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Collegiate Dairy Career Opportunity Day and Dairy Tours Connects Students to Dairy Industry

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Collegiate Dairy Career Opportunity Day and Dairy Tours Connects Students to Dairy Industry

A.S. Leaflet R2312

Chris Mondak, Iowa State University
extension dairy field specialist

Go to any gathering of dairy producers in the state and you'll likely hear these 2 comments: "How can we get young people interested in the dairy industry?" and "We need trained, dedicated herdsmen and professionals to work in our industry." The Collegiate Dairy Career Opportunity Day and Tour, Nov 16-17, held at Sioux Falls in conjunction with the Central Plains Dairy Association's annual fall Dairy Business Meeting and Cow College was a learning activity designed to address these two concerns.

Twenty students from ISU and NICC-Calmar traveled to Sioux Falls to attend the CPDA Dairy meeting.) On Friday, they met with dairy producer "mentors", attended sessions and break-outs, and participated in an informal Job Fair. On Friday night, students took part in a Career-Builder seminar that featured a panel of young professionals serving the dairy industry, and a program about understanding personality profiles to enhance good working relationships in the work place.

On Saturday, students traveled by bus to visit dairy farms in NW Iowa. The five farms visited introduced students to the mixture of small, medium, and large farms present in NW Iowa, and to the specific jobs and work expectations associated with typical jobs on these farms. Judging by the enthusiastic reception of the students by the dairy producers and industry leaders attending the Central Plains Association event, and by the constructive criticism offered by the students, the stage is set to plan for this off-campus learning experience again next Fall.

Young Dairy Professionals Panel

Scott Metzger - Semex USA (ISU)
Emily Miller - Trans Ova (NICC & ISU)
Shannon Siefert - Big Gain Feed (SDSU)
Peggy Sue Dierickx - Northeast Iowa
Dairy Foundation (UW-Madison)

Conference Agenda

Friday, November 16

6:30 a.m. Mentors Breakfast

A premier opportunity to sit down one-on-one with dairy leaders in the region who want to network with future employees and associates.

7:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Central Plains Dairy Business Meeting And Cow College

3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Job Fair

A good chance to make initial contacts in a relaxed, informal setting.

4:15 p.m. Refreshments

4:30 p.m. Career-Builder Seminar

- Career opportunities in the Central Plains
Roger Scheibe
- Finding Your Place in the Industry
Arnold Hippen, SDSU
- Young Dairy Professionals Panel

6:00 p.m. Pizza supper

7:00 p.m. Evening program

Getting Along with Non-Cows –
Insights on Preparing for Personal and
Interpersonal Effectiveness - Seth Gilbert,
Consultant/Trainer, Business and Industry
Center, NWICC – Sheldon

9:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social

Saturday, November 17

8:45 a.m. Meet at the Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, IA

9:00 a.m. Western Iowa Dairy Growth

Presentation by Kayla Lyons, WIDA

9:15 a.m. Bus tour to visit area dairies:

Dykstra Dairy
Maassen Dairy
Rolling Spur Dairy
Donson's Dairy Farm
Torchlight Dairy

*See back of brochure for details.
*Snacks will be served mid-day.

2:00 p.m. Lunch

Return to NWICC campus in Sheldon for a meal and brief program:

- Thinking about your career path
- Career opportunities in the dairy business
- Post-secondary dairy programs

2:45 p.m. Adjourn

Farm Tour Hosts

November 16 & 17, 2007
Sioux Falls, SD and Sheldon, IA

Dykstra Dairy – a 3000-cow dairy in Plymouth County. Learn about the skills needed to work on a large dairy; learn the many occupations and business services needed by the dairy industry.

Maassen Dairy – 3rd generation family farm expanding to bring sons into the operation. Learn about the need for young people entering the dairy industry and about the need for leaders in the dairy community.

Rolling Spur Dairy – 1000-cow dairy in Sioux County. Learn about the process of expanding from 300 to 1000 cows, and about skills and knowledge that dairymen need from their professionals and service-providers.

Donson's Dairy Farm – 100 cow dairy near Hull. Learn about how smaller farms can stay viable, the value of gaining farm work experience through school years and value of a college education.

Torchlight Dairy – 200 cow dairy near Sheldon. Learn about how work experience complements school coursework, and about herdsman opportunities on local farms.



Collegiate
**Dairy Career
Opportunity
Day & Tour**