



The rotating milking carousel at Clark Dairy can milk 128 cows at one time. The interior carousel is quite a sight to behold.

## Riverview's Clark Dairy started milking in late October

Clark Dairy, located 10 miles west of Clark and six miles south, began milking October 25, 2021.

Owned by Riverview LLP of Morris, Minn., Clark Dairy houses 11,000 cows and the milk is trucked to Agropur, a cheese making factory, in Lake Norden.

Recently, Riverview added a 9,500 cow dairy, Garfield Dairy, just west of Bryant, in Hamlin County and now the Clark Dairy, with its 11,000 cows, will have added 20,500 dairy cattle to the northeast South Dakota economy. Washington Dairy, in southern Clark County, four miles east of Willow Lake is scheduled to open in 2023.

On Wednesday and Thursday of last week, Clark Dairy hosted five, two-hour tours, for farming neighbors and area friends. Organizing the tours was Riverview employee Kelly Brandlee and she said she would be happy to schedule tours for interested groups.

The tour began at the entrance to the dairy and then a half mile drive brought the group to the milking carousel building. The cows are always enclosed, with open ventilation available during milder climate times.

The enclosed circular rotating milking carousel, with 128 stalls, shows just how far the art of milk-

ing cows has come, the last century. Four employees are working the carousel at one time, rotating with another crew, periodically. The carousel goes around one time in 7.5 minutes.

Ron Visser, a Riverview employee, Clear Lake, is the 'cow guy' at Clark Dairy and he explained the entire milking process. Of the 11,000 dairy cows, there are three different classifications categories for milking and therefore three different settings for speed.

The milk is piped to bulk tanks, starting at 101', filtered and ending up in 40' chilled pipes. These two bulk tanks, each holding 70,000

gallons of milk make up about eight tanker loads.

The majority of the 11,000 cows arrived from New Mexico or Arizona, where Riverview has farms.

Said Visser, "There is no feed while the cows are rotating (during milking)." Cows return to their pens after milking to fresh feed, clean pens and fresh bedding. He then explained that it takes about an hour to wash everything down and much time is taken for cleaning. "We spray foam, a pressure wash, morning, noon and night, washing the stationary equipment and everything."

Two, 20-employee teams run the

shifts. There are apartments for 48 people on the premises and those with families live elsewhere.

The 12-pen barn is located adjacent to the milking building, roughly a quarter mile away. Coming in the south door was the calving pen.

When calves are a couple days old they are transported to Minnesota and then a week later to Arizona. Visser noted that this is different than the beef raised, cow-calf approach, as with dairy calves, the calf is on her own from the beginning.

All calves have both ears tagged, as all are artificially inseminated and 90 percent are females. The

yellow tags are for milkers, the pink tags, for feeders.

One expected to see Holsteins or Jerseys. Visser explained that the best cheese comes from a Holstein-Jersey mix, "it's a good combination for cheese," he said.

Visser talked extensively of awareness of animal well-being a priority. "It is vitally important to work with reputable and licensed veterinarians and nutritionists; keeping cattle clean and dry; caring for the sick animal and updating and maintaining facilities."

The Clark Dairy looks to be a wonderful agricultural facility.

**Riverview**  
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## Clark Elementary Christmas music concert was Monday

Under the direction of music teacher Tabitha Schmidt, the Clark Elementary, grades PreK - 5, presented *Elves, Reindeer and Buckets Oh My!*, Monday, at the Clark High School gym.

Above, the first grade class presented *Hip Hop Reindeer*. The middle/high school Christmas concert is this coming Monday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m.

## Sunday School programs to be held in the area

Many children's Christmas programs in area churches will be held this holiday season. Christmas celebrations will continue as Christians in the community and around the world recognize the birth of the Savior and the new life he brought to the world.

### Clark services

At St. Paul Lutheran Church, a children's program will be held on December 12 during worship service at 9:00 a.m.

The Assembly of God Church will hold a Family Christmas program at 7:00 p.m. on December 12.

At the Plymouth Congregational UCC Church, there will be a Sunday morning program at 9:30 a.m. on December 19 during worship.

The Clark United Methodist

**Sunday School**  
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## Lighted Parade is Saturday

Clark's 3rd Annual Christmas in Clark Lighted Parade is this Saturday, December 11. The parade theme is "Toyland". Line up will be by the elementary school at 5:30 p.m. with the Lighted Parade beginning promptly at 6:00 p.m.

From 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. there are various activities for kids at the American Legion Hall, as well as a business and residential lighting contest.



The Clark High School Ag class four-season Greenhouse was installed last week. A three-person crew from Illinois started on Wednesday and finished the project Saturday. The Junior Teaching Package Greenhouse from Greenhouse Megastore is 18' x 36' at a height of 10'6" and 6' sidewalls.

## Four-Season Ag class Greenhouse is ready to go

It's been three years in the planning stages, but the Clark School Agricultural Class/Horticulture will now have a four-season greenhouse.

Ag teacher/FFA adviser Matti Boomgaarden is super excited that beginning with the second semester, right after Christmas break, students will have a learning lab for plant growth.

Between now and then Boomgaarden will be making sure that all hook-ups are working and that the eight grower benches, donated by the Clark Area Community Foundation, are in place and that the water has been tested.

"We've been organizing and thinking about what we have to do for some time now and hopefully we can put everything together, know-

ing that there will be a lot of trial and error," said Boomgaarden.

Southeast Technical College, in Sioux Falls, donates plant plugs to any school in need and that is how the students will try to grow seeds.

Boomgaarden is already thinking of high chlorine, proper nutrients and various varieties. "We will

**Greenhouse**  
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