

More Eyes and More Ideas



Background: David Popowski milks 140 cows and farms 1,400 acres on his dairy near Ivanhoe, Minn. His son, Adam, is currently in the process of taking over the family operation. His daughter, Nancy, assists on the operation and also works in the local FSA office.

Getting involved:

"We were contacted by MDI, and we have been working with them for five years now. They don't focus on just one area, but they help with a variety of

topics. We have worked with vets from the U of M, Jim Salfer from the U of M, and lots of other people beyond just the people in our MDI team. They have even helped us take the steps to get things transferred over into my son's name."

Seeing progress:

"MDI basically helps kick out ideas for how you can make more money. We had trouble with vaccines and herd health that we now have under control. We also worked with MDI to add a pre- and post-calving barn. We've talked about stray voltage, feed costs and other things team members see on the farm or within our farm bills."

A lot to offer:

"The team you work with is giving you more eyes and more ideas. They are there to help you see what you can fix, and they find the people who can help you make those changes happen. For other dairy farmers thinking of going into this, go in with open eyes. You won't use everything they say, but there are a lot of good ideas that are thrown out for you to consider."

If you want to see if working with the MDI team can benefit you, contact:

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