Strengthening & Educating Rural America

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is happy to partner with NCTA to support and develop their 100 Dairy Cow Ownership Advantage program. Both programs encourage the development and a succession plan between those who have been farming and ranching with those who want to begin. Currently, NDA administers the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act to encourage owners of agricultural assets (land, machinery, livestock, facilities, etc.) to rent to beginning farmers and ranchers as they get started in business.

For more information regarding the 100 Dairy Cow Ownership Advantage, please contact us at 1-800-3CURTIS or visit our website at ncta.unl.edu

For More Detailed Information Contact:

Dave Smith,
NCTA Division Chair
1-800-3CURTIS EXT: 284
dsmith4@unl.edu

Dr. Jeff Keown
UNL Professor and Coordinator
402-472-6453
jkeown1@unl.edu

ARDC Dairy Faculty

Erin Marotz
Dairy Unit Manager
402-624-8068
emarotz1@unl.edu

Dr. David Smith
Professor
402-472-2362
dsmith8@unl.edu

Dr. Paul Kononoff
Asst. Professor
402-472-6442
pkononoff2@unl.edu

NDIA is an organization that understands that the dairy industry is a critical component to Nebraska's future. It helps producers through the steps of expanding or building dairy farms in Nebraska. Since the 100 cow program will require substantial expansion, NDIA will be pivotal in the program's success.

The American Dairy Association and the Dairy Council of Nebraska are dedicated to increasing the demand and sales of dairy products in the state on behalf of Nebraska's dairy producers. These councils recognize that to increase the demand and sales of dairy products there must be more milk produced in Nebraska. Currently 20 million lbs of milk per month is being shipped into Nebraska for processing. Replacing this import with Nebraska milk would add significantly to the state's economy. An additional boon to the economy would be Nebraska's 10 processing plants operating at full capacity. This will only happen as 75,000 more cows are added to Nebraska's milking herd. The 100 Dairy Cow Ownership Advantage program will play a big part in preparing the next generation of Nebraska dairy farmers.

Livestock Industry Management

NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
Bringing Education Home!

NCTA’s new 100 Dairy Cow Ownership Advantage program was created to provide a mechanism where students will receive outstanding research based education in dairy cattle production and management as well as an opportunity to become an owner-operator early in life. Each year college of agriculture throughout the nation graduate students who know they want to spend their lives farming and ranching. The problem is an agricultural asset capable of supporting a family over a million dollars. Young graduates do not have the experience or the credit backing to purchase this type of asset, so they go to work for a farmer or rancher as a “hired hand” hoping that one day an opportunity will arise that will allow them to own an agricultural enterprise. This ownership doesn’t happen without careful planning and enterprise business experience.

Education + Financing + Partnership = Ownership Advantage

- The program’s focus entails production practices and the business skills necessary to develop a business plan.
- Students receive direct hands-on experience with dairy cattle at the IANR dairy production facility located in Mead, Nebraska.
- The Dairy Herdsman Certificate is a cooperative program between NCTA and the UNL Animal Science Department.
- The program helps students create a partnership with an existing dairy, purchase cows through the FSA, and become a partner-employee.
- Students and producers will be required to attend a series of seminars to fine tune the individual students’ business plans.
- NCTA graduates will return to rural Nebraska with a large enough asset that they will be a viable partner, not a “hired hand,” within a dairy enterprise.

Dan Rice, Nebraska Dairy Council Chair

“This program will send a strong message to the rest of the country and the state of Nebraska that we are committed to the dairy enterprise initiative. Perhaps the most beneficial aspect of the program will be the hands-on experience of working with dairy cattle at the IANR dairy production facility located in Mead, Nebraska, coupled with the applied classroom training of the program. This program will enable our students to supplement their dairy production work with strong financial knowledge of the industry." 

- The graduate and dairy owner will initiate a long range plan that will provide the graduates and their families a profitable dairy enterprise.
- The young farmer will have the opportunity to incorporate increased profits into additional fixed assets.
- At NCTA, we believe that if students become familiar with entrepreneurial concepts, they can help their rural communities once again become economically viable.
- The bottom line is the program will help Nebraska regain its position as an important dairy state.

In addition, if NCTA graduates return to their rural communities, establish families, and become entrepreneurial leaders, the rural life we love will continue as an important Nebraska tradition.