

- Conservation strategies & water-use efficiency
- Forages/feedstuffs alternatives & sustainability
- Water planning

Available Resources

- GPS industry database - location, cow numbers, feed supplies, etc.
- TSU dairy - cooperative programming, multiple-use
- USDA/ARS - may desire new research facilities
- Inventory of research resources/facilities
- Service laboratories - diagnostics, feed, analytical (environmental, milk, etc.)

Energy/Resources

- Renewable Energy
 - Biofuels
 - Costs and efficiency
- Impacts on profitability
 - Efficiency
 - Price estimates

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Consortium funding is provided by the respective institutions and agencies, along with education and research grants. Special state or federal legislative initiatives are envisioned together with support from allied industries, the dairy industry and other private sources. Consortium partners have substantial research infrastructure, including experimental farms, scientific and engineering laboratories, and access to commercial dairies for support of research, education, extension and diagnostic service programs.



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Cooperating Institutions and Agencies

Texas AgriLife Research

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab

USDA-Agricultural Research Service

West Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University

New Mexico State University

Texas Tech University

Tarleton State University

Oklahoma State University

University of Arizona

Cooperating Dairy Organizations

Dairy Producers of New Mexico

Texas Association of Dairywomen

Dairy Max

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS DAIRY CONSORTIUM

This multi-university, multi-disciplinary and interagency Consortium was established to provide a recognized framework for coordination of rapidly expanding research, educational, extension and service needs of the intensive dairy production and processing industries in the Southern Great Plains.

The focus of the Consortium centers on developing and adapting technologies and delivering educational programs to enhance the efficiency and quality of milk production, and its related impact on the Texas economy and Southern Great Plains dairy industry.

MISSION

The mission of the Consortium is to enhance the dairy industry's competitiveness as well as its ability to produce a safe, wholesome and competitively priced supply of milk and related products. This is achieved in an environmentally sound manner through expanded cooperative programs of the various universities, state agencies and federal agencies serving the Southern Great Plains.

GOALS

- Create opportunities for developing federal and state Legislative initiatives that will help establish "centers of excellence" among member institutions with the initial focus placed on major issues identified in a producer forum, including:
 - Environmental Quality
 - Dairy Production
 - Dairy Products/Quality
 - Economics/Marketing
 - Human Resource Development
 - Water Utilization

— Resources for Industry

— Energy/Resources

- Identify consensus priorities based on dairy industry inputs utilizing a broad-based Industry Advisory Committee.
- Establish multi-disciplinary faculty teams to address the industry's identified problems and issues through collaborative research, education, extension and service programs.
- Provide coordinated and enhanced undergraduate and graduate training programs.
- Develop grant opportunities and competitiveness through synergy of the resources and talents of outstanding faculty employed by the partners.
- Develop long-term technological partnerships with producers and allied industries to gain access to necessary resources.

PRIORITIES

The Consortium provides for effective interdisciplinary approaches to respond in a proactive manner to the needs of the various components of the dairy industry. Current priorities established by faculty, administrators and industry representatives are:

Environmental Quality

- Regulations and permitting
- Water issues: quality, quantity and protection
- Facilities and waste management/alternative uses
- Air quality compliance & abatement
- Sustainable acreage, water and nutrients
- Training, regulators/inspectors
- Mortality management

Dairy Production Issues

- Reproduction
- Fresh cow transition
- Digestive disorders

- Calves, health/disease management
- Heat stress management
- Animal welfare issues.
- Biodefense
- Ruminant nutrition: feed efficiency, forages, mycotoxins, distillers grains, etc.
- Feed sources for organic dairies
- Replacements - calves, heifers
- Feedstuff mix with water limitations

Dairy Products/Quality

- Sediment in milk
- Efficiency of cheese manufacturing
- Components — protein, fat, solids-nonfat SNF
- Somatic cell issues
- Antibiotics
- Ropy (stringy) milk
- Transportation costs

Economics/Marketing

- New processing plants, efficiency models
- Balancing supply/demand - projections
- Profitability and risk assessment
- Alternative marketing: organic, dairy beef, cheese, etc.
- Maintaining markets, communication, perception
- Protection of image
- Communication/teamwork.

Human Resource Development

- Entry-level employees
- Mid-level management
- Owners/managers
- Industry professionals--consultants, vets, regulators
- On-line training materials
- Efficient communication with producers
- Housing/connecting services
- Human resource costs/benefits
- Immigration

Water Utilization

- Processing plants
- Water marketing/sales
- Water resource protection guidelines