

Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium

One mission of the consortium is to provide sound science to the dairy industry.



Dairy producers from across the nation prefer the favorable climate of the Southwest to milk their cows. Students in the Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium can take advantage of this by getting hands-on experience at area dairies.

About

The Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium is a CES program composed of specialists working to ensure long-term sustainability of the dairy industry in New Mexico. It is a two-legged approach; Research and Extension on one hand tries to answer production and regulatory issues identified by dairy producers in New Mexico and West Texas, while the other leg – Teaching – has developed a one-of-a-kind, hands-on teaching program for undergraduate and graduate students.

Teaching

There are currently 11 universities in the Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium. The group sponsors a six-week summer program that takes students out of the classroom and puts them in the field to learn large herd dairy management from nationally recognized faculty. The program covers the wide array of dairy management topics during two summer sessions, for which students can obtain class credit with their respective home universities. Afterwards, they can elect to do an internship with a local dairy or allied industry. It is all aimed at providing students with a capstone learning experience and preparing them for a subsequent position in the industry such as herdsman, technical representative, or for continued education in graduate school or vet school.

Funding for this program is entirely provided through contributions from allied industry, producer trade organizations, dairy promotional organizations, cooperatives and dairymen themselves; all recognize the need

for practical, hands-on management-oriented training of students for future positions in the modern, efficient and environmentally conscientious dairy operations throughout the Southwest.

Research and Extension

This side of the consortium aims to enhance the dairy industry's competitiveness and its economic impact on the Southern Great Plains economy as well as its ability to produce a safe, wholesome and competitively priced supply of milk and related products. It generates, through its collaborative nature, research, knowledge and technology necessary to solve production and related environmental and natural resource issues through fundamental and applied research.

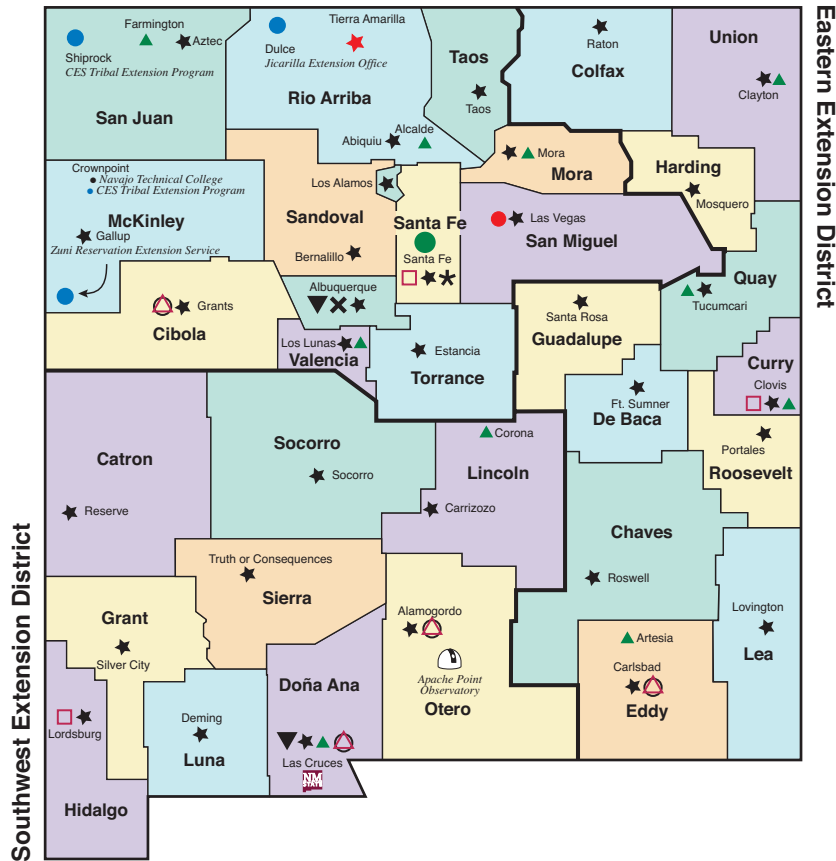
One of the unique strengths of the consortium is the manner in which it builds on and leverages intellectual and academic properties across institutions and state boundaries, and shares those properties to advance the common interests of the dairy industry.

Researchers strive to secure grant funding as well as opportunities to develop federal and state legislative initiatives to help establish "centers of excellence" among the institutions.

Contact

For more information on the dairy consortium, call the NMSU Agricultural Science Center at Clovis at (575) 985-2292, or visit <http://thedairyconsortium.org>.

Northern Extension District



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- ▼ CES/New Mexico Works Program
- Memorial Middle School Agricultural Extension and Education Center

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