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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

College of Veterinary Medicine

VETERINARY CONTINUING EDUCATION



ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
UNITED STATES OF MINNESOTA



College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

STATUS REPORT ON THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE'S TRANSITION MANAGEMENT FACILITY (TMF)

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The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine has affiliated with the owners of Baldwin and Emerald Dairies in western Wisconsin to develop an education and research facility for training veterinary students, providing continuing education of veterinarians and education programs for dairy professionals, and conducting advanced clinical and applied research. The 2,500-cow Emerald Dairy and Baldwin dairies are one hour from the Twin Cities metro area.

The College will oversee standard protocols and animal management procedures in the Transition Management Facility that will house approximately 400 cows for approximately six weeks (from one month before calving through the two weeks after calving). Over 800 cows have calved in the facility since it began operation in late December, 2001.

By working with the private dairies in creating the TMF, the College can:

- Access a herd large enough to present routine health conditions often enough for students to see them.
- Access a critical mass of cows necessary for scientifically valid research studies.
- Ensure standard operating protocols are maintained.
- Access complete records on all animals, treatments, and production throughout the cow's lifetime.
- Teach and conduct research in facilities that make it possible to handle, sample, and work with individual cows and small groups.
- Provide a site that allows applied research under University control in a commercial setting.

It would be cost-prohibitive for the University to create this environment on its own solely for teaching and research purposes. Partnering with an existing dairy provides the College with a unique opportunity to meet its mission in education and research. The College will spend \$900,000 for construction of facilities dedicated to research and education, including laboratory and classroom space and living facilities. Annual operating costs are expected to be approximately \$135,000 for salaries, teaching supplies, and housekeeping in the residence area. Private donations will cover the capital costs and most of the operating costs. Under the agreement, the College has access to the facility for the next seven years. The dairy assumes all operating expenses, financial risks, and other management duties involved with running a dairy enterprise. Neither the College of Veterinary Medicine nor the University of Minnesota has a financial stake in the business operations of the dairies.

The Minnesota Milk Producers Association and the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association have endorsed the College's efforts to provide veterinary training at this modern dairy operation.