

# Record Crowds Attend 2008 Great Dairy Adventure

Milking a cow by hand, take-home milk mustache photos with sports stars and free ice cream are just a few examples of the fun memories that record numbers of children, parents, educators and daycare providers experienced at the 10th annual Great Dairy Adventure July 23 at the Michigan State University (MSU) Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education.

"The Great Dairy Adventure is a fun and educational consumer event that illustrates how milk gets from the farm to the table, and it teaches the importance of consuming at least three servings of dairy foods a day," said Shari Blonde, Great Dairy Adventure event chairperson. "By participating in various hands-on activities and sampling healthy, refreshing dairy treats, children can more readily make the connection between cows on the farm and dairy products in grocery store coolers."

Attendees took turns milking a cow by hand, petting calves, experimenting with dairy recipes, creating craft projects and playing games, all the while learning about various segments of the dairy industry. MSU athletes were on site to sign autographs and take milk mustache photos with participants. Some of the athletes even tried their hand at milking a cow.

"More than 2,700 children, along with their par-

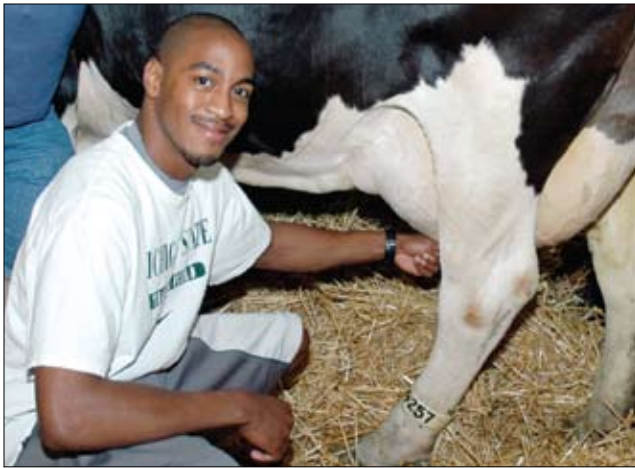
ents and daycare providers enjoyed free dairy treats and the many learning stations and game and craft areas at this year's event," Blonde said. "This year's event brought out record numbers of attendees who participated in some new exhibits and educational activities. From toddlers to teenagers, there was something fun for everyone to experience."

Parents, daycare providers and others who work with children were given nutritional education materials that have simple, tasty ideas to try at home.

The Great Dairy Adventure is part of the weeklong Michigan Dairy Expo, the largest dairy event in the state. Dairy producers and youth interested in dairying come from across the state to gather at the annual expo to face off against one another in breed shows and showmanship contests; vie for awards in judging competitions, quiz bowls and skillathons; sell or purchase dairy animals; network with friends and industry colleagues; and celebrate the dairy industry.

Dairy promoters from all facets of Michigan's dairy industry worked to make the day a success. If you wish to assist in next year's event, contact Karla Macelli or Mindy Pratt at (248) 474-6672 in the MMPA Novi office.





Even MSU athletes couldn't resist trying their hand at milking a cow. Above, MSU track and field athlete Jeremy Orr successfully milks a cow.



Even with all the new exhibits, milk mustache photos remained one of the most popular activities at the Great Dairy Adventure.



Brave attendees at the Great Dairy Adventure could don a palpitation glove and insert their hand into a cow's rumen through a cannula. Above, "Mr. Cheese" shows more squeamish attendees how it's done.



New this year was Michigan Farm Bureau's booth where youngsters got to make a "farm charm" representing the different elements needed to farm.



MMPA Member Representative Tom Stakenas, left, demonstrated how cows are milked. He allowed attendees to touch and feel milking inflations and gave them a chance to "attach" the milking claws to fake udders.