



# NEWSROOM (//WWW.UNH.EDU/UNHTODAY/NEWS)

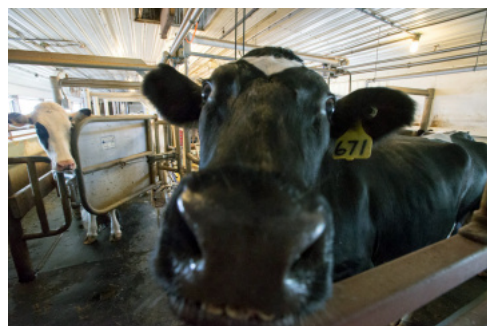


## UNH Dairies Produce Gold Standard of Milk

Monday, October 30, 2017

(HTTPS://WWW.UNH.EDU/UNHTODAY/NEWS/2017/10/30/UNH-DAIRIES-PRODUCE-GOLD-STANDARD-MILK) (HTTPS://WWW.UNH.EDU/UNHTODAY/NEWS/2017/10/30/UNH-DAIRIES-PRODUCE-GOLD-STANDARD-MILK) (HTTPS://WWW.UNH.EDU/UNHTODAY/NEWS/2017/10/30/UNH-DAIRIES-PRODUCE-GOLD-STANDARD-MILK)

DURHAM, N.H. – The Fairchild Dairy Teaching and Research Center and the Organic Dairy Research Farm, both facilities of the NH Agricultural Experiment Station (<http://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/>) at the University of New Hampshire, have been awarded 2016 Special Gold Certificate Awards by the Dairy Farmers of America.



“Our dairy farms consistently produce some of the highest quality milk in the country. This is a testament to the exceptional work of our dairy managers, staff and students who carefully care for our herds and ensure that our cows are among the healthiest in the nation,” said Jon Wraith, director of the NH Agricultural Experiment Station and dean of the UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture.

**LONG RECOGNIZED FOR ITS QUALITY MILK AND OPERATIONS, THE FAIRCHILD DAIRY TEACHING AND RESEARCH CENTER DEVELOPS NEW KNOWLEDGE AND MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE GEARED DIRECTLY TOWARD MANY STATE AND REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS.**

As a result of receiving the award, UNH is paid the highest price for its milk – called quality premiums. Dairy Farmers of America is the leading national milk cooperative with more than 13,000 dairy producers in 48 states. Milk from the Fairchild Dairy goes to the Hood plant in Concord, and milk from the organic dairy goes to the Organic Valley Coop.

The Dairy Farmers of America Gold Standard Dairy Program, one of the first in the industry, is an on-farm best practices evaluation program that assesses operations on the areas of animal care and wellness, environmental stewardship, employee training, and milk safety and quality. The program assesses, analyzes and provides feedback regarding on-farm practices, encourages continuous improvement and recognizes achievements.

The Dairy Farmers of America tests milk for a number of factors that indicate herd health, hygiene, and sanitation. Among those is the somatic cell count. Dairy herds with a low somatic cell count tend to be more profitable herds since they have reduced treatment and veterinary costs for mastitis, which is the most common and costliest disease for dairy cattle, higher milk production per cow, and higher milk quality premiums.

The Fairchild Dairy Teaching and Research Center houses about 90 milking-age Holstein cows and approximately 70 growing, replacement animals. The cows produce an average of 26,000 to 27,000 pounds of milk per cow per year, which is greater than the national average of about 22,000 pounds per cow a year.

The Organic Dairy Research Farm, first of its kind at a land-grant university, is home to about 100 registered Jersey cows, heifers, and calves and is managed as an integrated agro-ecosystem that includes the biological, physical and human-related components.

Founded in 1887, the NH Agricultural Experiment Station (<http://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/>) at the UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture (<https://colsa.unh.edu/>) 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:**

**PHOTO AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD**

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

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

Long recognized for its quality milk and operations, the Fairchild Dairy Teaching and Research Center develops new knowledge and management expertise geared directly toward many state and regional stakeholders.

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