

2010 Review – ISU Dairy Farm, Ames, Iowa

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Joe Detrick, ISU Dairy Farm superintendent

Farm Resources

Staff and employees at the Dairy Farm now manage over 850 head of dairy cattle, from bottle calves to lactating cows. Along with the Farm Manager, there are 20 college students, 9 full-time and 3 part-time employees. The farm stock today consists primarily of Holstein, along with Jersey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, and Milking Shorthorn. The lactating herd expanded from 350 to 390 head during the 2009 fiscal year.

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. Smaller bulk bins near the lactating barn accommodate specialized feed for nutrition trials.

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

The classroom is used by ISU students and professors for teaching purposes.

A viewing center allows the public to observe the milking process.

Research

The main goal of the Dairy Farm is to conduct research related to the dairy industry. Data collected on these animals includes complete health, and production information. The farm has completed feed trials, pre- and post-teat dips are being tested, and projects involving calves, fresh cows, and mastitis cows are ongoing.

Classes

Animal Science courses that use the 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)

Other courses using the dairy farm have included:

- Ag Eng 216 (Fundamentals of Ag and Biosystems Engineering)
- ECON 110 (Ag Business)
- VDPAM 340 (Clinical Foundations)
- VDPAM 416 (Basic Bovine Palpation) VDPAM 438 (Mastitis Problem Investigations)
- VDPAM 484 (Dairy Production Medicine)
- VDPAM 491 (Advanced Ruminant Nutrition)
- VDPAM 494 (Dairy Production Medicine II)

Outreach Activities

The Dairy Science Club members use cattle for their Little North American showmanship competition. Tours are available to interested groups. Tours vary in size from small family groups to busloads of visiting producers.

International guests, ISU students, and 4-H clubs have visited the farm each year. Over 1200 people toured the dairy farm during the 2010 Dairy Days open house, and another 1200 or so throughout the year.

Other Achievements

In 2010, the ISU Dairy Farm received an award from Swiss Valley for 22 years of high quality milk production. National Dairy FARM program evaluator training was held at the ISU Dairy. The dairy farm was evaluated as part of the training, and received very high marks in all areas.

<http://www.nationaldairyfarm.com/>

