

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DAIRY  
FARM IN PERSPECTIVE

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The Department of Veterinary & Animal Sciences is looking forward to a greater utilization of our dairy facility than we have had in the past several years. Two areas where we especially want to improve its usage are in research and teaching.

One of our newest faculty members is a ruminant nutritionist who is getting a research project started in which a portion of the dairy herd will be utilized to determine the nutritional and physiological factors in the dairy cow which influence forage utilization. It is hoped that practical methods of improving forage utilization can be developed. We hope that by September we will have a new dairy cattle extension specialist and we anticipate that the person filling that position will become involved in some research, perhaps in the management area, utilizing the dairy facility. Also, we are seeking a person with a background in mastitis and lactational physiology who will also utilize the dairy animals for research purposes.

In the teaching area, we are looking forward to getting our students more involved in utilizing the dairy facility. Although we think that our program of studies in the Department is excellent in many ways, one area where we hope to make improvements is in providing more practical hands-on experience for our majors.

Although we are making progress it is slow and we are hampered by a number of faculty vacancies, less than adequate budgets, etc. However, we do not want to make excuses and we are looking forward to an increased emphasis upon dairy cattle work in the future.