Thank you for your generosity & memberships!

A huge thank you to the individuals and corporations who have recently become members and/or made contributions.

Greg & Joel Pagel
Bill Langreck
Reiser Implement
Bobcat Company
Lyon Jerseys

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.

Have an idea, comment or suggestion for the Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation? Let us know!

Call 563-534-9957, email info@iowadairycenter.com or talk to a member of the executive board. Thanks!

Be sure to visit us online at www.iowadairycenter.com

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Nearly 950 Served at Breakfast on the Farm

The Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation held their 5th annual Breakfast on the Farm Saturday, June 21 at Iowa’s Dairy Center in Calmar and, for the most part, without rain. A new record of nearly 950 visitors enjoyed freshly made waffles, sausage, cheese, yogurt and of course lots of milk and ice cream. The yogurt was provided by Country View Dairy, the Dave and Carolee Rapson family, and was processed on their farm near Hawkeye, Iowa. Volunteers explained the practices used to raise healthy calves and cows and everyone enjoyed viewing the newly completed robotic milking facility. Questions about dairy farming and food production were encouraged throughout the tour as the event focused on those who do not normally have access to dairy farms. Visitors could also try their hand milking a cow at an exhibit provided by the Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Dairy Science Club.

The dairy breakfast is coordinated by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Midwest Dairy Association, NICC and the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation. Many businesses and organizations also contribute to making the breakfast a success. We look forward to seeing you next year at Breakfast on the Farm, June 20, 2015.

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Upcoming Events for Iowa’s 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.

July 8-12 – Winneshiek County Fair
July 11 – Operations/Executive Meetings
July 16-20 – Allamakee County Fair
July 17 – Sunflower Daycare tour
July 29-Aug. 3 – Fayette County Fair
July 29-Aug. 4 – Clayton County Fair
August 6 – Farmland Leasing Meeting
August 7-17 – …
September 30-Oct. 4 – World Dairy Expo
October 3 – Bus Trip to World Dairy Expo

Economics of Organic Dairying
by Larry Tranel, Dairy Field Specialist, ISU Extension & Outreach
Are organic dairies more or less profitable than conventional or grazing dairies? This was the aim of a study done using 2013 financial data for 10 organic dairy farms located in Iowa and Wisconsin. The Dairy TRANS Financial Analysis Software program was used to analyze and benchmark the data. The data showed the most profitable organic dairies can compete very well with the best in the dairy business and the medium profitable dairies also showed respectable levels of profitability when compared with the rest of the industry. For dairy producers to achieve a return on assets of 16% and a return to labor of $50 per hour of unpaid labor is a pretty good accomplishment for the most profitable dairies while the medium profit dairies earn a return on assets of 6% and a return to unpaid labor around $20 per hour.

For more information on this research project, funded by the Leopold Center at Iowa State University, please visit the Dairy Team website at: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/business-and-financial-management and look for the publication entitled, “Economics of Organic Dairying.”
View the report directly from this link: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/dairyteam/Economics%20of%20Organic%20Dairying%202013.pdf
New Employee Feature- Jon Meyer

Jon Meyer is the assistant dairy herdsperson at the Dairy Center and has many years of dairy industry experience. As a business management student at Waldorf College, Jon learned about career opportunities working for local producers. “I wasn’t raised on a farm; I actually grew up in town. During college while I was looking for work, I was really introduced to the industry and I’ve been part of it since,” said Jon. Through networking he worked for Genex Cooperative for 20 years and Accelerated Genetics for five years as an AI technician. A lifelong resident of Ossian, Jon manages his own 35 head cow/calf operation. As the Dairy Center’s assistant herdsperson, he oversees herd reproduction, including breeding and synchronization programs, as well as the vaccinating of cattle and the management of the newly-acquired beef cows for the Beef Science program at Northeast Iowa Community College.

Watching the cows’ behavior on the robotics system is especially interesting, he said. “The robots are definitely labor-saving machines; however, maintenance is still very important,” Jon explained. “The system includes rumination, which has made it easier to catch any possible sick cows earlier. This saves on treatments and gets the cow back on her feet faster.” He views the learning opportunities at the Dairy Center as endless for young people. “This is a good place for students to learn about all aspects of the dairy business with hands-on, real-life experiences,” he said. His future goals for the dairy center are to continue to increase the herd’s pregnancy rate from the current 24 percent and to increase milk production. Jon is looking forward to the academic year and opportunities to interact with the students.

