

# DAIRY CENTER Connection

News from the Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation



## Edgewood-Colesburg Tops 2011 Tri State Dairy Expo

More than 400 FFA members from 17 schools, representing three states, participated in the annual Iowa Dairy Expo held September 8 at the Dairy Center, Calmar.

Edgewood Colesburg team 1 earned first place in the dairy judging with reasons division. The winning team consisted of Jake Fitzpatrick, Gina Fisher and Morgan Pritchard. South Winn team 3 consisting of Megan Lien, Ashley Bushman, Megan Bushman and Karla Hageman placed second and Western Dubuque team 1 placed third with team members Andy Dougherty, Kyle Kass, Cidey Waller and Ryan Kluesner.

Andy Dougherty of Western Dubuque FFA was the top scoring individual in the reasons division, followed by Kyle Kass also of Western Dubuque FFA in second and Gina Fisher of Edgewood Colesburg FFA in third.

Decorah FFA team 1 won first place in the dairy judging without reasons division. The winning team consisted of Sam Johnson, Ruth Sutton, Randi Jo Carolan and Jacob Garza. Decorah FFA team 4 (Jacob Gossling, Jake Hovden, Isaac Luzum, Collin Nimrod) placed second and Decorah FFA team 2 (Tyler Barth, Cody Carolan, Sawyer Wise, Justin McIntosh) placed third. Collin Nimrod of Decorah FFA

earned the top place in the dairy judging without reasons division. Dan Bries of Western Dubuque FFA placed second and Sam Johnson of Decorah FFA placed third.

Jesup FFA team 1 earned top honors in the dairy products judging competition. Team members were Kristin Orth, Luke Gosse, Sara Tonn and Piper Thomas. North Fayette FFA 1 (Briana Lee, Bobbi Jo Ney, Hanna Thoms, Belinda Erickson) placed second and Waukon FFA (Nick Storz, Blaize Cota, Ethan Osterhaus, Rachel Bjerke) placed third.

Nick Storz of Waukon FFA was the top individual in the dairy products competition. Nikki Boyd of Spring Grove FFA placed second in the dairy products judging and Luke Gosse of Jesup FFA placed third.

More than 50 NICC dairy science and agriculture students helped with the preparation of cattle, contests and seminars.

In addition to a competition for students, the Iowa Dairy Expo featured seminars on dairy and agricultural topics including linear scoring, "Giving Reasons in a Dairy Cattle Contest," "Judging a Dairy Cow" and "Telling Your Story" presented by Midwest Dairy Association.

Many businesses contributed to the success of the day including

Nelson Dairy Consultants, which donated all the plaques and ribbons for top scorers.

A board of directors representing several sectors of the dairy business organizes the Iowa Dairy Expo. The board is comprised of: President Ron Lenth, Bremer County Extension; Vice President Roger Lenius, Swiss Valley Farms; Secretary-Treasurer Craig Morrison; LeRoy Messler, Wapsie Valley Creamery; Carrie Corlett, Dairy Farmers of America; Jim Kuennen, Associated Milk Producers; Randy Stephenson, Foremost Farms; Mary Steen, Northeast Iowa Community College; Megan Kregel, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation; Bonnie Sorum, past Winneshiek County Extension; Jenn Bentley, ISU Extension; Carrie Courtney, Winneshiek County Extension. Craig Morrison serves as Executive Director of the organization.

Overall competition results were as follows:

Dairy Judging top individuals with reasons

1. Andy Dougherty, Western Dubuque FFA
2. Kyle Kass, Western Dubuque FFA
3. Gina Fisher, Edgewood-Colesburg FFA

**Results continued on page 7...**

## A Word from the President - Gary Kregel

As you read this message you are likely busy with fall harvest trying to get as many projects done before the weather puts a stop to all activity. Good luck and be SAFE!

On some unfinished business, the new 20 year financing package with NICC did get completed and the original bonds have been paid off. Operations committee is currently evaluating areas of the Dairy Center that need improvement and will make recommendations to the Foundation Board where reinvestment into facilities needs to take place.



Your Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation is participating in the Iowa Dairy Industry Outlook meetings. The series of meetings is pulling together key players involved in Iowa's dairy industry including producers, processors, educators, suppliers, nutritionists, veterinarians, Iowa Dept of Ag., Farm Bureau, Western Iowa Dairy Alliance, extension, legislative, and promotion. Dairy Foundation Board member Larry Shover is leading the group. The mission will be to identify what needs to happen to make Iowa's dairy industry strong and competitive in the future. We would welcome your input.

