



Michigan's first ever "Breakfast on the Farm," drew nearly 1,500 people to Dutch Meadows Dairy near St. Johns on June 20. Dutch Meadows is operated by MMPA members Tony and Patti Jandernoa and their family.

Attendees enjoyed a free pancake and sausage breakfast featuring all Michigan products. They were able to take a self-guided tour of the family-owned dairy farm and visit various educational stations hosted by local farmers. Dutch Meadows Dairy milks 1,100 cows three times per day in a state-of-the-art milking parlor, which was one of the stops on the event tour.

"It was encouraging, unbelievable, the response we got from people," Tony says. "They were so grateful to just come and see how a farm operates. It was worth it, I would encourage anybody to try it on their farm."

At final count, an estimated 1,250 people enjoyed a delicious breakfast and even more people came to enjoy the tour only. It's estimated that more than 1,500 people attended the event, according to Faith Cullens, Clinton County MSU Extension dairy educator and lead organizer of the event. Cullens says that the day served as an opportunity for non-farm families to learn how a modern-day dairy farm operates.

"Dairy farming has changed immensely since the

1970s and 1980s, and many people are not familiar with the new technology," she says.

One thing hasn't changed, and that is that dairy farms are family-owned small businesses.

Agriculture, with dairy production contributing the highest percentage, adds upwards of \$71 billion annually to the Michigan economy. Clinton County ranks No. 2 in the state in the number of dairy cows.

"Farmers exemplify the very essence of what it means to be a steward of the land, and they're also accountable to themselves for caring for the animals on their farms," Cullens says. "Providing the best nutrition, health care and living conditions for the animals—the backbone of a dairy farmer's business – is still priority No. 1."

The event was organized by the Clinton County MSU Extension office and the Clinton County Michigan Farm Bureau. More than 150 volunteers helped cook, serve, clean up, answer questions, and direct tour-goers throughout the day. More than 50 donors contributed to make this event free to the public.

To view photos and video of the day visit the photo gallery at [www.BreakfastOnTheFarm.com](http://www.BreakfastOnTheFarm.com).





*Tony and Patti Jandernoa, owners of Dutch Meadows Dairy, give visitors directions for touring their farm.*



*Kids and adults were able to learn how cows are milked at one of the educational stations set up on the farm.*



*A milk tanker was one of the stops on the tour.*



*Many tour participants were amazed to learn how many gallons of milk a cow produces each day.*



*Breakfast, featuring Michigan products, included blueberry pancakes and sausage.*