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UNH Recognized for Having Some of Best College Farms in Nation

Thursday, February 9, 2017

(HTTPS://WWW.UNH.EDU/UNHTODAY/NEWS/2017/02/09/unh-recognized-for-having-some-of-best-college-farms-in-nation)

DURHAM, N.H. – The University of New Hampshire has been ranked No. 12 in a rating of the best college farms in the nation. The ranking by College Rank evaluated college farms on student integration with sustainability factors, community programming, and courses available at the university or college farm, not just in the classroom.

“Farming in America provides nearly 10 percent of jobs in the United States. University farming and agricultural programs allow students to gain invaluable experience before leaving to start their careers,” said Monica Dennis of College Rank. “Hands-on learning offers students the opportunity to learn how large functioning farms work, both in agriculture and animal management and care.”



THE YEAR-LONG FOOD PRODUCTION FIELD EXPERIENCE COURSE PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN GROWING FOOD AND MANAGING A SMALL FARM BUSINESS AT THE FAIRCHILD DAIRY TEACHING AND RESEARCH CENTER.

In particular, UNH was noted for providing students a real-world setting to learn about dairy farming, horticulture, agronomy, and greenhouse production. UNH has two horticulture and agronomy farms, a New England Holstein dairy, an organic dairy farm, and greenhouses. All facilities are centered on research, teaching, and outreach, and are part of the NH Agricultural Experiment Station (<http://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/>), UNH’s first research center founded in 1887.

“The quality of our facilities, and the underlying dedication of our farm and greenhouse staff to our faculty, students, and stakeholders is tremendous,” said Jon Wraith, director of the NH Agricultural Experiment Station and dean of the UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture. “Our research farms and greenhouses provide experiential learning opportunities to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students every year. They also offer our faculty and students the necessary capacity to conduct research that has a positive impact on the bottom line for the agriculture, forest products, and related natural resources industries, and to relay that information to our stakeholders.”

Founded in 1887, the NH Agricultural Experiment Station (<http://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/>) at the UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture (<http://www.colsa.unh.edu/aes>) is UNH’s original research center and an elemental component of New Hampshire’s land-grant university heritage and mission.

The University of New Hampshire is a flagship research university that inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. UNH's research portfolio includes partnerships with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, receiving more than \$100 million in competitive external funding every year to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

Editor's Notes:**PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD**

https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/fairchildaerial_730.jpg

(https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/fairchildaerial_730.jpg)

The Fairchild Dairy Teaching and Research Center is representative of a typical New England Dairy operation. It houses 90 milking-age cows and approximately 70 growing, replacement animals.

https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/creamwide_730.jpg

(https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/creamwide_730.jpg)

UNH students enrolled in the Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management (CREAM) course assume complete responsibility for the management and care of the 25-cow herd for the entire academic year.

<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/strawberryresearch.jpg>

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UNH's farms are a key component of its academic programs. Here students assess organic strawberries at the Woodman Horticultural Research Farm.

<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/farmtoyounhclass.jpg>

(<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/farmtoyounhclass.jpg>)

The year-long Food Production Field Experience course provides students with hands-on experience in growing food and managing a small farm business at the Fairchild Dairy Teaching and Research Center.

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