In August NICC hosted the rural economic forum at the Peosta campus. This included the President and a number of his cabinet members. Dr. Ken Reimer, Dairy Foundation member, and myself met with Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and the President in a small group setting dealing with agriculture issues. Topics covered were bio fuels, youth in agriculture, ag policy and regulations. The message given the secretary and president was that we need consistency and certainty in both ag policy and regulations.

I personally would like to thank NICC for including the Dairy Foundation in this event.

***Become a Dairy Foundation Member today! Also 'like' us on facebook @ Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation!***

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

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**Mail to:** Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, Attn: Director  
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.

# Midwest Dairy School for Exploring Robotics

When the real cost of hired labor and an appropriate value for unpaid family help is included, labor is your largest expense on the dairy farm. The Midwest Dairy School Exploring Robotics is the place for you to take another look at all the emerging options available.

## Midwest Dairy School for Exploring Robotics

Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Time: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (9:30 a.m. registration)

Location: The Dairy Center, Calmar

Fee: Free

### An expert lineup of speakers and topics include:

*“Retrofitting Automatic Milking into an Existing Housing Facility”*

David Kammel, Biological Systems Ag Engineer, University of Wisconsin

*“A Dept. of Ag Look at Robotics”*

Dennis Murphy, USDA State Dairy Inspector

*“The Economics of Robotic Milking Systems”*

Larry Tranel, Iowa State University Dairy Field Specialist -

Kristen Schulte, Iowa State University Farm Management Specialist

**Producer panel:** dairy producers currently using or preparing for robotic milkers. (Lely, Milone and Delaval VMS)

**Professional panel:** to field any questions you may have.

Informational Exhibits and Industry Sponsors.



This free program is sponsored by The Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation, Iowa State University Extension and Northeast Iowa Community College.

To register online or for more information, visit [www.nicc.edu/continuinged](http://www.nicc.edu/continuinged) or call 800.728.2256, ext. 399 to reserve your spot.

## News things at The Dairy Center:



The center has purchased a new John Deere skid loader from Bodensteiner Implement, Decorah and a new Massey Ferguson tractor from Reiser Implement, Waukon.



Dairy Story and student tours are underway! So far this fall 44 students from South Winn and North Winn have visited for Dairy Story, along with 60 first grade students from Prescott Elementary.

# Chocolate Milk is Healthy

As many of you know, I am a huge supporter of dairying as a way of life and of promoting dairy products. Many of you have probably heard of school districts wanting to eliminate chocolate milk from their school lunch menus. The below article is from Midwest Dairy Association's Dairy Promotion Update and is entitled 'Midwest Dairy Gets Proactive on Chocolate Milk'. I'm sharing this with you because I believe it is something everyone should read.

The removal of chocolate milk from school district cafeterias across the country in recent weeks has prompted national discussion and media attention, fueled by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's television program *The Food Revolution*. Midwest Dairy responded proactively to defend the nutritional benefits of chocolate milk.

White and flavored milk have the same nine essential nutrients important for kids' health. A recent study found that flavored milk accounts for less than 3.5 percent of the added sugar intake in children ages 6 to 12 and less than 2 percent in teens, with only 20 more calories than white milk. Studies also show that when flavored milk is not offered as a choice in schools, milk consumption drops an average of 35 percent. Kids drink less milk and get fewer nutrients if flavored milk is removed from their choices.

Checkoff organizations have felt strongly about this issue and continue to promote chocolate milk on behalf of the dairy industry and producers. For example, in the wake of an announcement by Minneapolis Public Schools that chocolate milk would be removed from the school menu this fall, Midwest Dairy staff met with school nutrition contacts and third-party professional advocates, conducted media interviews and reached out to processor partners and producers with e-newsletters.

Using social media to stay on top of and monitor discussions, Midwest Dairy also activated the Dairy Farm Mom Network to provide positive flavored milk messages via Facebook, Twitter and blog posts. This summer proactive flavored milk information will reach consumers at state fairs in Midwest Dairy's 10-state territory.

