The place to go for the Dairy Industry

The dairy industry serves a unique role in Indiana agriculture. Many career possibilities are associated with this growing industry. The dairy industry has jobs for qualified graduates in production and herd management, milk quality monitoring, nutrition consulting, animal health industries, and personnel management. The Department of Animal Sciences at Purdue University strives to educate individuals to meet these needs, to respond to challenges whenever animals and humans interact, and to enhance efficient animal production systems through research, teaching, and extension. Education and dairy related opportunities in Animal Sciences at Purdue University prepare graduates for many careers in the dairy industry.

Activities

DAIRY CLUB – The Purdue University Dairy Club is an active group of students representing several majors in the College of Agriculture and is an affiliate of the American Dairy Science Association. Club activities include: Purdue Royal Livestock Exposition, Dairy Club Invitational Judging Contest, World Dairy Expo, ADSA student affiliate conference, ice cream sales, Boiler Barnyard, and dairy farm tours. (http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~dairy/activities.htm) 

Advisors: Shawn Donkin (sdonkin@purdue.edu) or Mike Schutz (mschutz@purdue.edu)

DAIRY JUDGING TEAM – The Purdue Dairy Cattle Judging team has been exceedingly successful in national judging contests throughout the US, including contests in Harrisburg, PA, Viroqua, WI, Madison, WI, and Louisville, KY. They participate in workshops and conduct milking demonstrations at the Indiana State Fair. 

Advisor: Steve Hendress (shendres@purdue.edu)

DAIRY FARM EVALUATION— Interested students have the opportunity to visit area dairy farms and learn how to assess strengths and opportunities for improvement. 

Advisor: Mike Schutz (mschutz@purdue.edu)

BLOCK AND BRIDLE – The Block and Bridle Club is the largest Animal Sciences option club on campus. This club represents cattle, horse, sheep, and swine interests. The club sponsors many activities throughout the year including: Invitational Livestock Judging Contest, Purdue Royal, Tot's Day, and ham sale. (www.blocknbridle.com) 

Advisor: Matt Claey's (mclaey@purdue.edu)

DAIRY RELATED COURSES:

- Introduction to Animal Agriculture
- Functional Anatomy & Animal Performance
- Applied Animal Management
- Dairy Products
- Principles of Animal Nutrition
- Applied Animal Nutrition
- Physiology of Reproduction
- Physiology of Domestic Animals
- Animal Growth, Development & Evaluation
- Farm Animals Facilities Planning & Management
- Building Structure Design
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation
- Ruminant Nutrition and Physiology
- Physiology of Lactation
- Livestock & Meat Marketing
- Vertical Agriculture Coordination
- Agriculture & Food Business Strategy
- Animal Breeding
- Animal Biotechnology
Employment Opportunities

The four year average starting salary of BS graduates is $43,500 with a 90% placement rate. Starting salary is only one of many ways you benefit from a degree from the Purdue College of Agriculture. While at Purdue many students gain valuable hands-on experience in extracurricular activities and make themselves marketable to the dairy industry by seeking valuable summer internships and work experiences. Faculty work hard to assist students in locating industry internships. Students are not only marketable to the dairy industry, but the broad background in Animal Sciences allows them to be more employable in other animal-related industries. Students can earn credit or income while at Purdue by working in offices, and at the Animal Sciences farms, or by assisting with classes or doing undergraduate research projects in dairy nutrition, management, behavior, genetic selection, and reproductive or exercise physiology.

Animal Biology Specializations

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Dairy Staff

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- Dr. Susan Eicher USDA: 765-496-3665
- Dr. Terry Stewart: 765-494-0138
- Dr. Mike Schutz: 765-494-9478
- Mike Grott: 765-583-2526
- Steve Hendress: 765-583-2526

Bob Albrecht, Indiana State Dairy Association: 765-494-8025
Christy Coon, Creamery License Director: 765-494-8289

Department of Animal Sciences Vision Statement

The Department of Animal Sciences at Purdue University is the place to go for high-quality employees, animal management and care information, and cutting-edge research results to improve and serve the animal industry.