



The University of Vermont

Dairy Production/Management Option



A hands-on learning experience.



Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences



Students at the University of Vermont with an interest in dairy production and/or dairy management, have the option of exploring those fields through the comprehensive *Dairy Production/Management* option offered in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. The educational experience is enhanced by utilization of the Paul Miller Complex dairy facility located near the main campus, with opportunities to encounter other facilities through the courses of instruction. This option awards a Bachelor of Science degree after completion of four years of study.

The *Dairy Production/Management* option concentrates on courses relating to the feeding, breeding, health and management of dairy cattle, and also financial and small business management. Dairy courses include *Animal Nutrition, Metabolism, and Feeding, Applied Animal Health, Animal Genetics, Artificial Insemination, FARMS Senior Project, CREAM, Dairy Management Seminar, Agricultural Policy and Ethics, Forage and Pasture Management, Advanced Dairy Management, and Clinical Topics: Livestock Medicine*. The Department's science-based curriculum also includes additional courses such as *Animals in Society/Animal Welfare, Anatomy & Physiology of Domestic Animals, Physiology of Reproduction, and Lactation Physiology*. Dairy internships may be developed throughout the four year course of study. Animal Science majors have the flexibility to take courses in other colleges of the University as well, to capitalize on the individual student's interests such as photography, small business entrepreneurship, marketing, journalism, computer science, and art to name just a few. Students may take the Dairy option and go on to Veterinary School or Graduate School.



An important feature of this option is the Cooperative for Real Education in Agriculture Management program (CREAM), which provides a two-semester hands-on experience for students to oversee the complete operation of a registered Holstein dairy herd business. (See CREAM brochure).

A new instructional barn, milking parlor and research have been constructed at the Paul R. Miller Research and Educational Center, Phase I of a two-phase, \$10 million upgrade of the farm located on Spear Street, a short distance from UVM's main campus. The 13,176 sq. ft. teaching barn and milking parlor accommodates an instructional herd of 50 cows and is the home base for the CREAM program.

The *Dairy Production/Management* option offers students an outstanding educational experience in technical and applied areas of dairy production and management. For more information on this option please visit the UVM online catalogue at:

<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/agricultureandlifesciences/animalscience/animalsciencebs/#planofstudytext>

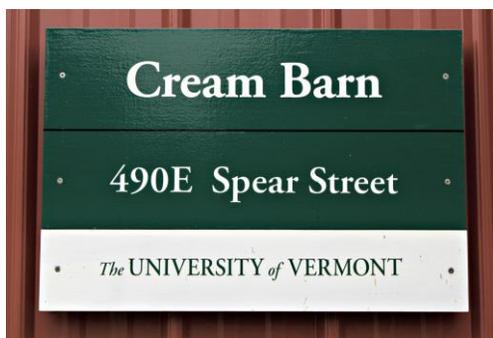


What is CREAM?

- 🐄 **CREAM** stands for **Cooperative for Read Education in Agriculture Management**. It is a two semester course in experiential learning. The first semester starts in January, and the second semester ends the following December for a total of 8 credits.
- 🐄 Learning is a student-directed, team approach where **the team of students has final responsibility for making all management decisions.**
- 🐄 CREAMers learn dairy herd management skills in breeding, feeding, health care, and finance. They develop team building skills, leadership and communication skills by solving real-world problems.
- 🐄 CREAMers are motivated by their concern for the welfare of the animals, their desire for the business to be successful, and to be a productive team member. As a result of this commitment, strong friendships develop between the CREAMers themselves and between the CREAMers and their cows.

How does CREAM work?

- 🐄 **Selection and Transition:** Prospective members apply in October with a written application, an interview, and visits to chores and meetings. Fifteen students are selected and a transition team helps to get them started in January.
- 🐄 **Team and Leadership Development:** Officers and key positions are elected in January to facilitate the operation and management of the business. Team building and group dynamics are discussed.
- 🐄 **Operation of the Business:** Chore schedules for each week are negotiated so that each CREAMer does 2 chores and 2 checks. Chores are 2 times per day at 5:00am and 3:00pm, and include milking, feeding, barn cleaning, heifer and calf care, health care, and heat detection. Barn checks are at 11:00am and 10:30pm.
- 🐄 **Management of the Business:** Management decisions are made by the team at business meetings. Much of the groundwork and discussions leading up to decisions are done in committee meetings. Production, Breeding, Finance, and Projects committees meet for one hour each week. Members serve on 2 of the 4 committees each semester.
- 🐄 **Documentation of Learning:** Students document their learning in weekly emails to the faculty advisor. They also write a business report at the end of each semester and present highlights at semester-end meetings.



For more information about the CREAM program, visit their website at <http://asci.uvm.edu/cream/>

CREAM Advisor Dr. Norman Purdie

“One of the College’s signature undergraduate education programs for over 25 years, CREAM 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 with new facilities, this will make an excellent experiential learning program even better.”

“So much of my success as a dairy industry professional can be attributed to my experiences as a CREAMer and student-worker at the UVM Farm.”

-Adam Griffin '04
Dairy Consultant, Feed Commodities International

“CREAM inspired me to a career helping the dairy industry on a larger scale.”

-Jessica Scillieri Smith '05
Senior Extension Veterinarian
Cornell University

DAIRY PRODUCTION/ MANAGEMENT OPTION - This option is designed for the individual whose career goals are associated with the efficient production of milk. Listed below are courses that one may select for the 40 hours of electives available to the student. These elective credits are in addition to the required ASCI courses and CALS requirements.

	Credits	Semester taken
ASCI 118 Applied Animal Health	3	_____
ASCI 134-135 CREAM (Co-operative for Real Education in Agri. Mgmt)	8	_____
ASCI 143 Forage & Pasture Management	3	_____
ASCI 156 Dairy Management Seminar (2 cr. – take both Jr. and Sr. years)	4	_____
ASCI 192 Artificial Insemination	1	_____
ASCI 195-196 Field Experience	.5-15	_____
ASCI 197 Undergraduate Research	3-6	_____
ASCI 216 Endocrinology	3	_____
ASCI 220 Lactation Physiology	3	_____
ASCI 230 Agricultural Policy & Ethics	3	_____
ASCI 234 Advanced Dairy Management	15	_____
ASCI 252 FARMS Senior Project	.5-15	_____
ASCI 264 Clinical Topics in Livestock Medicine	3	_____
CDAE 61 Prin of Community Development	3	_____
CDAE 166 Intro to Community Entrepreneurship	3	_____
CDAE 167 Fin Mgmt: Community Entrepreneurs	3	_____
CDAE 168 Marketing: Community Entrepreneurs	3	_____
CDAE 237 Economics of Sustainability	3	_____
CDAE 266 Decision Making: Comm Entrepreneurs		_____
PSS 161 Fundamentals of Soil Science	4	_____
Elective _____	___	_____
Elective _____	___	_____
Elective _____	___	_____