

March 2019



The Dairy Center Connection

NEWS FROM THE NORTHEAST IOWA DAIRY FOUNDATION



Hi, there!

Just last week we celebrated National Ag Day. As I scrolled through my feed on social media, I saw many of my farming friends asking everyone to celebrate by thanking a farmer. While I agree that it's a wonderful day to recognize the hard work and dedication farmers have, it's also a day to celebrate everyone involved in agriculture. The reason I say that is because the relationships between farmers and consumers are symbiotic. The average farmer feeds 155 people, so farmers need consumers to have a market for their products while consumers depend on farmers to provide them with safe, healthy food. It's simple, we would not survive without each other. While farmers should be recognized for their hard work 365 days a year, consumers should also be thanked for choosing delicious products grown and produced by us. With all of the options in the grocery store, we need to be thanking them for supporting our livelihood. I challenge you to thank a consumer for trusting us as farmers to feed their families and fuel their bodies with our nutritious products. From farmers to consumers, let's make it a goal to celebrate National Ag Day every day.

Mariah Schmitt
Coordinator, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation



What's Happening at Iowa's Dairy Center

Tour Season in Full Swing

With the warm weather comes visitors. Iowa's Dairy Center has hosted several groups already this month including sixth graders from Waukon Middle School, boys from the Postville Jewish School, the Monday Club and other families. In just a couple short weeks the Iowa's Dairy Story Program will begin where we anticipate over 1,000 elementary students from area Northeast Iowa schools.

Make Plans to Attend Dairy Foundation Annual Meeting on Friday

Friday, March 22 | 9:30 a.m. | Iowa's Dairy Center

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| 9:30 am | Registration |
| 10 am | Going Genomics: Genomic Strategy at Iowa's Dairy Center
Dave Lawstuen, Chair, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation |
| 10:30 am | What's Happening at Iowa's Dairy Center: A Year in Review
Mariah Schmitt, Coordinator, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation |
| 11:15 am | Oh the Places You'll Go: NICC Dairy Science Alumni Panel
Kyle Mathison, Dairy Farmer
Kate Root, De Su Holstiens
Katie Wolf, Trans Ova Genetics |
| 12 pm | Lunch |
| 1 pm | Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members |
| 1:45 pm | Board of Directors Meeting and Election of Officers |

There is no cost to attend and a meal will be provided. Register by calling (563) 534-9957, ext. 107, or emailing schmittma@nicc.edu.

Seats Still Available on Bus to Central Plains Dairy Expo

March 26-28 | Sioux Falls, S.D.

Join the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Western Iowa Dairy Alliance for a three-day bus trip to Central Plains Dairy Expo in Sioux Falls, S.D. This trip offers dairy farmers, students and industry members an opportunity to visit the expo along with industry stops and dairies of varying size, management and technology. Tour stops include:

- **Trans Ova Genetics:** Providing industry-leading reproductive technologies and expertise, Trans Ova works closely with clients to understand breeding goals and help advance and extend superior genetics.
- **Stensland Family Farms Creamery:** A family-owned 200-cow dairy and creamery that produces freshly bottled milk, ice cream, aged cheese and cheese curds.
- **Central Plains Dairy Expo:** The biggest all dairy trade show between Madison and Tulare that includes a free welcome reception, concert and trade show with 300 exhibitors from all over the United States.
- **Gehl Manufacturing:** Located on 34 acres, the 260,000 square foot Madison site is a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility equipped with laser cutters and robotic welders.
- **Rock Bottom Dairy:** First generation dairy farmers purchased an older 100-cow dairy and expanded their farm to 1,800 Jersey cows.
- **Great Heritage Holsteins:** A 50-cow registered Holstein dairy that has bred over 100 Excellent cows and has exhibited cattle at the district, state and national level.

There's still room on the bus. If you're interested in attending, contact Mariah as soon as possible to reserve your seat. [Read more.](#)



NICC News

Dairy Science Students are National Champions at National PAS

NICC agriculture students participated in several contests at the National Professional Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) contests held last week in Loveland, Co. PAS is a student-led

organization that allows students to build and sharpen their skills so that they are ready for the workplace. Through competitive style learning and real-life application, students are prepared to work in all areas of the agriculture industry. The Dairy Science Team consisting of Amanda McNally, Rachel Fick and Rebecca Franksain named National Champions. [View photos.](#)

Dairy Science Club Sale Scheduled for April 6

The NICC Dairy Science Club will be hosting their annual sale on Saturday, Apr. 6 starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Howard County Fairgrounds in Cresco. The sale catalog will be available after March 25 at www.petesauctionandphoto.com and www.dairyagendatoday.com . For inquires about the sale, contact sale co-chair Jacob Hornberg at (507) 961-3988. Be sure to follow the [NICC Dairy Science Club](#) Facebook page for updates.

AgriSciene Awards Ceremony

April 9 | 12 p.m. | Wilder Business Center, NICC Calmar Campus

The NICC AgriScience Awards Ceremony will celebrate the accomplishments of the students as well as recognize alumni, friends and graduates. The event will be held in the Wilder Business Center starting with a luncheon hosted by the NICC Dairy Science Club at 12 p.m. followed by the ceremony at 1 p.m. Dawn Mausser, NICC alum and agriculture education instructor at Beckman High School, will be the keynote speaker. Please RSVP by calling (563) 534-9957 or emailing info@iowadairycenter.com.



Dairy Profile: Katie Wolf

NICC alum Katie Wolf was recently featured in the Women in Dairy section of Dairy Star. Katie works for Trans Ova Genetics as a professional services embryologist in addition to dairy farming with her husband near Bankston. [Read more.](#)

Industry News

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host Boots in the Barn, a program for women beef and dairy producers. [Read more.](#)

Topics for the 2019 Dairy Beef Short Course will focus on how dairy beef bull calves should be viewed as more than a by-product of the industry. [Read more.](#)

Calendar of Events

Visit our [website](#) to see all upcoming events and continuing education courses.

Dairy Foundation Annual Meeting

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Central Plains Dairy Expo Bus Trip

March 26-28 | Iowa's Dairy Center

NICC Dairy Science Club Sale

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Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation
1527 Hwy. 150 S., Calmar, Iowa