

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.

Mission:
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.

Thank you for your generosity & memberships!

Thank you to the individuals who have become members and/or made contributions:

Barbara Ashbury
Wade Brunsmann
Stan Henderson

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 Mariah at (563)534-9957 ext. 107 or schmittma@nicc.edu.

Let's Get Social!
Follow along with us on social media



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

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!

East Central Iowa Cooperative
P.O. Box 300
Hudson, IA 50643

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



Dairy Foundation and ISU Extension Host Minnesota Dairy Tour

The Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach hosted a two-day dairy tour to Minnesota dairies. This marks the second year of the collaborative trip. The dairy tour traveled the following Minnesota farms:

- Sheeknoll Farms: Registered Holstein dairy that exhibited the Grand Champion Holstein and Reserve Supreme Champion Sheeknoll Durham Arrow "Thomas" at the 2016 World Dairy Expo.
- New Sweden Dairy: Milking and special needs facility that is the home to the Dairy Education Center in affiliation with the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Bonnie Mohr Studio and Glenmark Genetics: Bonnie Mohr is a dairy artist that has opened her studio on the family's farm. The farm consists of 70 registered cows and actively markets breeding bulls, embryos, bred heifers and milking cows.
- Riverview, LLP: Diversified agribusiness that includes large-scale dairy farms and calf ranches. Tour stop included visiting Meadow Star Dairy, an 8,500 cow dairy milking in a 106-stall rotary parlor.
- Redhead Creamery and Jer-Lindy Farms: A family-owned dairy and creamery that does on-farm processing of artisan style cheese. Jer-Lindy Farms milks 200 registered Holsteins choosing high-quality genetics that ensure high milk components for cheese yield.

The group of 35 dairy producers, students and industry members enjoyed the trip and the diversity of the farm stops. Thank you to DeLaval, Calf-Star, Iowa State Dairy Association, Riverview, LLP and STgenetics for sponsoring the tour!



The group posed for a picture in the barn at Riverview, LLP's Meadow Star Dairy

A Word from the President: Tim Huhe

What a fall it has been! Even with things being late this year, I hope everyone had a safe, stress-free harvest. Now that harvest is over, winter is a great time to take in the opportunity to get educated. With milk prices being near breakeven, now's the time to attend meetings and seminars to pick up some information you can apply on your farm. There are several opportunities to further your knowledge that are free or low-cost including Midwest Dairy Day which is focusing on reproduction and Dairy Days hosted by ISU Extension and Outreach covering a variety of topics from forages to transition cows.

I attended the Fall Dairy Tour that the Foundation hosted and that was an excellent learning opportunity. The trip brought together producers of all ages from farms of all sizes. It was great to take the time to visit other farms and talk with other producers. It's so important to get out and see what other people are doing on their farms and in return improves your attitude and morale. Additionally, I rode the bus over to World Dairy Expo. It was great to hear and talk with people on the bus. I believe people learned just as much from conversing with others on the bus as they did at World Dairy Expo.

Switching gears to things happening at the Dairy Center, we've recently hired two excellent employees to join the team of Jon and Jennifer. The combination Margaret's talent and Gary's wisdom and experience are a great addition to the team. Additionally, we are starting some new ventures with companies and are excited to move forward to carry on the Foundation's mission. On behalf of the Dairy Center, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



NICC Dairy Judging Places 5th at NAILE

The NICC Dairy Judging team consisting of first-year students earned fifth place honors at the North American International Livestock Exposition held in early November in Louisville, KY. Team members consisted of Hayley Jackson of Frankfort, IN; Derek Utecht of Woodville, WI; and Ryan Kenyon of Whittemore and were coached by Mariah Schmitt. Additionally, Jackson earned fifth place individual overall and placed eight in reasons while Utecht was named the high individual of the Guernsey breed. Congratulations!



Hayley Jackson, Ryan Kenyon, Derek Utecht and Coach Mariah Schmitt

Waukon FFA Tops Tri-State Ag and Dairy Expo Dairy Judging Contest

Nearly 350 FFA members from 25 Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin high schools participated in the annual Tri-State Ag and Dairy Expo held on Thursday, September 14 at Iowa's Dairy Center in Calmar. The expo featured dairy judging and dairy products contests, including the Northeast District FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event.

