

## Extension Shows Economic Benefits of Dairy Industry

Farmers, bankers, rural electric cooperatives, and community leaders from an eight-county area participated in a daylong event about growing the dairy industry in Western Iowa.

Crawford County Extension partnered with the Chamber and Development Council of Crawford County and Western Iowa Power Cooperative to host the Feb. 20, 2007, event in Schleswig. ISU Extension Dairy Field Specialist Dr. Chris Mondak provided an overview of modern dairy operations and the beneficial economic impact to surrounding communities. ISU Extension Farm Transition Specialist David Baker of the Beginning Farmer's Center provided information on services and tax credits available to new enterprises and the need for succession planning in agriculture. Mike Meissen of the Iowa Area Development Group provided information about economic benefits and development issues. Battle Creek dairy operator Kenny Bower answered questions about day-to-day management and markets for products.



The information had an immediate impact. After the event, a group of a half dozen interested economic developers held an impromptu meeting with ISU Extension Community & Economic Development Field Specialist Abbie Gaffey to develop next steps such as using technology to identify suitable sites in Crawford and Monona Counties.

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We had representation from Extension which I think lends a great deal of credibility to our efforts to create dairy development in Western Iowa.”

**Don Luensmann**

**Chamber and Development Council of Crawford County  
Executive Director**

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For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Crawford County Office at (712) 263-4697. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu).

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... and justice for all

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