

August 2019



The Dairy Center Connection

NEWS FROM THE NORTHEAST IOWA DAIRY FOUNDATION



Hi, there!

Just like that summer is drawing to a close and I've been scheduling some of the final tours for the season. These past few months have been incredible as I've welcomed visitors from all over the world to Iowa's Dairy Center. Today was like any other day. My afternoon tour group arrived and it was a couple, who grew up in the city, visiting with their young grandchildren. Together, we walked through the museum and Hall of Breeds, watched cows be milked in the parlor and by robots, and headed out to the barn to pet the cows. As we entered the maternity barn and approached the bedded pack, I noticed a cow calving. I asked the grandparents if they wanted to watch and they brought the grandkids over for a closer look. A couple minutes later, the calf was born and the group was so excited to have witnessed such a miracle. For me, watching (or even assisting) in the birth of a calf is something I've done hundreds of times; but for this group, this as a completely new experience. As the cow stood up and started licking the calf, we were able to talk about all of the cow and calf care that would happen in the next moments.

And this is what tours at Iowa's Dairy Center are all about. Giving consumers the opportunity to experience a dairy farm is vital to our industry. I am thankful that Iowa's Dairy Center was able to provide this experience and I encourage you to welcome visitors to your farm, too. You never know how much of a difference you can make to our consumers.

Mariah Schmitt
Coordinator, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation



What's Happening at Iowa's Dairy Center

Parking Lot is Substantially Completed

Things will look a little different the next time you visit Iowa's Dairy Center, but that's a good thing. Reconstruction of the parking lot began on July 12 and is now open for use. With the parking lot came an improved entrance drive to the lot. The old entrance location was steep, located on a slight curve, and the drive exit presented line-of-sight problems for drivers entering and leaving the lot adjacent to Highway 150. The new entrance provides greater visibility and access to the center. The bond referendum that passed in September 2018 supported this effort.

Dairy Design Workshops Held Next Week

To help dairy farmers evaluate their design, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering two Dairy Design Workshops with a focus on robotic milking setups, ventilation and manure handling facilities. Both workshops are the same, but are held at different farms in northeast Iowa. The first will be held Aug. 27 at Iowa's Dairy Center and the second will be held Aug. 28 at Pattison Dairy near Garnavillo. Both workshops are from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. [Read more.](#)

Sisters Share Iowa Dairy Princess Title

Iowa's Dairy Center Coordinator, Mariah Schmitt, was featured in Iowa Farmer Today with her sister, Jessica, who recently wrapped up her reign as the Iowa Dairy Princess. As far as they know, they are the first sisters to both earn the state title. Mariah was the Iowa Dairy Princess in 2013-14 and shares how her role as Iowa Dairy Princess prepared her for her career in the dairy industry. [Read more.](#)



NICC News

Students Complete Summer Internships

As part of their course requirements, Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Dairy Science Technology students complete an internship throughout the summer between their first and second year of school. This summer, students could be found all over the country completing internships on dairy farms and with agriculture companies. Check out the NICC Dairy Science Club [Facebook page](#) for internship features.

Top Showperson Honors Awarded to NICC Student

NICC Dairy Science Technology student Johanna Kunert of De Soto, Wis. was recently named the top showperson at the Washington State Holstein show. Johanna spent her summer in Washington interning at Dunremton Ranch, a registered Holstein herd owned by Scot and Stephanie Littrel. [View photo.](#)

Kick-off Fall with Fall Fest

Bring the whole family to a night of fun and community! Enjoy food, inflatables, rides and carnival games for kids of all ages. Entertainment will also be provided by Wacky Chad, a stunt comedian featured on America's Got Talent. It's the kick-off to fall you don't want to miss! [Read more.](#)



Dairy Profile: Eric Klein

NICC Dairy Science alum Eric Klein was featured in a recent Dairy Star article a top dairy performer. Eric, along with his family, milk 700 cows near Lake City, Minn. with a rolling herd average of 29,400 pounds of milk, 1,148 pounds of fat and 918 pounds of protein. [Read more.](#)

Industry News

Dairy pasture walk to feature Northeast Iowa grazing farm. [Read more.](#)

Iowa Dairy Design Workshops to show producers some options. [Read more.](#)

Julie Hammerand crowned 66th Iowa Dairy Princess. [Read more.](#)

Nearly 17,000 Dairy Operations Enrolled in Dairy Margin Coverage Program. [Read more.](#)

Leo Timms: Our Notoriety is in the Impact. [Read more.](#)

Calendar of Events

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

NICC Fall Semester Begins

Aug. 22

Dairy Foundation Operations/Exec Committee Meetings

Aug. 23 | 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | Iowa's Dairy Center

Dairy Design Workshop

Aug. 27 | 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Iowa's Dairy Center

Fall Fest

Sept. 5 | 5-8 p.m. | NICC Calmar Campus

Tri-State Ag & Dairy Expo

Sept. 12 | Iowa's Dairy Center

Agriculture and Animal Science Program Preview

Oct. 18 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Iowa's Dairy Center



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