One of the College’s signature undergraduate education programs for over 25 years, the Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management (CREAM) Program teaches students the importance of hard work, teamwork, responsibility and accountability as they lead the day-to-day operations of a dairy farm and learn valuable farm management skills. These hands-on experiences are incredibly valuable: they equip students to confidently apply for dairy industry jobs, seek admission to top-notch Veterinary Schools or pursue other careers. The future of CREAM is bright, and these improvements to CALS’ dairy teaching and research facilities will make an excellent experiential learning program even better.

CREAM advisor Dr. Norman Purdie.

UVM Dairy Center of Excellence

UVM’s Dairy Center of Excellence has applied about $1,000,000 since its inception in 2010 toward innovative research aimed at increasing Vermont agriculture’s economic viability. Research emphases include studies on animal nutrition and health maintenance, disease prevention and treatment, calf and heifer rearing, forage research, new dairy product development, environmental sustainability and evaluation, and implementation of innovative technologies.

UVM’s dairy research work will be greatly enhanced by new facilities at the Miller Farm where a wide range of controlled studies can be conducted with specialized equipment. Research activity conducted at numerous farms around Vermont broadens the impact and variety of studies being undertaken by UVM’s Dairy Center of Excellence (DCE) scientists.

For example, Plant and Soil Science researchers Dr. Heather Darby and Dr. Sid Bosworth are using a DCE grant to conduct advanced forage selection trials aimed at generating results that will lead to improved herd health and reduced feed costs. Research trials at Borderview Farm in Alburgh, coupled with controlled site studies at UVM, are generating valuable data on fiber content and digestibility characteristics of five common cool season grass species and 25 varietal selections.

Dr. Jana Kraft is using on-campus facilities to study the development of milk and dairy products that promote health and prevent disease. Her research seeks to strengthen milk, cheese and yogurt as a food for health as well as to help the Vermont dairy industry to take up positions in the emerging market of functional foods.

UVM Dairy Center of Excellence

Drs. Sid Bosworth and Heather Darby at the site of an on-farm forage crop research trial.

Dr. Jana Kraft.

Cheryl Dorschner photos.
Phase I Campaign Launched

Dr. Thomas Vogelmann, Dean
UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

I envision a bright future for the Paul R. Miller Agricultural Research Farm and invite you to be a partner in its renovation. Since its construction nearly 50 years ago, the Miller Farm on Spear Street has been a vital part of the College’s teaching, research and outreach activities. It is time to build upon that success.

Our plans for an array of exciting and essential facility improvements will replace worn, outmoded buildings with state-of-the-art farm facilities designed to serve the College’s teaching, research and public education needs far into the 21st century. New classroom and laboratory facilities will enhance our outstanding CREAM and EQUUS programs as well as other Animal Science and Plant & Soil Science courses. We will expand our dairy research capabilities through new lab and animal care facilities and will increase the involvement of Vermont farms as research partners through the UVM Dairy Center of Excellence.

The $300,000 investment made by the State of Vermont in UVM’s farm complex in the mid 1960’s has paid substantial dividends. Just as Dean Paul Miller and Professor Robert Fitzsimmons worked tirelessly over 50 years ago to bring modern agricultural teaching and research facilities to fruition, my colleagues and I intend to fulfill our vision for these necessary improvements.

Our formula for success requires a blending of college funds with private donations. Your help is needed to accomplish our Phase I fundraising goals. Together, we can ensure that our college continues to deliver excellent educational programs and conduct cutting-edge research to serve our students, Vermont’s dairy industry and our many other important stakeholders for generations to come. Please contact me at calsdean@uvm.edu to learn how you can be of assistance.

Phase I Campaign Launched