

Wednesday Tours

Foremost Farms Cooperative--The activities at Foremost Farms will include a 60-minute presentation by Evan Kinser, director of fluid milk marketing, on Foremost Farm's activity in providing training on market risk management. He will discuss the cooperative's forward pricing program and the efforts made to get their patrons to manage price risk. A tour of the lab and lunch will also be provided. The personnel from Equity will provide a 30-minute presentation on their livestock marketing activities and possible details involved with future livestock ID management as part of selling livestock.

Foremost Farms USA, headquartered in Baraboo, WI, operates 20 manufacturing facilities and 1 milk transfer station for its 3,700 dairy farmer members who live in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. The cooperative employs 1,550 people. Foremost Farms USA manufactures and markets several varieties of American and Italian-style cheeses, butter, whole and nonfat milk powders, specialty whey ingredients, packaged fluid milk, ice cream mix, and chilled ready-to-serve juices for its customers in the retail and wholesale marketplaces. Evan Kinser began working at Foremost Farms in 1998 setting up risk management programs for member owners and customers. He works with producers to assist them in developing marketing plans.

Equity Livestock Cooperative Program--Speaker/presenter is Jonathon Herrmann, commodity marketing specialist, Equity Cooperative Livestock Association. Topic will be Livestock Marketing Issues in the Upper Midwest.

U.S.D.A. Dairy Forage Research Facility--The field facility's total field acreage is roughly divided into 300 acres of pasture, 400 acres of perennial forage, 400 acres of corn, 200 acres of soybeans, 75 acres of small grains-typically winter wheat, and the remainder in small plot research.

The livestock facilities provide housing for 340 milking cows and their replacement stock. The total herd numbers 660. Livestock housing includes both tie stall and free stall design which serve the research need and is representative of facilities being used in the industry. Milking takes place in a sixteen stall milking parlor equipped with computerized technology to automatically identify each cow and measure milk production.

The quality of the environment is a major concern at the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center. From its inception, the field facility at Prairie du Sac has exemplified environmental foresight and agricultural stewardship of the land. Designed and built to overcome the potential problems of erosion, multi-source pollution, groundwater contamination, and overgrazing, the facility continues to make protecting the environment an integral part of its daily operations.

Cedar Grove Cheese--Cedar Grove Cheese located in Plain, Wisconsin crafts 3.5 million pounds of traditional, specialty, and organic cheese each year. The 20 dairy farmers supplying milk to the facility have pledged not to use rBGH on their cows since December 1993. Cedar Grove Cheese is a leading company in using biological innovative techniques to clean up its cheese production and water.

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