The Little Switzerland FFA Chapter from Waukon was named the champion dairy judging team with reasons. Team members are Kaylee Gibbs, Grace Howe, Cayla Nolting and Faith Palmer. Nolting was also the high-scoring individual of the contest.

This year, Tri-State Ag and Dairy Expo presented a new award in memory of Dennis Rud, a former FFA instructor and longtime employee of Nelson Dairy Consultants. The award is given to an individual who has had a significant role in the success of Tri-State Ag and Dairy Expo. The recipient of the first annual award was Craig Morrison, who was recognized for his dedication to the expo.

The Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Dairy Science Club and agriculture students helped with the preparation of cattle, contests and seminars. In addition to a competition for students, the dairy expo offered seminars on agricultural topics, which included linear scoring, robotic technology and feeding Holstein steers. The seminars were presented by Denise Schwab and Larry Tranel with Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach and Nate Gebel and Dave Lawstuen of NICC.

Tri-State Ag and Dairy Expo would not be possible without support from local businesses and organizations; especially Nelson Dairy Consultants for donating of all the plaques and ribbons for top scorers of the contests.

Pictured is the winning team from Little Switzerland FFA with sponsors from Nelson Dairy Consultants.



Become a Member of the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation

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.

Dairy Science Student News

NICC Dairy Judging Wins Practical Contest at World Dairy Expo

The NICC Dairy Judging Team won the International Post-Secondary Practical Contest at World Dairy Expo held Oct. 2 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI.

Team members included Nick Bagge, of Worthington; Thomas Lehmann, of Durango; Rachel Selke, of Winona, MN; and Graham Ormiston, of Heltonville, IN. Bagge also captured 4th high individual honors in the Traditional Contest, which earned him All-American honors. Overall, eight post-secondary teams competed in the Practical Contest, and 13 teams tested their skills and knowledge in the Traditional Contest.

“Our students really excelled in the corrective mating,” said Mariah Schmitt, Iowa’s Dairy Center coordinator and team coach who accompanied the students to the Expo. “The corrective mating consisted of looking at a heifer and her pedigree and then choosing from a list of five provided sires to mate her. They answered questions and provided reasons to the judges to justify their choice. It was the last part of the contest and they came out doing ‘heel clicks’ when they were done. I knew it went well! The students also excelled in the linear scoring, placing second as a team and three NICC Dairy Students scored in the top 10,” Schmitt noted. Congratulations to the team!



Coach Mariah Schmitt, Thomas Lehmann, Rachel Selke, Nick Bagge and Graham Ormiston pictured with sponsors at World Dairy Expo.

NICC Dairy Science Club Seeking Consignments for Spring Sale

The annual NICC Dairy Science Club dairy sale will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in West Union. If you are interested in consigning, please contact a committee member: Nick Bagge (563) 513-9447, Jacob Hornberg (507) 961-3988, Derek Utecht (715) 531-3161, Hayley Jackson (765) 242-2491.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

2018 DAIRY DAYS

9:30 a.m. - Registration
10:00 a.m. - Program Begins
2:30 p.m. - Adjourn

Riceville

Monday, January 15
Windy Tree Café, 101 E. Main St

Waukon

Tuesday, January 16
Farmers & Merchants State Bank
201 W. Main St

Waverly

Wednesday, January 17
Civic Center, 200 1st St NE

Bloomfield

Monday, January 29
ISU Extension and Outreach
Davis County Office, 402 E. North St

Kalona

Tuesday, January 30
Chamber of Commerce, 514 B Ave

Ryan

Thursday, January 31
River Valley Coop, 605 Franklin St

Holy Cross

Thursday, February 1
Neumann's Bar & Grill, 927 Main 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

Double Cropping Small Grain & Sorghum Forages on Your Dairy

Brian Lang, crop specialist
Rebecca Vittetoe, field agronomist

Alternative Forages for Dairy Cows - What else is there besides corn silage and alfalfa?

