

Applications

Students interested in the program should request an application form from the animal science department at their participating university or at <http://usdetc.tamu.edu>. Under "Student/Faculty Information", select application. The deadline for applications is listed at the top of the application form.

Tuition & Fees

USDETC scholarships are available that covers tuition to attend the consortium; housing; some meals; and access to Clovis Community College recreation center, library and computer center. The scholarship does not cover the cost of credit hours at their home university, transportation costs to and from Clovis, NM nor a security/liability fee.

Statement of Interest

To qualify for a scholarship, students must submit a short statement of interest in the dairy industry (no longer than one page, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins), explaining why they would like to be accepted into the program and how the program might benefit their career plans.

Admission

A screening committee will evaluate the applications and selection will be based on a combination of the following criteria: faculty recommendation, academic record, quality of application and statement of interest. Students accepted into the program will be notified in mid-March and sent additional material to complete.

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Contact Information

For additional information, please contact:
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Cooperating Institutions



U.S. Dairy Education & Training Consortium

The US Dairy Education & Training Consortium (USDETC) formerly known as the Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium is a multi-university organization established in 2008 to meet the educational and training needs of the rapidly changing dairy industry. The program is a unique partnership in collaboration and a pillar of the US dairy sustainability among academia, allied industry and dairy producers.

Mission

The USDETC is organized to provide leadership, support and resources for the development and facilitation of practical, hands-on large herd dairy education and training. These programs are developed in coordination with allied industry, academia and government. The programs are meant to be capstone learning experiences for advanced college students in animal, dairy and ag-business curriculum in preparation for entry into the dairy industry or advanced degree programs. The program strives to unite the best students with the best faculty in a geographical location conducive to hands-on practical teaching through on-farm practicum combined with field trips, laboratories and allied industry interactive experiences.



Nationally Recognized Faculty

Courses are coordinated by faculty from the participating universities. Instructional faculty are recognized national experts from universities and agribusiness. The material presented ensures that the latest in technology and information is available to the students.



Why the Teaching Consortium?

Due to budget constraints, many universities began consolidating departments, cutting certain research facilities, and reassigning faculty in an effort to cut costs. These actions resulted in the loss of many dairy science departments and faculty positions and a diminished emphasis on dairy science educational opportunities. Without a strong dairy faculty presence or the opportunity to pursue dairy courses, students are not exposed to the benefits and career opportunities offered to individuals who pursue a dairy science education. The USDETC is created specifically to address the need to improve the availability of dairy science education at universities and to ensure the growing dairy industry a well-qualified pool of prospective employees for future employment.

Center of Excellence

The USDETC Advanced Large Herd Management Program offers strong research-based dairy education in a welcoming, friendly environment. Individuals from faculty and industry collaborate to provide students with unique educational experience and employment opportunities. Courses are taught in the middle of the third largest milk shed in the U.S., and credits are applicable to the student's program at their home university.



Credits in Dairy Science

The program offers a capstone six-week summer session divided into weekly modules. Course credits are dependent on the student's university. Problem solving and state-of-the-art hands-on training in laboratory situations are integrated with industry field trips to complement interactive lectures and discussions. Students completing the program receive a Certificate in Dairy Management.

Weekly Industry Forum Nights

At least once a week, representatives from allied dairy industry meet with the students. Students are able to interact with the industry leaders, learn more about the dairy industry and find out about future career opportunities.



Research Labs & Instructional Support

Classroom instruction will be at the Clovis Community College in Clovis, New Mexico. The building has wireless internet and students have access to a recreation center that includes a weight room, exercise equipment, pool, and basketball court. Student housing is provided at a motel in close proximity to the campus. Within a 20-mile radius, there are 25 herds averaging over 2,200 milking cows. These herds represent all types of housing and milking facilities. Herds are extensively utilized to enhance the learning experience by demonstrating to students actual techniques and practices that were learned in the classroom.