

May 2019



# The Dairy Center Connection

NEWS FROM THE NORTHEAST IOWA DAIRY FOUNDATION



Hi, there!

With summer just around the corner, we'll be entering tourism season here at Iowa's Dairy Center. The average American is now three generations removed from the farm, making tourism an important focus here at Iowa's Dairy Center. As I take visitors on a guided tour, it's humbling to watch them for the first time see a cow be milked, feel the soft sand the cows rest in and pet a calf. Growing up on and still being involved with my family's dairy farm, these are things I take for granted; but to watch someone experience the sights, smells and feels of a dairy farm for the first time is priceless. If you or someone you know is interested in visiting Iowa's Dairy Center this summer, feel free to reach out and I'd be happy to arrange a tour. [Learn more.](#)

Mariah Schmitt  
Coordinator, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation

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## What's Happening at Iowa's Dairy Center

### **Save the Date: Breakfast on the Farm**

Saturday, June 22 | 8:30 am-Noon | Iowa's Dairy Center

Join the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation in celebrating the 10th Annual Breakfast on the Farm! We'll be serving up a delicious breakfast of Dad's Belgian Waffles and sausage complete with dairy products including butter and whipped cream, yogurt, cheese, milk and of course, ice cream! This event is sure to be our biggest and best one yet with lots of activities to keep you and your family busy all morning including guided tram tours of Iowa's Dairy Center, hand milk a cow, inflatables, corn pools, educational exhibits and more. Breakfast on the Farm will be held rain or shine. Donations are accepted the day of and parking is available on-site. For more information, visit our [website](#) and [Facebook event](#). See you there!

### **Iowa's Dairy Center Welcomes School Tours**

This spring, 33 elementary schools from Northeast Iowa and Southeast Minnesota will visit Iowa's Dairy Center totaling over 1,400 people reached by our programming. A majority of the students participate in the Iowa's Dairy Story program while schools a farther distance away enjoy a condensed version of the program. Students enjoy lessons on dairy history, breeds, nutrition and the cow's digestive system and complete their day with a tour of Iowa's Dairy Center and making homemade ice cream.

### **Register Your Kids for Progressive Agriculture Safety Day**

The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day program is the largest rural safety and health education program for children in North America. The purpose of this one-day event is to teach students to stay safe on farms and at home with a variety of age-appropriate lessons. Topics may include ATV safety, bike safety, fire safety, machinery safety and more. Youth who live on a farm, work on a farm or visit a farm are encouraged to attend. Open to children ages 4-12. Registration is required. Space is limited. [Read more](#).

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## NICC News

### NICC Student Selected to Serve as Iowa Dairy Ambassador

Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Dairy Science Technology student Derek Littrel has been selected to serve as an Iowa Dairy Ambassador. The Iowa Dairy Ambassador Program, sponsored by Midwest Dairy, is a leadership opportunity for students interested in dairy. Dairy Ambassadors have the opportunity to connect with consumers and share their dairy story while networking with their peers and industry professionals. Derek recently spoke to nearly 1,200 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Farm Fair event at the Spokane Junior Livestock Show in his home state of Washington. There, Derek taught the students about the major dairy breeds, how milk gets from the farm to table and unusual uses for milk.

### Animal Nutrition Class Sees Lely Vector in Action

NICC students in the Animal Nutrition class had the opportunity to see a Lely Vector in action. The students visited Ben Rein's 140-cow dairy near Lanesboro, Minn. that feeds with the robotic TMR mixer. The cows receive fresh feed every 2 hours, or 12 times daily, with forages in rebuilt Harvester silos that unload onto a conveyor that delivers the feed to the Vector. [View photos.](#)

### NICC AgriScience Students Graduate Thursday

Nearly 70 AgriScience students will officially become graduates of NICC this week, earning degrees in Agriculture Business, Beef Science Technology, Dairy Science Technology and Large Animal Veterinary Technician. NICC will host the commencement ceremony on Thursday evening at Luther College. Congratulations to our students on their accomplishments and we wish them luck in their future endeavors!



### Dairy Profile: Justin Schaffer

NICC Dairy Science Technology alum Justin Schaffer of Miesville, Minn. was recently featured in the dairy profile in the Dairy Star. Justin, along with his brothers, dad and uncle milk 140 cows in Dakota County. When asked what advice he'd give other dairy farmers, Justin said "Don't farm with blinders on. Don't be afraid to try new things. Ask questions, and don't be afraid to stand out." [Read more.](#)

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## Industry News

A webinar will be hosted by I-29 Moo University at Noon on Friday, May 17 to review the Dairy Revenue Protection program and the Dairy Margin Coverage program. [Webinar link.](#)

Midwest Dairy invites you to participate in a webinar on May 23 to learn tips and best practices for protecting your farm from potential activists. [Register.](#)

Join the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin for an International Dairy Tour to Germany and Holland. Act fast, registration is due May 30. [Read more.](#)

Learn the latest information in dairy nutrition and management by attending the 2019 Four-State Dairy Nutrition and Management Conference on June 12 and 13 at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, Iowa. [Read more.](#)

Nominations for the Ralph Keeling Award are now open. [Read more.](#)

Midwest Dairy Elects New Leadership. [Read more.](#)

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## Calendar of Events

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

### **Dairy Foundation Operations/Exec Committee Meetings**

May 24 | 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | Iowa's Dairy Center

### **Progressive Agriculture Safety Day**

June 18 | 8:30 a.m.-Noon | Iowa's Dairy Center

### **Breakfast on the Farm**

June 22 | 8:30 a.m.-Noon | Iowa's Dairy Center



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