

April 2019



The Dairy Center Connection

NEWS FROM THE NORTHEAST IOWA DAIRY FOUNDATION



Hi, there!

We have spring fever! The warmer weather is making us excited for all of the things that happen at Iowa's Dairy Center during the spring. Spring is a busy time for everyone, including our farm staff who are busy with the typical spring things like hauling manure and field work. But spring is much more than that here; it's our busiest time for hosting area schools to learn about dairy. Throughout April and May (and this year, even June!), schools will be visiting for the Iowa's Dairy Story program and general tours of the Dairy Center. Tours aren't just for elementary students, as we have hosted several high schools to Iowa's Dairy Center as well. Having schools visit is vital to our mission of educating the youth about dairy. Although spring is busy, we wouldn't have it any other way!

Mariah Schmitt
Coordinator, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation



What's Happening at Iowa's Dairy Center

Dairy Enthusiasts Enjoy Bus Trip to Central Plains Dairy Expo

The Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, in partnership with Iowa State University Extension & Outreach and Western Iowa Dairy Alliance, hosted a three-day, two-night bus trip to Central Plains Dairy Expo March 26-28. Dairy farmers, students and industry members attended the trip and enjoyed visits to Trans Ova Genetics, Stensland Family Farms Creamery, Travis Tritt Concert, Central Plains Dairy Expo, Gehl Manufacturing Plant, Rock Bottom Dairy and Great-Heritage Holsteins. Thank you to our sponsors who made the trip possible.

Dairy Foundation Hosts Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Northeast Iowa Dairy Center was held on Friday, March 22. The program featured Dave Lawstuen presenting the Dairy Center's genomic strategy and Mariah Schmitt sharing a year in review of all the happenings at Iowa's Dairy Center. The morning program concluded with an NICC Dairy Science alumni panel. Kyle Mathison of Crisly Dairy Farm, Kate Root with De-Su Holsteins and Katie Wolf with Trans Ova Genetics discussed their experiences at NICC and how it got them to where they are today in their careers, communities and families. During the annual meeting, board members and leadership were elected:

- President: Tim Huhe, Cresco, Iowa
- Vice President: Todd Hendrickson, Preston, Minn.
- Treasurer: Ron Lenth, Oelwein, Iowa
- Board Members: Gary Kregel, Guttenberg, Iowa and Mike Scott, Westage, Iowa

Thank you to our retiring board members, Katie Adams, Rob Hahn and Dennis Cline for their years of service to the Dairy Foundation. View the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation's [Annual Report](#).

April Showers Bring...Iowa's Dairy Story

Iowa's Dairy Story is in full swing at the Dairy Center. Third and fourth graders enjoy a fun-filled morning learning about dairy history, breeds, nutrition and the cow's digestive system. After lunch, students enjoy testing their knowledge with the Milk Cart Quiz game, take a tour of the Dairy Center's farm and make homemade ice cream. This spring, we're expecting 1,064 students from 23 Northeast Iowa schools to visit Iowa's Dairy Center through the program.



NICC News

Students Host Successful Dairy Sale

The NICC Dairy Science Club hosted the 13th Annual Dairy Club Sale on Saturday, April 6 at the Howard County Fairgrounds in Cresco. NICC Dairy Science Technology alum Kelsey Hanten consigned the high-selling animal. Special thanks to the Johnson family at Trailside Holsteins of Fountain, Minn. for donating a pair of polled, red-carrier twin Holsteins to the sale. The NICC Dairy Science Club would like to express their appreciation for all who supported the sale.

Students, Alumni, Friends Recognized at AgriScience Awards Program

The NICC AgriScience Department hosted the annual AgriScience Awards Program on Tuesday, April 9. The program recognized NICC students, alumni and friends for their accomplishments. Congratulations to all of the award winners and graduates of the NICC agriculture programs! [View photos.](#)

Students Participate in PDPW Business Conference

Five NICC Dairy Science Technology students traveled to Madison, Wis. to participate in the 2019 PDPW Business Conference. There, students were able to reconnect with the mentors of the farms they toured earlier this year. Additionally, student had the opportunity to hear from keynote speakers and participate in breakout sessions at the conference. [View photos.](#)



Dairy Profile: Kyle & Sara Mathison

Kyle & Sara Mathison of Cumerland, Wis. were recently featured in the Dairy Star, highlighting their proactive approach to dairy farming. They are 2010 NICC graduates of the Dairy Science Technology and Agriculture Business programs, respectively. Kyle recently spoke on the alumni panel at the Dairy Foundation's annual meeting in March. [Read more.](#)

Industry News

Midwest Dairy and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Announce Second Annual Dairy Experience Forum. [Read more.](#)

Farm losses drive Iowa's flood damage to \$2 billion. [Read more.](#)

Are milk prices headed for a recovery this summer? [Read more.](#)

Robots reduce their stress. [Read more.](#)

Calendar of Events

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

Campus Closed

April 18-22 | Northeast Iowa Community College

Dairy Foundation Operations/Exec Committee Meetings

April 26 | 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | Iowa's Dairy Center

Breakfast on the Farm

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



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