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Dairy Farmers of America Recognizes UNH Research Farms with Top Award

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

(HTTPS://WWW.UNH.EDU/UNHTODAY/NEWS/2018/11/27/DAIRY-FARMERS-AMERICA-RECOGNIZES-UNH-RESEARCH-FARMS-TOP-AWARD)

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 2018 Special Gold Certificate Awards by the Dairy Farmers of America. The award ensures UNH is paid the highest price for its milk.

“Our dairy farms consistently produce some of the highest quality milk in the country,” said Jon Wraith, director of the NH Agricultural Experiment Station and dean of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture. “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.”



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.

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. Milk is tested for a number of factors that indicate herd health, hygiene, and sanitation.

The Fairchild Dairy Teaching and Research Center develops new knowledge and management expertise geared directly toward many state and regional stakeholders. It houses about 90 milking-age Holstein cows and approximately 70 growing, replacement animals. Included in that number is the 20-cow, student-managed Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management (CREAM) herd, with the remaining animals devoted primarily to research in dairy nutrition and reproductive biology. 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. A primary focus of the farm is to undertake relevant research to serving the organic dairy community.

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/default/files/media/images/fairchild2018.jpg> (<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/default/files/media/images/fairchild2018.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.

<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/default/files/media/images/odrf2018.jpg> (<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/default/files/media/images/odrf2018.jpg>)
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