Producers are encouraged to stay on top of the issue, participate in discussion via social media and to incorporate key messages. Resources to stay involved and more information about the issue can be found on the Flavored Milk resource page at [midwestdairy.com](http://midwestdairy.com).

MDA's statement on the removal of flavored milk from school menus was as follows, "we believe there are better ways to trim calories and sugars from school menus than removing nutrient-rich foods like chocolate milk." I couldn't agree more, please help in educating consumers about the healthfulness, wholesomeness and quality of our dairy products. Thank you and have a safe harvest!



## *Artificial Insemination Certification*

**Tuesday (12/13/11) - Thursday (12/15/11)**  
**9:00am-3:00pm**  
**The Dairy Center; Calmar, IA**

The three day hands-on class is an intensive learning experience for those who wish to AI their own cat-

tle or gain experience to work for others is taught by Aaron Stalsberg, Accelerated Genetics Regional Sales and Service Coordinator.

The AI school will cover all aspects of bovine reproduction, from anatomy and hormones, to heat detection. The students have actual insemination practice utilizing cattle from The Dairy Center. Upon successful completion, Accelerated

Genetics will present a 16 hour completion certificate.

Registration (\$149) is very limited, so call NICC at 800-728-2256 ext 399 to reserve your place in the class or register online at [www.nicc.edu/continuing](http://www.nicc.edu/continuing). For more information call Mary Steen at ext 341 or email [steenm@nicc.edu](mailto:steenm@nicc.edu).

# Upcoming Events at The 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](http://www.iowadairycenter.com).

- Nov 2 - Peer Group Meeting
- Nov 4 - Program Committee Meeting
- Nov 11 - Operations Committee Meeting
- Nov 16 - Midwest Dairy School
- Nov 18 - Board of Directors Meeting
- Nov 18 - CTE Program Fair
- Nov 24/25 - Offices/Campus Closed
- Dec 9 - Operations Committee Meeting
- Dec 16 - Boards of Directors Meeting
- Dec 23/24 - Christmas holiday / Offices Closed
- Dec 30/31 - New Year holiday / Offices Closed
- Jan 13 - Operations Committee Meeting
- Jan 10 - Spring Semester Begins
- Jan 20 - Executive Committee Meeting
- Feb 10- Operations Committee Meeting
- Feb 17 - Executive Committee
- March 9 - Operations Committee Meeting
- March 20 - Annual Meeting**
- April 13 - Operations Committee Meeting

## Rodney Ashbacher hired in new Dairy Technician position

The Dairy Foundation is please to announce Rodney Ashbacher, of Calmar, as the new dairy technician. The dairy technician job is the second technician position at The Dairy Center; the other position belongs to Bre Sparrgrove.

Rodney's daily duties on the dairy include being in charge of parlor cleanliness, milk quality, assisting with herd health, fresh cows and treated cows, along with milking three mornings a week. Dairying is definitely part of Rodney's life; he grew up on a dairy along with dairying himself for 22 years with a herd of 70 cows. Rodney just sold his herd this March due to the difficulty of milking in the stanchion barn and high corn prices. "I'm still very interested in dairying, but to do it by yourself is tough," said Rodney. He graduated from South Winn High School in 1983, then came to NICC for Dairy Science and graduated in 1985.

When asked about what he likes about the job so far Rodney replies, "there is always something different to do everyday. I also enjoy meeting new people, both students and adults." Rodney's sons are no strangers to The Dairy Center; Aaron, 19, is currently attending NICC in Ag Business and has milked at the center for four years, Austin, 17, is a senior at South Winn and has milked here for three years. Rodney's wife, Marge, is also a supporter of agribusiness by

working at Farmer's Union Cooperative for 22 years.

Rodney's number one goal for the dairy is to lower the cell count along with learning more things on the computer. "There's a lot to learn, but I'm catching on. I want to keep the cows healthy and get the most production possible."

Welcome to The Dairy Center team Rodney!

Pictured left: Rodney Ashbacher, new Dairy Center Technician



# Dairy Science Student news

## NICC Captures Sixth Place at 2011 World Dairy Expo Post-Secondary Contest

Northeast Iowa Community College placed sixth in the International Post-Secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held during World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisc; team members were Tyler Egeland, Pete Schell, Aaron Lien and Alana Heins. Tyler is the son of Roger and Joan Egeland from Ossian, IA; Pete is the son Ron and Terry Schell of from Lewiston, MN; Aaron is the son of Gary and Patty Lien of Calmar, IA and Alana is the daughter of Ron and Michelle Heins from Eyota, MN. All of these students are Dairy Science majors.

