

# Midwest Dairy Day Focuses on Maximizing Production with Improved Reproduction

## A.S. Leaflet R3240

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### Summary and Implications

The Midwest Dairy Day provides a one day learning opportunity for producers, industry, and potentially new dairy producers to network and engage in a current topic. With support from the dairy industry and business community, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Northeast Iowa Community College, and Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, this program has continued to provide valuable information.

### Introduction

The Midwest Dairy Day is held every year in late fall and takes place at the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation near NICC Campus in Calmar, IA. A current topic related to the dairy industry is offered every year based on producer and industry input. The event runs from 10 AM – 3 PM and draws participants from Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. In 2017, 45 participants attended along with 2 presenters and 4 producer panelists.

### Materials and Methods

This program provided in-depth information on improving milk production through a variety of practical reproductive programs and metabolic management. Professor of Dairy Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Paul Fricke, provided the latest research focusing on developing and improving methods for reproductive management. The goal of Dr. Fricke's extension program is to maximize reproductive efficiency of high-producing dairy herds by applying basic scientific research to develop practical management programs and technologies. This was followed by Dr. Pat Gorden, DVM, Senior Clinician, Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He discussed the role of a cow's metabolic health and the impact on reproduction. Dr. Gorden's work focuses on the applied dairy knowledge of veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine. The program was enhanced with four dairy producers sharing their stories about their farms and management systems, particularly focusing on their successful reproductive programs.

### Results and Discussion

Overall the participants and presenters felt that the event was valuable. There was an increase in knowledge with each presentation. There was an increase of knowledge of 37% in "Achieving High Fertility in High Producing Dairy Herds", and 31% increase with "Improve Reproduction by Monitoring Metabolic Disorders". The producer panel was highly valued with a 40% increase of knowledge.

Participants walked away from the program with ways they are going to implement reproduction protocols on the farm or communicate with their customers on successful reproductive strategies. They "connected the dots with why they follow a protocol" and found valuable information to improve metabolic disorders in fresh cows. Producers gained a better understanding of the health of the cows versus looking strictly at milk production as an indicator of success. Participants found the producer panel valuable as they learned what was working for other producers.

### Acknowledgements

Midwest Dairy Day is supported and made possible by monetary and donations made by local businesses that support the program. There were 24 sponsors that generously supported the program this year, making the program free of charge.

