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2007 Review—ISU Dairy Farm, Ames, Iowa

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2007 Review – ISU Dairy Farm Ames, Iowa

A.S. Leaflet R2369

Joe Detrick, farm superintendent

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. When the ISU Dairy Farm, (established in 1907 in Ames) closed in 2003, 200 dairy cattle were relocated to Ankeny.

Farm Growth

Staff and employees at the Dairy Farm now manage over 700 head of dairy cattle, from bottle calves to lactating cows. Breeds of cattle on the farm today are Holstein primarily, along with Jersey, Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, and Milking Shorthorn. Along with the Farm Manager, there are 15 college students, 8 full-time and 7 part-time employees.

Livestock were moved from the Ankeny location to the new facility near Ames on November 26-27, 2007. The dairy is located south of Ames at 52470 260th Street. This is 1.5 miles south of the University Boulevard exit, then a .5 miles west on 260th Street. The new farm will accommodate 450 lactating cows that will be milked in a double twelve parallel parlor. Fifty Jersey's had moved to the Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Dairy Center located in Calmar, Iowa when the Ames farm closed. Their descendents returned to the new farm on November 27, 2007 and remained in separate pens for 3 weeks.

There is a commodity shed for feeds from outside vendors. These include whole cottonseed, grain, and hay. The new location provides easier access for the vendors.

A hospital area allows veterinary care for the cattle as well as educational opportunity for veterinary students. The space will also be accessible for research projects.

A classroom with a lab will be used by ISU students and professors for teaching purposes. There is also a viewing center to observe the milking process.

Mission

To provide animals and facilities for teaching, research and extension efforts of the department and university.

Research

The main goal of the Dairy Farm is to conduct research related to the dairy industry. The original Ankeny cattle are involved in an on-going genetic research project. Data collected on these animals includes complete health, growth, and production information. Work continues with the Brown Swiss Association on an embryo transfer program to establish a herd of 50 lactating Brown Swiss. The farm has completed feed trials and pre and post teat dips are being tested.

Classes

Animal Science courses that will be using the new dairy farm include: AnS 101 (Working with Animals), AnS 235 (Dairy Cattle Science), AnS 332 (Laboratory Methods in Animal Reproduction), AnS 334 (Embryo Transfer Laboratory), AnS 335 (Dairy Cattle Selection), AnS 336 (Domestic Animal Behavior and Well-Being), AnS 337 (Lactation), AnS 434 (Dairy Systems Management), AnS 475B (Intercollegiate Judging Training and Competition), VDPAM 438 (Mastitis Problem Investigations), VDPAM 484 (Dairy Production Medicine)

Outreach Activities

The Dairy Science Club members use cattle for their Little North American showmanship competition and their interactive milking showcase at the Iowa State Fair. Tours are available to interested groups. International guests, ISU students, and 4-H clubs have visited along with approximately 200 elementary students each year.



“Jersey Jewel” sculpted by Norma “Duffy” Lyon sits at the entrance of the new Ames Dairy Farm.

Iowa State University Animal Industry Report 2008



Mary Irlbeck in calf barn



Lucas Chau operating the feeding tractor



Jen Parrish feeding a calf



Andrew Perrine sorting cows



First calf born – New Dairy Farm
November 27, 2007 8:30 a.m.



First meal – free stall barn
November 27, 2007