Tyler Egeland led the team, placing thirteenth overall, fifth in Red & White Holstein and tenth in Holstein. Pete placed fifteenth overall, sixth in Jersey and tenth in Milking Shorthorn. Aaron placed sixteenth overall, fifth in Brown Swiss, tenth in Guernsey and was seventh overall in oral reasons. The team placed fourth overall in Brown Swiss, fifth in Holstein and third in Milking Shorthorn.



L to R: Megan Kregel (coach), Alana Heins, Aaron Lien, Tyler Egeland, Pete Schell and Dave Lawstuen (coach)

Twelve Post-Secondary teams competed in the contest. Contestants presented four sets of oral reasons and judged twelve classes with breeds of Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey,

Milking Shorthorn and Red & White Holstein. The judging team was coached by Megan Kregel and Dave Lawstuen. Congratulations to the NICC Dairy Judging Team!



L to R: Dave Lawstuen (coach), Alana Heins, Devon Chrystal and Aaron Lien

## NICC Judges in Accelerated Genetics Contest

NICC judged at the Accelerated Genetics Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held Sunday, September 18, 2011 in Viroqua, Wis. Team members were Alana Heins of Eyota, MN; Devon Chrystal of Delhi, IA; and Aaron Lien of Calmar, IA. The team placed third overall in Guernsey, fifth overall in Holstein and finished seventh overall in the contest.

A total of 16 teams participated in this year's contest representing Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. They judged dairy breeds including, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey and Milking Shorthorn with each participant placing ten classes and giving five sets of oral reasons.

## Tri State Expo continued...

Top Dairy Judging teams with reasons

1. Edgewood-Colesburg FFA  
1 - Jake Fitzpatrick, Gina Fisher, Morgan Pritchard
2. South Winn FFA 3 - Megan Lien, Ashley Bushman, Megan Bushman, Karla Hageman
3. Western Dubuque FFA 1 - Andy Dougherty, Kyle Kass, Cidey Waller, Ryan Kluesner

Dairy Judging top individuals (without reasons)

1. Collin Nimrod, Decorah FFA
2. Dan Bries, Western Dubuque FFA
3. Sam Johnson, Decorah FFA

Top Dairy Judging teams (without reasons)

1. Decorah FFA 1 - Sam Johnson,

Ruth Sutton, Randi Jo Carolan, Jacob Garza

2. Decorah FFA 4 - Jacob Gossling, Jake Hovden, Isaac Luzum, Collin Nimrod

3. Decorah FFA 2 - Tyler Barth, Cody Carolan, Sawyer Wise, Justin McIntosh

Dairy Products top individuals

1. Nick Storz, Waukon FFA
2. Nikki Boyd, Spring Grove FFA

3. Luke Gosse, Jesup FFA

Dairy Product judging top teams

1. Jesup FFA 1 - Kristin Orth, Luke Gosse, Sara Tonn, Piper Thomas
2. North Fayette FFA 1 - Briana Lee, Bobbi Jo Ney, Hanna Thoms, Belinda Erickson
3. Waukon FFA - Nick Storz, Blaize Cota, Ethan Osterhaus, Rachel Bjerke



Top Team in Judging with reasons: Ed Wadsworth (Advisor), Jake Fitzpatrick, Gina Fisher, Morgan Pritchard and sponsor Kent Nelson

## Tri State Dairy Expo Photos:



Above: Aaron Lien

Below: Jill Hefel, Allison Hunt



Above: Devon Chrystal

Left: Dustin DePestel, Andrew Ferden

Below: Tyler Egeland, Alana Heins, Chena Schnuelle



*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 annual members and/ or made contributions (prior to October 28, 2011)!

Thank you to those who have become members of the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation:  
Barbara Ashby  
Reiser Implement, Inc.

*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.*

Thank you to all the companies who donated toward the bus trip to World Dairy Expo!!!

*Have an idea, comment or suggestion for the Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation? Let us know!  
Call 563-534-5597, email info@iowadairycenter.com or talk to a member of the executive board. Thanks!*

Be sure to visit us online at [www.iowadairycenter.com](http://www.iowadairycenter.com)

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