July 11, 7:00-10:00pm
Houston County
Minnigan Hills Dairy Farm
John, Karyl, Jayson & Josh Diersen
8245 County Road 3, Caledonia, MN 55921

Minnigan Hills Dairy farm is owned and operated by John and Karyl Diersen along with their sons Jayson and Josh. They milk 150 registered Holsteins in a double 8 parallel parlor. They recently added a second freestall barn which houses fresh cows, up-close cows, a calving pen and calves from 3 to 12 months. They raise corn, beans and hay on a 3600-acre rented acres. They strive to improve genetics by flushing high index cows. A light meal will be provided. Please RSVP by calling Houston County Extension at 507-725-5807.

July 12, 10:30am-2:00pm
Benton County
Czech’s Roadside Acres
Mark & Shelley Czech
11032 155th Avenue NE, Foley, MN 56329

Joint UMN Extension and the Central Minnesota Forage Council Dairy-Forage Field Day. The dairy portion of the program will focus on the improvements the Czechs have made and plan to make on their farm. Mark is in the planning stages of building a new manure pit using cost share from the Benton County SWCD. Plans for the future also include having lactating cows on the home farm site, and all calves, heifers and dry cows on a site located half a mile away. The farm currently milks 25X in a double 8 parallel parlor has an 85-b milk and 100,000 somatic cell count average. Cows are housed in sand-bedded freestall barns, with the most recent built in 2016. On the forage side, Mark grows 300 acres of corn silage and 350 acres of alfalfa—including 100 acres of low-finn alfalfa—for feed. Discussion on forages at the day will include feed storage and management, forage cutting height and timing, and unique windrow management. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Emily at 320-255-6169, ext. 3 or krekk0033@umn.edu.

July 19, 10:30am-12:30pm
Morrison County
Rainbow Acres LLC
David & Van Heel & Family
13699 Highway 28, Swanville, MN 55382

This field day will be at the Van Heel's calf site, where they raise all the calves for the 1100-cow dairy. The site features two buildings, one of which is a retrofitted chicken and barn. The chicken barn has been used for calves for 10 years; 2.5 years ago an additional building was added to the site for weaned calves. The original barn includes a nursery where calves are kept in individual pens for the first 7 to 10 days. After the nursery, calves are put in group pens where they are fed with automated milk feeders. Calves are housed in groups of 20. A weaned calf barn has 6 pens, each holding up to 30 calves. For the past 4 years, calves have been managed by Katie Van Heel, David’s daughter-in-law. Katie attributes attention to detail and cleanliness for the farm’s success with calves. At the conclusion of the field day, there will be an option to view the farm’s unique sand reclamation system at the home farm site. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Emily at 320-255-6169, ext. 3 or krekk0033@umn.edu.

July 25, 10:00am-12:00pm
Meeker County
RU-BE Dairy, LLC
Rachael & Patrick Rusch; Joseph & Karen Becker
54738 210th Street, Grove City, MN 56243

RU-BE Dairy, LLC was established in 2016 when Rachael and Patrick Rusch transitioned into the family farm and became partners with Joseph and Karen Becker. Together, they operate a 550-cow herd consisting of Holsteins and Jerseys in a newly renovated freestall facility. The cows are milked three times a day in a double 8 parlor parlor. In 2010, Joseph and Vern Becker purchased the facility and managed it as a transition cow facility, milking approximately 100 cows. In 2011, a call barn was built in order to make milk calf raising more profitable, sustainable, and enjoyable. Since the transition in the family, they have expanded the freestall facility to 130 cow capacity, as well as adding a manure solid separator. They emphasize cow and calf comfort to minimize replacement costs while increasing quality of milk. Please RSVP by July 23 to Karen Johnson, ande4955@umn.edu.

July 31, 10:30am-12:30pm
Todd County
Vetachs Farms LLC
Loren & Elizabeth Vetachs
33623 County 14, Brower, MN 56438

Loren and Elizabeth Vetachs started dairying in 2008. They currently milk 200 Holsteins in a double 8 parallel parlor that was retro-fitted into their freestall barn. The parlor and a freestall barn addition was completed in September 2017. The freestall barn features 208 stalls, LED lighting, 72” variable speed fans, sand bedding, and a maternity/hospital area. The parlor is built with room to expand to a double 12. Future farm goals are to install a manure pit and expand their heifer facilities.

Ice cream treats will be provided. Please direct questions to RU-BE’s Sarah Miller at 320-533-4655 or nels4220@umn.edu.

