



2018 Dairy U Closing Report

The inaugural Dairy U program welcomed ten students from three states to southwest Kansas, June 19-22. This four-day immersive educational opportunity allowed high school students an intimate perspective of many facets of the dairy industry. Students traveled to partnering dairies, including Ag Oasis, Noble Dairy, and Royal Farms Dairy, and learned about animal health, nutrition, reproduction, milking systems and breeding. Participants also attended workshops on personal finance and agriculture advocacy.

Cohort size was limited to ten to give participants the opportunity for one-on-one instruction and hands-on learning.

Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all students rating the overall experience as good or excellent on student surveys. All participants agreed their dairy knowledge and interest grew as a result of their participation. Additionally, all students said they would recommend the experience to others interested in the dairy industry. All students reported they were likely or very likely to pursue a career in the industry.

Program sponsors included: Kansas Dairy Council, Zoetis, Arm & Hammer Animal Health, American AgCredit, Southeast Select Sires, Merck Animal Health, Diamond V, Dairy MAX, Alta Genetics, Kansas Dairy Ingredients, and Milk River.

Agenda

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Welcome	Royal Farms Dairy Tour & Nutrition Workshop	Kansas Dairy Ingredients Tour	Noble Dairy Tour & Reproduction Lab
Dairy Check-off Education Seminar	Dairy Nutrition and Management Consulting Speaker	Ag Oasis Tour & Animal Health Seminar	Closing Program
Dairy MAX Speaker	Tour of High-Plains Feeds	Trent Loos Agriculture Advocacy Training	
Team Building & Leadership Development Activities	American AgCredit Finance Workshop		

Student Voices

“This program is important because there isn’t another program like it. Dairy U gives youth the opportunity to become informed about the rapidly growing dairy industry in Kansas,” said participant Walker Clawson of Meade, KS.

“One of the most important aspects that I gained from Dairy U was meeting so many people interested and involved in the dairy industry and being able to have those connections for my future interests,” said participant Malorie Depenbusch of Udall, KS. “I will definitely tell people who are interested in the dairy industry about this camp.”

Students also appreciated touring businesses important to the dairy industry. “I was also allowed to tour a milk ingredients plant which helped me understand the vast number of products that can be made with milk,” said Clawson.

For More Information

The group continues plans to offer opportunities for youth in the future. Please contact coordinator Mandy Fox with questions at mandy@agoasis.com at 785-410-2633, or Sharon Breiner at sbreiner@ksu.edu or 785-532-6533.

