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Joe Detrick
Iowa State University

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2003 Review

Iowa State University Dairy Farm

Ankeny, Iowa

A.S. Leaflet R1891

Joe Detrick, Farm Superintendent
Ankeny Dairy Farm

History

At the end of WW II, Iowa State University purchased a tract of land on the south edge of Ankeny for \$1.00 and dairy, beef, swine, and poultry were raised. The Ankeny dairy herd began when Holstein heifers were purchased from Iowa dairy producers. In 1974, the south central part of the land was provided for the establishment of Des Moines Area Community College. Today the farm has only dairy cattle and is focused on breeding research.

Mission

To conduct dairy breeding research projects and communicate the results that impact the dairy industry activities directly and indirectly through businesses and organizations.

Farm Growth

Staff and employees at the ISU Ankeny Dairy Farm now manage over 600 head of dairy cattle, from bottle calves to lactating cows. Approximately 75 lactating cows and 120 head of young cattle, under 2 years old, were transferred to the Ankeny Farm when the Ames Dairy Farm was closed in October. Employees of the Ames Dairy Farm also transferred to the Ankeny Dairy Farm. Along with the Farm Manager, there are 3 college students, 8 full-time and 7 part-time employees.

In preparation of the additional cattle, the following facility changes occurred:

- The hay shed was remodeled into a free stall building bedded with sand as a housing unit for the Ames cows.
- Four hoop buildings were built to house livestock and protect feed sources from the weather. 30 additional 4 X 8 calf pens were assembled in one hoop barn.
- The double five herring bow parlor was redesigned to a double 8 parallel parlor. This allows employees to milk more cows at one time and decreases the time spent milking.

The lactating cows from the original herd were already housed in 4 free stall buildings bedded with sand and calves

were in barn with access to outside pens. All animals are rotated through pens according to their age development. The feed sources and amount is also dependent on their developmental stage and production as a lactating cow. Corn silage is produced on 160 acres of the 1200 acre farm and stored in bunker silos and bags. All other feed sources including whole cottonseed, corn gluten, urea supplement, and hay are purchased from outside vendors.

Research

The main goal of Ankeny Dairy is to conduct research related to the dairy industry. The Ankeny cattle are Holsteins and are involved in an on-going genetic research project. Data collected on these animals are their complete health, growth, and production information. The Holsteins are also researched on conception rates with hormone injections and a treatment program to control mastitis in cows after calving. The cows are bred through artificial insemination, as are the cows from the Ames herd. Currently, there is work being done with the Brown Swiss Association and embryo transfer. The farm has completed feed trials with Pioneer/DuPont and private professors at Iowa State University. Sarah Wagner, ISU Veterinarian, has done research concerning mastitis prevention and somatic cell reduction.



Classes

Dr. Hopkins teaches the VDPAM 416 class at the Ankeny Dairy Farm three times per week. The students learn to palpate cows and practice conducting pregnancy checks for herd health. Dr. Hopkins also facilitates a

separate palpation class. Additional animal science classes will be taught at the farm in the near future.

Each year up to 200 elementary students visit, while DMACC students come to the farm two times per year.

Outreach Activities

Tours are available to interested groups. International guests from Japan, Bulgaria, and Russia toured the farm.

