

Brett Klein Barn

After starting a section of the UVM tie-stall barn in 1988 and developing the program for two years, CREAM is now housed in the larger and graciously donated Brett Klein Memorial Barn.

CREAMers, working with Advisors, began planning the barn in August 1990, and the herd moved in on February 9, 1991. Funds for remodeling this structure were raised from memorial contributions and donations from members of the Vermont Dairy Industry. Thanks to the Vermont Dairy Industry and friends of Brett Klein for their donations of over \$150,000!



"The CREAM Program is one of the most exciting programs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences... It is amazing each year to watch a group of students learn to cooperatively operate and manage the CREAM dairy herd."

—Doug Watkin, CREAM Advisor

Visit Our Website

For up-to-date information on CREAM, visit the website:

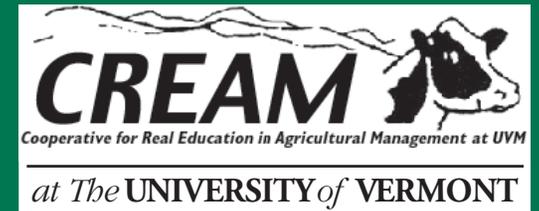
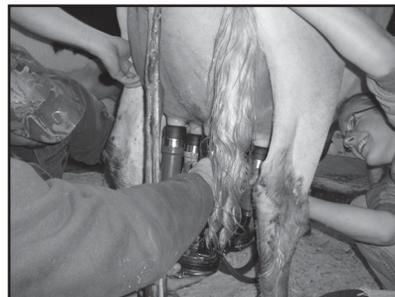
<http://asci.uvm.edu/cream>

Prospective CREAMer? Find information on:

- How to apply
- Cow history and pedigree
- Breeding, production, finance, promotion committees
- Calendar of Events
- Herd milkyields
- Updated protocols
- Pictures
- ...and more!

New Milking System

In the summer of 2007, Dave Abbott generously donated \$40,000 for a new DeLaval milking systems for the CREAM program. The old system, bought used in 1988 was great while it lasted, but both the CREAMers and the cows greatly appreciate Dave and Penny Abbott's donation.



CREAM '09 photographed by Jane O'Neil

*"Tell me... I'll forget, show me...
I might remember, but involve me
and I'll learn!"*

—Ellen Wright, CREAM '95
in a summary of her CREAM experience

What is Cream?

- The **Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management** is an Animal Science Program at the University of Vermont. It is a two-semester course, consisting of four credits per semester and running January to December.
- Fifteen students, (CREAMers) learn experientially as individuals and as a team while they manage and operate their 34-cow dairy herd business.
- The team of students has final responsibility for making all of the management decisions.
- CREAMers acquire **dairy herd management skills** in breeding, feeding, animal health, and finance.
- CREAMers develop **team skills, leadership, and communication skills by solving real-world problems.**
- **Learning is student-directed** and is motivated by CREAMer's concern for the animals' welfare, their desire for the business to be successful, and their desire to each pull their own fair share and not let team members down.
- Strong **friendships** are established between team members and between CREAMers and their cows.



How does CREAM work?

- **Selection and transition**
Prospective members apply in October with a written application, interview, and visits to chores and meetings. Fifteen are selected. A transition team helps them get started in January.
- **Team and leadership development**
Officers and key positions are elected in January to facilitate the operation and management of the business.
- **Operation of the business**
Chore schedules for each week are negotiated so that each CREAMer does three to four chores. Chores are four times per day, and they include milking, feeding, barn cleaning, heifer and calf care, health care, and heat detection.
- **Management of the business**
Management decisions are made by the team at business meetings, which are held at two regularly-scheduled times each week. Much of the groundwork and discussion leading up to decisions are done in committee meetings. Production, Breeding, Finance, and Projects committees meet each week. Members serve on two of the four committees each semester.
- **Documentation of learning**
Students write a business report at the end of each semester and present highlights to the CREAM Advisory Board for their critique at the semester-end presentation.
- **CREAM Curriculum**
Twice weekly, students also attend lectures given by UVM faculty or invited guest experts from the dairy industry. Lecture topics are often driven by student interests and issues faced in the herd.

Advisory Board

In 1990, a CREAM Advisory Board was formed to give CREAMers advisory resources from Vermont's Dairy Industry. Key Vermont Dairy Industry Leaders are members of this board. Their advice has been valuable, as CREAM has risen to the top!

Key Advisory Board Members include:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Eric Clifford | Dairy Farmer |
| Ted Foster | Dairy Farmer |
| Jerry Emerich | Select Sires |
| Bob Fitzsimmons | ABS global |
| Dr. Joe Klopfenstein | Veterinarian |
| Kevin Kouri | Poulin Grain |

In addition, CREAM utilizes Faculty Advisors, Farm Advisors, and Student Herd Advisors including Dr. John Barlow, Dr. Thomas McFadden, Dr. Adam Lock, Dr. James Gilmore (emeritus), and many other Farm advisors and industry experts from Vermont's Dairy Industry.

Best of Both Worlds

During the fall of 2007, CREAM decided to bring Jerseys into the herd, trading a group of our Holsteins for a group of the UVM's Jerseys. The herd now has the best of both worlds: high milk and high component production with a split herd of registered Holsteins and registered Jerseys.

Summer CREAM

CREAM offers a summer program that extends from the week after exams until the week before classes start in the fall. To find an application, please go to asci.uvm.edu/CREAM