August 1, 10:00am-1:00pm
Steere County
Kashome Holsteins
Darwin & Barb Kasper; son & daughter-in-law, Scott & Dawn; grandchildren, Derrick & Patrick
2606 NE 69th Street #9021, Medford, MN 55049

Kashome Holsteins is a Century Farm established in 1898, and is currently run by 3 generations of family members, making 6 generations on the farm. The Kaspers have always specialized in registered dairy stock. They are presently milking 240 registered Holstein cows, making it one of the larger dairy farms in Steele County. They have made the most changes over the years; they have added freestall barns and loafing sheds; and their double 8 milking parlor and vet room now exist in the farm’s original barn. They consistently make improvements to their operation, and are considering implementing robotic milking to accompany the various ways they’ve improved efficiency.

Refreshments/snacks will be provided. RSVP is requested but not required. Please RSVP to Claire LaCanne at 507-444-7691 or lacanne@umn.edu.

August 7, 10:30am-12:30pm
Stearns County
Borgerding Dairy
Joe & Rachelle Borgerding & Family
39736 County 275th Street, Belgrade, MN 56315

The Stearns County Dairy Field Day will feature a unique farm that emphasizes cost savings, effective labor use, and a strong family partnership. The Borgerdings milk 160 cows in addition to running 1100 acres. This land includes 250 acres of pasture for grazing. The rest of the land is used for feed and cash crops, including edible beans. The Borgerdings use biological farming to improve soil health and fertility. Cows are primarily bred to calve in the fall, and the farm uses Fleckvieh and Holstein genetics to produce a cow that is suitable for freestall and pasture conditions. Joe and his family have used innovative thinking to achieve cost savings while also meeting farming goals. Some of these innovations include unique approaches to drainage, ventilation, and feed management. Joe, Toni, and their two sons, Danny and Tommy, share management responsibilities on the farm and are currently in the process of farm transition. The farm also has 6 part time employees that assist with milking, feeding, and other duties. In addition, the Borgerdings manage a custom farming enterprise and utilize organic management to increase profitability.

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Emily at 320-255-6169, ext. 3 or krekk0033@umn.edu.

August 9, 12:30-3:30pm
Wabasha County
Emerald Spring Dairy
Rita & Maurice Young & son Darin
10578 Ditrich Road, Plainview, MN 55964

Emerald Spring Dairy milks 1000 cows 3 times a day in their double 16 parlor. They use sand bedding and a sand separation system, group calf housing and automatic feeders, and have a newly constructed cross ventilation, vented dairy barn. Farm Business Management Instructor at Riverland Community College, will discuss dairy profitability trends, areas to improve efficiency, benchmarks, and milk price protection.

Please register at https://z.umn.edu/liefdday9 or call 507-457-6440.

August 14, 10:00am-3:00pm
Stevens County
West Central Research & Outreach Center
Brad Heins
46827 State Highway 329, Morris, MN 56267

Join us for Organic Dairy Day at the West Central Research and Outreach Center. The day will include seminars about grazing financials, research on organic animal health, and a pasture walk.

Please pre-register by contacting Brad Heins, 320-589-1711 ext. 2119 or hein0106@umn.edu.
OBJECTIVES:
• Visit operations that have been successful.
• Learn about each dairy operation’s features.
• Ask questions and learn from one another.

AGENDA:
• Description of farm operation by host farm family.
• Short discussion on topics related to each dairy.
• Question/Answer session.

PRESENTERS:
• University of Minnesota Extension Faculty.
• Host Farm Family Members.

REGISTRATION:
• Registration starts 15 to 30 minutes before program.
• Pre-registration may be requested at some locations.
• Lunch or light meal may be included at some locations.

QUESTIONS?
PLEASE CONTACT:
• Jim Salfer
  320-203-6093
  salfe001@umn.edu

UMN Extension 2018 Summer Dairy Field Days

DATING/LOCATIONS:
• July 11 – Minnigan Hills Dairy Farm, Houston Co.
• July 12 – Czech’s Roadside Acres, Benton Co.
• July 19 – Rainbow Acres LLC, Morrison Co.
• July 25 – RU-BE Dairy, LLC, Meeker Co.
• July 31 – Vetsch Farms, LLC, Todd Co.
• Aug 1 – Kashome Holsteins, Steele Co.
• Aug 7 – Borgerding Dairy, Stearns Co.
• Aug 9 – Emerald Spring, Wabasha Co.
• Aug 14 – West Central ROC, Stevens Co.

9 Locations Across Minnesota

Presented by University of Minnesota Extension with partial financial support from Minnesota Dairy Initiative.