Stearns County Dairy Field Day to be held August 14

By Emily Wilmes, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. CLOUD, Minn.—University of Minnesota Extension, in cooperation with the Central Minnesota Dairy Profit Team, will host its annual Stearns County Dairy Field Day on Thursday, August 14th at Rohe Dairy LLC near Freeport. The event will run from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Rohe Dairy is owned by brothers Marv, Jim, and Mike. They milk nearly 250 cows twice a day in a double-12 parallel parlor. The cows average 83 pounds of milk per head per day, with a rolling herd average around 27,000 pounds. They also farm 600 acres of corn and alfalfa.

A major feature of Rohe Dairy is their calf barn, which was built in August 2012. The Rohes remodeled and added onto their original barn to make room for three group pens and a Lely Calm automatic calf feeder with two feeding stations. Besides the feeder, the calf barn also features 14-foot ceilings which the Rohes credit for good ventilation in the barn. Dr. Marcia Endres with the University of Minnesota will be on hand to discuss her findings in a study on calves and automatic calf feeders.

This year, the Dairy Field Day will also feature an afternoon session. This will include discussion and demonstration on dairy stockmanship by Dr. Riki Sorge, University of Minnesota Assistant Professor in Dairy Production Medicine and Dr. Marcia Endres. Stockmanship focuses on the handling interactions between humans and cows and includes low-stress handling techniques.

This free event will also include a lunch, sponsored by CentraSota Cooperative.

The farm is located at 44394 285th Avenue Freeport, MN.

Pre-registration is not required for this event, but it encouraged to help with the meal count. You can pre-register by calling the Stearns County Extension Office at 320-255-6169.

For biosecurity purposes, please wear freshly laundered clothing and clean footwear.