



Mission

MSU dairy herd is maintained for teaching, extension and research purposes. Learning experiences are provided for classes in both animal science and veterinary medicine. The facility frequently hosts MSU Extension and consumer education programs focused on dairy management. Research projects are conducted in the areas of nutrition, mammary and reproductive physiology, animal breeding and selection, and dairy management. The dairy is Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program-verified (MAEAP-verified) in Livestock and Farmstead Systems.

Location

4075 N. College Road
Lansing, MI 48910

Visiting

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily
Visitors must not have visited a foreign country in the 7 days prior to visiting the farm.

Informational signs and marked trails assist self-guided tours. Groups may request guided tours.

Manager

Jim Good
616-262-0551
goodj@msu.edu

STATISTICS & INFORMATION

Home to: 250 cows and youngstock

Production Performance

Highlights:

- 29,554 RHA, 4.2% fat, 3.3% protein, 65,000 SCC
- National Dairy Quality Award Recipient 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Progressive Genetics Herd Award Recipient 2023

Farm Upgrades & Capital Improvements

- Upgraded milking parlor to improve reliability of collected data and save \$60k/yr in equipment repairs
- New manure spreader
- New livestock trailer
- Two new skid loaders
- Additional feed storage pad
- New farm with plans to break ground in 2024

RESEARCH

Research at the center is designed to advance animal agriculture using multidisciplinary approaches to generate, disseminate and apply knowledge in dairy cattle biology and management. 13 studies took place at the center throughout 2023.

Highlighted research:

- Increasing the level of high oleic acid soybeans on nutrient digestibility and milk production to mid-lactation cows (Adam Lock, Ph.D.)
- Evaluating the value of diets high in "leftover" feeds in peak production (Mike Vandehaar, Ph.D.)
- Effect of rumen acidosis on inflammation and ruminal immune cells (Barry Bradford, Ph.D.)

TEACHING

The center regularly provides the facility or animals for numerous experiential learning opportunities.

- Approximately 10 MSU classes use the farm for teaching plus a variety of other colleges, high schools and elementary schools

OUTREACH

The center regularly provides the venue and cattle for a wide range of outreach events.

- Providing regular tours for organizations such as United Dairy Industry of Michigan
- Hosted "DeStress with Cows" event that attracted 2000 people over five days
- Hosted feeder training for MSU Extension

Self-guided tours attract thousands of people each year

