

UBC DAIRY CENTRE

Research Report #1

Welcome to the UBC Dairy Education & Research Centre

Welcome to the first in a new series of Research Reports from The University of British Columbia's Dairy Education & Research Centre. This series will present brief reports on new information arising from work at the Centre. This initial report introduces you to the Dairy Centre, its research leaders, Advisory Committee and staff.

The Centre results from consolidation of UBC and Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre (PARC, Agassiz) dairy research facilities. The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences is developing the Centre into a leading international education and research facility. A major step was completion of the new animal research building in June 2000 and its official opening on November 1, 2000.

Two major functions of the Dairy Centre are: 1) to provide state-of-the-art research facilities for developing and adapting new technologies relevant to the dairy industry; and 2) to serve as a focal point for dairy education programs provided by UBC, University College of the Fraser Valley, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the dairy industry.

The Dairy Centre is developing a 225 lactating cow dairy herd enabling its day-to-day operation to be financially self-sufficient while providing research animals to meet rapidly increasing teaching and research requirements. The Centre provides student housing on-site, and because of its location, facilitates collaboration between UBC and PARC (Agassiz) scientists.

The new Centre is the largest of its kind in Canada and attracts students and researchers from across the country and internationally. It provides hands-on practical and research experience for undergraduate students. Its research programs provide training for MSc and PhD graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. During the Centre's short history, it has attracted students and scientists from China, Germany, Great Britain, Korea, United States, The Netherlands, and The Philippines who enrich its academic environment and bring new knowledge to BC's agricultural industries.

The Dairy Centre is developing productive linkages with the community. Visitors from the public and industry arrive daily. The Centre acts as a destination for school groups learning about BC agriculture and the origin of their food. Each year it hosts high school work-experience students from across BC.

Research Programs at the Centre

Three UBC professors lead the major research programs at the Centre. Each group is strengthened by collaborators from Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and from Canadian and international universities and industries.



UBC Dairy Education & Research Centre
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
Agassiz, BC

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web site: www.agci.ubc.ca/dairy_centre

The Animal Welfare Program is led by **Dan Weary** (danweary@interchange.ubc.ca), (604) 822-3954. Activities in his research group include:

- ◆ improving free-stall design for cow comfort
- ◆ lameness and laminitis
- ◆ improved calf housing and management

The Animal Nutrition Program is led by **Jim Shelford** (shelford@interchange.ubc.ca), (604) 822-6578. This group is currently studying:

- ◆ agronomic practices and forage quality
- ◆ development of an optimal testing and control program for Johne's disease
- ◆ effectiveness of anionic salts in the prevention of milk fever
- ◆ vaccines for mastitis

The Animal Reproduction and Reproductive Technologies Program is lead by **Raja Rajamahendran** (raja@interchange.ubc.ca), (604) 822-4784. Projects include:

- ◆ development of laboratory tests to predict fertility in bulls
- ◆ estrus synchronization after timed insemination to increase pregnancy rates in cattle
- ◆ manipulation of oocytes and embryos to optimize embryo transfer technology
- ◆ basic studies on ovarian function in cattle

Advisory Committee

The Dairy Centre receives guidance from an Advisory Committee comprised of 11 individuals representing consumers, producer groups, industry and government. Advisory Committee members champion the Centre and welcomes new ideas, suggestions and feedback about it's activities. The current members are:

Ron Barker (Chair)	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries
Karen Beauchemin	Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada–Lethbridge
David Gibson	Canadian Feed Industry Association
Bill Klop	Mainland Dairymen's Association
Cornie Hertgers	BC Milk Producer's Association
Harley Nicholson	Westgen
Valerie Stevens	Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada–Agassiz
Louis Schurmann	South Coastal Dairy Education Association
Jim Thompson	UBC
Sandi Ulmi	BC Dairy Foundation
Brian Upper	BC Veterinary Medical Association

Dairy Centre Staff

Day-to-day operation of the Dairy Centre is managed by Nelson Dinn and his staff: Brad Duncan, Marion Knott, Bill Kramer, Ted Toenders, Barry Thompson, and Pete VanTol.

For further information about the Dairy Centre's education and research programs, or about how you can become involved and contribute to its success please contact:

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