



Iowa

Risk Management Tools for Dairy

Responding to requests for more risk management education for dairy producers, this project from Iowa State University Extension addressed the variables for determining which milking system may be best for future financial success. Dairy producers looked closely at the costs, labor efficiency, advantages, milk production and quality, of installing two types of milking systems; low cost milking parlors (LCP) and automatic milking systems (AMS).

During the course of this \$49,159, 18-month project, 890 producers took part in on-farm tours, webinars, informational meetings, focus groups, and individual farm visits as they worked to eventually decide which milking system was best for

their health, safety, profitability, cash flow and production skills.

Project director, Larry Tranel, said all involved (producers, the project team and agri-business and industry professionals) reported that the success of the project was due to the great working relationship and unified efforts of everyone. In addition, at the projects' conclusion 22 Iowa producers' successfully implemented new milking systems and 26 more were in the process of implementation, thus increasing their operation's sustainability.

In 2014, it was estimated that the average dairy cow generated \$23,000 of local economic activity, making the local communities economy also invested in the risk of each and every area dairy. Participants estimated the value of this project to their operation was approximately \$10,000, proving how integrally important the right milking systems and good milking decisions are to each individual dairy farm.



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**EXTENSION
RISK MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION**



United States
Department of
Agriculture

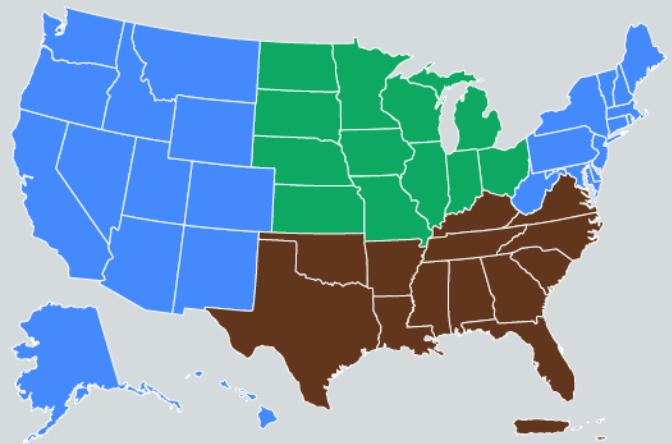
National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

**“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers
to manage the unique risks of producing food
for the world’s table.”**

Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website.
<http://ExtensionRME.org>



ERME Regional Centers



**NORTH CENTRAL
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