Dr. Hugo Ramirez, assistant professor and dairy specialist

Transition Cow Success - Managing Pain & Weight

Dr. Leo Timms, professor and dairy specialist

Dairy System Profit Performance Comparison in 2016

Larry Tranel, dairy specialist

LUNCH

It's More Than Just Checking the Markets - Powering Up Your Smartphone for Better Farm Management

Fred Hall, dairy specialist

Research Update - Speed Round

Jenn Bentley, dairy specialist

Common Feed Additives for Dairy Cows - What are they and what do they do?

Dr. Hugo Ramirez, assistant 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.

New Faces at the Foundation

Iowa's Dairy Center is pleased to welcome new staff to the team.

Margaret Quaassdorff and Gary Lien joined the current team of Jon Meyer and Jennifer Huhe. In addition to their general duties on the farm, Quaassdorff will specialize in nutrition and transition cows while Lien will focus on maintenance. Meyer continues to focus on feeding and Huhe concentrates on the robots and calves.

Quaassdorff began her duties in mid-September and brings experience from Vita Plus where she was a dairy nutrition specialist and consultant. She earned her master's degree in dairy science from UW-Madison and bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Vermont. Some of the highlights from her dairy career include interning at the Miner Agricultural Research Institute, serving as the chairperson of the grilled cheese stand at World Dairy Expo as well as spreading her passion for dairy as a mentor for the Midwest Dairy Challenge.

Lien joined the dairy team in early October after over 35 years of owning and managing Velkommen-Valley Farms with his wife, Patti, and four children, Kari, Aaron, Megan and Mikayla. He is also a graduate from Iowa State University earning his degree in dairy science. Previously, Gary has served as a member of the Winneshiek County Extension Council, Winneshiek County Dairy Promoters, was a Foremost Farms and Accelerated Genetics delegate.

The Foundation is very excited to welcome Quaassdorff and Lien.



Margaret Quaassdorff



Gary Lien



MIDWEST DAIRY DAY

Maximizing Production
with Improved Reproduction

Friday, Dec.

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Iowa's Dairy Center | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Register Today!

www.nicc.edu/solutions | 800.728.2256, ext. 399

Iowa's Dairy Center Strengthened Through Valuable Partnerships

Iowa's Dairy Center's mission is to promote education in the dairy industry for youth, students, producers and consumers. Recently, several organizations within our industry have partnered with the Dairy Center to assist in achieving this goal. DuPont Pioneer is providing support in the area of seed corn genetics and forage preservation. Additionally, Land O'Lakes and Purina Animal Nutrition are supporting the renovation of our calf raising facilities to implement an automated calf feeding system which is supported by our robotic partner, Lely International. Finally, Select Sires is supporting the programs at the Dairy Center by providing genetics for the dairy herd as well as reproductive training and internship opportunities for students. Thank you to these companies for their assistance in fulfilling our mission. Other parties interested in supporting the programming at Iowa's Dairy Center should contact us at (563) 534-9957 or info@iowadairycenter.com.

Facebook Live Event Reaches Over 20,000 People

Did you know that the average American is now at least three generations removed from the farm? To help show consumers what goes on in a barn, Dairy Foundation employees Mariah Schmitt and Jennifer Huhe took consumers on a virtual tour of the freestall barn to answer questions and discuss cow comfort. The video generated nearly 12,000 views and reached over 20,000 people. Check out the video on our Facebook page, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation.



Sign up for Artificial Insemination Training

Date: March 13-15, 2018

Time: 9 am - 3 pm

Cost: \$199

Instructor: Select Sires

Location: Iowa's Dairy Center, Calmar

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 pre-registration is required. To register, call (563) 562-3263, ext. 399 or register online at www.nicc.edu/solutions.



Upcoming Events for Iowa's Dairy Center

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

November 30 – Operations/Exec Meetings

December 1 – Midwest Dairy Day

December 15 – Operations/Board of Directors Meeting

December 22 - January 1 – Campus Closed

December 25 – Christmas Day

January 1 – New Year's Day

January 4, 11 & 18– ISU Extension Boots in the Barn

January 27 – Operations/Exec Meetings

February 2-3 – Iowa Farm Bureau Young Farmers Conf

February 24 – Operations/Exec Meetings

March 5-9 – Spring Break

March 24 – NICC Dairy Club Sale