



Dairy Tour Near Garretson June 23

SIOUX FALLS — The Nussbaum family is celebrating June Dairy Month by hosting a bus tour on their farm, Cottonwood Ridge Dairy near Garretson, on Tuesday, June 23. The evening tour will run from 5:30-8 p.m., and a bus will take participants from Sioux Falls to the dairy.

This family-friendly event will provide guests with an opportunity to see first-hand where the dairy products they enjoy get their start. South Dakota Farm Families is hosting the event.

Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the newly updated farm, and speak with local dairy producers and experts about dairy farming practices. Tour participants will also be served a meal, and each family will receive \$50 in food gift certificates. In addition, the South Dakota Dairy Princess will be on hand to answer questions and meet visitors.

The Nussbaum family recently updated their farm to a robotic milking system. This new technology means the family is no stranger to opening their farm for tours. The farm has hosted guests from the local community, neighboring states, and around the world. “We open our doors for those that want to learn more about their food,” says Monica Nussbaum.

The farm doors are open, but space for this event is limited. To sign up for this tour visit <http://www.agunited.org/2015FarmTours>. Families with children will be given preference. To keep up with this and other events follow us at South Dakota Farm Families on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

The event is sponsored in part by South Dakota Farm Families and Ag United, Midwest Dairy Association, and South Dakota soybean farmers and their check-off.

Yankton Co. Day Camp Slated June 25

From electricity and Internet access to banking and farm inputs, rural residents throughout South Dakota depend upon cooperative businesses for access to many essential products and services. To celebrate cooperatives’ roles in their communities, Farmers Union organizations across the state will host day camps for rural youth.

This year’s camp celebrates South Dakota Farmers Union’s centennial with the theme, “Growing Stronger with Cooperation, Celebrating 100 Years.”

All youth, ages 6-13, are invited to attend Yankton County Farmers Union’s day camp scheduled for Thursday, June 25, at Memorial Park (Concrete Shelter), Yankton. In case of rain, contact Myles Bialas at 605-505-0144 for rain site location. Through interactive activities and crafts, day campers will learn about cooperation and other topics including agriculture and leadership.

Camp is free to Farmers Union members’ children and \$5.00 for non-members’ children. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. Camp activities will run from 10:30 a.m. 5 p.m. This year, youth will also learn about the role Farmers Union has played in South Dakota during the last 100 years.

“We look forward to sharing the many roles that cooperatives play in our lives every day in a fun and interactive way,” said Bonnie Geyer, S.D. Farmers Union State Education Director. “We encourage local youth to attend camp for the opportunity to learn many important lessons and develop life skills. Young South Dakotans will learn about teamwork, agriculture and leadership, while having fun in a safe and friendly environment.” Campers will also participate in an agriculture activity that will teach them about diversity in agriculture across South Dakota and the nation.

Campers are asked to bring a sack lunch; snack will be provided. There will be swimming so bring a suit, towel, and \$5 or pass (if available). Campers are also encouraged to wear sturdy shoes for activities. All campers will receive a free T-shirt, courtesy of Farmers Union Insurance Agency.

Registration forms can be found online at www.sdfu.org. You can also pick them up at your local Farmers Union Insurance office or your local cooperative.

For more information, contact Farmers Union State Education Director, Bonnie Geyer at 605-352-6761 ext. 125 or email her at bgeyer@sdfu.org.

Wausa Horse Show Is July 5

WAUSA, Neb. — The 40th annual Wausa Horse Show will be held Sunday, July 5, at 2 p.m. at the arena at the north end of Gladstone Park. There will be Jr./Jr., Jr. and Sr. classes, with a 75 percent payback. For 5 and under classes, there will only be 4 place trophies.

There will be no rain date, the same horses are not eligible in like events and the events close for signup one event ahead. The day will feature added prizes and highpoint trophies in each age group for our 40th celebration.

A concession stand will be on the grounds. For more information, call 586-2543, 402-360-3881 or 402-360-1673.



The Eurasian collared dove. (Photo: Joy Viola, Northeastern University)

Not Much Love For This Dove

Council Warns Of Common Dove Species

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

Avian Influenza isn’t the only threat to poultry in the Midwest. The Eurasian collared dove, kept for hobby and as pets, is now listed as a bird species to be on the lookout for by the Nebraska Invasive Species Council.

“They are known to carry a disease-causing parasite known as Trichomonas gallinae, which cause cankers and sores in the animal’s throat, crop and digestive tract,” said Shelly Steffl, wildlife biologist with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in Chadron, Neb. “The disease can be transmitted to many species of native and domestic birds.”

Commonly called Avian Trichomoniasis, this protozoa infection is a threat to birds only and does not transmit to humans. The severity of the disease varies, affecting some birds mildly while proving fatal in others, and more young birds are infected than adult birds. While infected adult birds tend to recover quickly, they can be carriers of the pathogen for up to one year without showing signs of infection.

“Eurasian collared doves prefer urban and suburban habitats, and can be seen feeding at backyard bird-feeders,” Steffl said. “They are also very common on farmsteads with grain storage facilities.”

In addition to the disease element, this dove species is primarily considered an invasive species because it is non-native to the United States and competes with native species for habitat. The Eurasian collared dove is an aggressive bird and tends to chase off mourning doves and cardinals as well as native species known for their own aggression, such as blue jays.

The Eurasian collared dove is found throughout the state of Nebraska and South

Dakota, and in all states other than the Northeast.

The Eurasian collared dove is larger than the mourning dove but smaller than the rock dove, also an invasive species otherwise known as the pigeon. The Eurasian collared dove is gray with a partial black collar outlined in white on the neck. The native mourning dove, while also gray, does not have a neck collar and instead has black spots on its wings evident when perched.

A native of India, Turkey and China, the Eurasian collared dove continues to be kept domestically in the United States. The original flock released into the wild occurred in 1970 following a robbery of a pet store in the Bahamas, when the store owner let his remaining stock loose. The doves were first found surviving in the wild in the United States in 1982 in Florida.

Similar to other invasive species with roots to the pet trade, the spread of the Eurasian collared dove has continued to be aided by owners releasing their birds into the wild, perhaps because of the high repro-

ductive rate of the birds. Birds mate for life, and with incubations of two weeks and the chicks fledging in three weeks after hatching, pairs commonly raise three to four broods per year and up to six broods per year. Individual birds can live for up to 14 years.

Currently, effective control efforts are still being researched, according to the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health in Tifton, Ga. The dove is hunted in some areas, but this has not been shown to have an effect on the population growth of the species.

The Eurasian collared dove does not migrate, but does change its habits per season, living in nesting pairs during the summer and

in flocks with multiple pairs during the winter. So, they tend to be more noticeable during the winter months.

“Although there are more summer breeding birds located, the winter range is more extensive,” said Michael Fuller, a biologist at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M., who studies the spread of the Eurasian collared dove across the United States and has found that the birds are found in more states in the winter than in the summer. “This observation may have several causes, including the fact that the doves aggregate in flocks during the winter, making them easier to detect. The lack of tree foliage may also make birds easier to detect in winter.”



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