-513-9447

NICC Competes at NAILE

Congratulations to the Northeast Iowa Community College first year dairy judging team on placing fourth overall at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. Team members were Bridget Saxton of Lake Mills, IA; Thomas Lehmann of Bankston, IA; Nick Bagge of Worthington, IA; and Graham Ormiston of Bedford, IN.

Additional results:

5th team Brown Swiss

Top Individual Guernseys, Bridget Saxton

4th team Guernseys

5th team Holsteins

4th team Jerseys

7th team Reasons

10th individual overall, Nick Bagge

11th individual overall, Bridget Saxton



Left to Right: Bridget Saxton, Thomas Lehmann, Nick Bagge, Graham Ormiston, and Megan Kregel (coach)

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

2017 DAIRY DAYS

9:30 a.m. - Registration
10:00 a.m. - Program Begins
3:00 p.m. - Adjourn

Waverly

Monday, January 16
Civic Center, 200 1st St. NE

Calmar

Tuesday, January 17
Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation,
Hwy 150 South

Riceville

Thursday, January 19
Windy Tree Café, 101 E. Main St.

Bloomfield

Monday, January 30
ISU Extension and Outreach Davis
County Office, 402 E. North St.

Kalona

Tuesday, January 31
Chamber of Commerce, 514 B. Ave.

Holy Cross

Wednesday, February 1
Neumann's Bar & Grill, 927 Main St.

Ryan

Thursday, February 2
River Valley Coop, 605 Franklin St.

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.



TOPICS

Colostrum Quality: How Does Yours Measure Up?
Jenn Bentley, dairy specialist

Millionaire Model Dairies: Show Me the Money!
Larry Tranel, dairy specialist

Woodland and Wildlife Mgt/Opportunities on your Dairy?
Jesse Randall/Adam Janke, forestry/wildlife specialist

LUNCH

Keys to Successful Farm Transition
Melissa O'Rourke, farm management specialist

Silage, Snaplage and Shredlage: Know your Forages
Dr. Hugo Ramirez, assistant professor and dairy specialist

Balancing SCC and Milk Quality Decisions
Dr. Leo Timms, professor and 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:



WHO WE ARE...

Revolution Plastics collects ag and silage plastic from farms and dairies and recycles the material at its United States-based recycling facilities.

Our mission is to provide high-value, sustainable solutions to our customers through innovative closed-loop recycling systems that preserve our environment for future generations.



Email: collections@revolutionplastics.com
Phone: (844) 490-7873

Exclusions apply. Not all farms and/or dairies that sign up will qualify for a dumpster.

Free, On-Farm Ag and Silage Plastic Recycling Program

OUR SERVICE

Depending on your location and plastic use, Revolution Plastics will spot and empty a dumpster on your farm or dairy at no cost to you. The program is limited to the collection of the approved plastics below:

- **SILAGE PLASTICS**
Used bale wrap, ag/grain bags, most bunker covers and oxygen barrier film
- **AG PLASTICS**
Used irrigation tape and tubing, greenhouse, hoophouse, fumigation and other cover films

SIGN UP TODAY AT
www.RevolutionPlastics.com

Artificial Insemination Training

This is a three-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 for live insemination practice.

Please bring clean farm work clothes and boots each day. Seating is limited and preregistration is required.

Date: Tu,W,Th May 9-11, 2017

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: Calmar, Iowa/Iowa's Dairy Ctr Room 115

Instructor: Accelerated Genetics

Fee: \$149

To Register: Call the Northeast Iowa Community College Calmar Campus 563.562.3263, ext. 399 or register online www.nicc.edu/solutions



Dairy Foundation Annual Meeting, March 16, 2017

Speakers include:

Managing Employer and Employee Expectations on the Dairy Farm

Among the top challenges facing dairy producers is the difficulty of hiring and retaining qualified employees. An additional challenge is the increasing cost of labor – a dairy farm's second greatest expense (behind feed expense) – which continues to rise. Melissa O'Rourke will discuss considerations for hiring and getting new employees off to a good start with a goal to better employee motivation and retention.

Bridging the Gap between Farmers and Consumers

Michelle Miller, the Farm Babe, will share her thoughts on how to better communicate the story of agriculture with the general public. Michelle was once a big city girl who moved to rural Iowa for love. Once there, she learned that her original thoughts of modern agriculture were very inaccurate and now enjoys debunking agricultural myths. She is a facebook sensation with over 40,000 followers.

Upcoming Events for Iowa's Dairy Center

Call 563-534-9957 if you are interested in learning more about any of these programs/events.

January 4 – ISDA annual meeting, Cedar Falls

January 7 – New 4H Volunteer Training

January 9 – Spring Term Begins

January 12 - Start to Farm Series, noon-2pm

January 17 – Dairy Days

January 20 – Ag in the Classroom Training

January 26 - Start to Farm Series, noon-2pm

January 27 – Operations/Exec Meeting

February 9 – PAT Certification

February 11-12 – State PAS

February 14 – Beginning Farm Workshop

February 16 - Start to Farm Series, noon-2pm

February 24 - Operations/Exec Meeting

March 3 – Ag/Animal Science visit day

March 2 – Dairy Iowa Meeting

March 6-10 – Spring break

March 13-16 – National PAS

March 16 - Dairy Foundation Annual Meeting

March 18 – State Holstein Sale, West Union

March 28-30 – Central Plains Dairy Expo

April 1 – NICC Dairy Club Sale, West Union

April 9-11 – Iowa FFA Convention

April 13-14 – Campus Closed

April 19 – Zoetis Veterinarian Conference

April 28 - Operations/Exec Meeting

May 9-11 – AI Certification

May 26 - Operations/Exec Meeting

May 29 – Campus Closed

June 17 – Breakfast on the Farm

June 23 - Operations/Full BOD Meeting

June 21-July 4 – Dairy Judging Team trip to Europe

July 4 – Campus Closed