Jon and his wife, Kristy, have two children – Carter (13) and Rachel (8); Kristy is a secretary at Saint Benedict’s School in Decorah.

Dairy Science Student news

2014 Dairy Science Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Career Plans</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tommy Allen</td>
<td>Reedsburg, WI</td>
<td>Family Registered Jersey Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alysha Bang</td>
<td>Kenyon, MN</td>
<td>Family Registered Ayrshire Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joris Boelen</td>
<td>Brooklyn, IA</td>
<td>Family 1,000 Cow Dairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jade Bohr</td>
<td>Ossian, IA</td>
<td>Continuing her education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenna Bradley</td>
<td>Fort Atkinson, WI</td>
<td>Continuing her education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalene Deboer</td>
<td>Ellsworth, MN</td>
<td>Family 400 Cow Dairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Ecker</td>
<td>Zumbrota, MN</td>
<td>Continuing her education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Himmel</td>
<td>Waukon, IA</td>
<td>Calf Manager, 700 Cow Dairy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keisha Harbaugh</td>
<td>Edgewood, IA</td>
<td>Continuing her education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Hinrichs</td>
<td>Goodhue, MN</td>
<td>Family 80 Cow Dairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derec Koch</td>
<td>West Union, IA</td>
<td>Herdsperson 120 Registered Holsteins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brianna Lee</td>
<td>West Union, IA</td>
<td>Iowa State University - Dairy Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Paape</td>
<td>St Charles, MN</td>
<td>Continuing his education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baxter Pafahl</td>
<td>Monona, IA</td>
<td>Continuing his education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsey Ristau</td>
<td>Harmony, MN</td>
<td>Continuing her education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillin Schumacher</td>
<td>Plainview, MN</td>
<td>Family 120 Cow Registered Dairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Scott</td>
<td>Westgate, IA</td>
<td>Own 80 Cow Registered Holstein Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isaac Whitaiker</td>
<td>Kasson, MN</td>
<td>120 Cow Registered Holstein Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Woods</td>
<td>Ostrander, MN</td>
<td>Continuing her education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodi Wulfekuhle</td>
<td>Dyersville, IA</td>
<td>Family 400 Head Cattle Operation</td>
</tr>
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Dairy Club assists with Breakfast on the Farm

Club officers and members clipped and washed four cows for the event. In addition, the club educated people how milk is produced and even showed them how to milk a cow.

Pictured left is Ashley Bushman showing a little girl a handful of milk.

Dairy Center Connection, Page 3
A Word from the President - Phil Hemesath

Since this is my first report as president of the Dairy Foundation, I feel it is appropriate to acknowledge the leadership and vision of the past presidents. Dennis Mashek, Nick Roling, Jed Becker and Gary Kregel were faced with challenges from the start-up of the Foundation with developing a unique identity and forging a stronger partnership with NICC when a financial crisis arose. I will do my best to continue to build on the solid foundation of these leaders.

The robotic barn is functioning very well and continues to be even more efficient as our staff gets more familiar with it. There is a learning curve associated with all new facilities and this is no exception, but with the hire of herd manager, Jeremy Walz, I think that any adjustments and tweaking will be in capable hands. We are scheduling more remodeling projects to handle dry cows, close-up springers and heifers to better improve herd health and increase cow comfort.

One of our next big challenges has to do with our capital campaign fundraising. We seriously need to eliminate the Foundation’s debt so we can focus on our mission as a showcase dairy with a state-of-the-art education program. I will now ask our members to step up with support in the form of contacts, ideas and, of course, donations.

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.

Become a Dairy Foundation Member today! Also ‘like’ us on facebook @ facebook.com/neiowadairyfoundation

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

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.

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area will be accepting online applications for their Bus Grant program beginning August 15, 2014. Applications must be an accredited PreK-12 public, private or charter school within the 37 county Heritage Area. Applications must identify a designated Partner Site or farm site they wish to visit and what part of the American agricultural story the class will be learning about.

http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/education/bus-grants/

Breakfast on the Farm Photos

Everyone had fun on the farm and enjoyed milking a cow and spending time with the calves. Below: Katherine Paulson talks about the Jersey cow breed.

Photos

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