

Rush County Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director Visits Largest Dairy in
United States.



As part of an ongoing agricultural economic development initiative backed by the Rush County Agricultural Roundtable, Pam Leisure, Executive Director of the Rush County Chamber of Commerce received a “crash course” in modern day dairy production! Pam, along with a commission from Eastern Indiana Development District, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Integrated Dairy Solutions, Midwest Bio-Management, and several others met in Galeton, Colorado to tour best-practice dairies as a model for future dairy development in Rush County, the region and the State of Indiana. The group had a highly successful trip including touring the largest milking parlor in the United States, Johnson Dairy. Johnson Dairy is home to the first double 80 herringbone milking parlor in the world. This parlor is milking 160 cows at a time. Owner, John Johnson, is now in the process of converting another operational facility, a double 45, into a second double 80, bringing his milking capacity to 320 cows at a time. When fully operational, Johnson's will milk over 9,000 cows three times a day. This facility, when completed, will produce 675,000 pounds of milk, or 72,600 gallons of milk per day.

The facilities toured were very clean in nature, in fact the double 80 had white and blue tension mats lining the milking floor. After each group of cows left, the facility underwent a complete flushing before the next group of cows were brought in. The manure was collected 24 hours a day, seven days a week and utilized for compost. With this type of collection process, it virtually eliminates open pits and lagoons, this addressing one of the strongest opposition points of dairy development, the odor.



These new modern day dairy operations look like a high tech business center, and operate as such. These types of facilities fit very well with the Rush County Agricultural Roundtable Strategic Plan in the area of environmentally friendly confined livestock operations. If you would like more information about this or other agricultural economic development initiatives, please contact Pam Leisure at pamleisure@rushcounty.com.