



University of Vermont Miller Research Farm

500 Spear Street
South Burlington, Vermont 05403

UVM CREAM Program

Program Overview

CREAM is a 4-credit, 2 semester long program beginning in spring semester and finishing in fall. This program consists of roughly 20 students working closely with our herd manager and faculty advisor to completely run the UVM dairy herd. This herd consists of just under 100 registered holstein cows with 56



of them being milked at a given time. Students work together to provide optimal care and make decisions involving nutrition, breeding, welfare, facility management, and more. This close-knit group of students works to create a positive environment to learn about dairy health and management, as well as gaining other collaborative skills to help in future careers.

What We Do

Students are fully responsible for the daily care of the UVM CREAM herd including milking, cleaning, feeding calves, and giving medical treatments. Our lactating cows get milked 3 times

per day: the first starting at 3:30am, next at 11:30am, and lastly at 7:30pm. Students will milk cows, feed calves, and clean and rebed stalls on every chore as well as give any medical treatments needed under the advice of our herd manager and faculty advisor. Each CREAM student will complete 3-4 chores per week, with one always being a 3:30am chore. In addition to weekly chores, students are responsible for assisting in the calving process including newborn calf and fresh cow care, as well as other routine care such as vaccinations, estrous cycle synching, and cow cleanliness. Each student is assigned an area of expertise on the farm and is responsible for keeping the group updated on that specific topic.

Who Can Join CREAM?

Any UVM undergraduate student! This program is open to all majors and everyone who is interested in joining is encouraged to apply.

How To Apply For CREAM

Unlike most other classes at UVM, CREAM involves an application process due to the high demand of people wanting to be a part of our amazing program. However, this process is quite simple and helps us to pick the candidates that would fit best into our program. There are only a few steps to apply for CREAM:

1. Submit an application through the UVM website
<https://www.uvm.edu/cals/asci/forms/cream-application>
2. Attend a CREAM info session (flyers are always sent to CALS students via email, but keep an eye out for flyers posted around campus).
3. Attend 2 tryout chores- each prospective CREAM student must go to 2 tryout chores of their choosing (with one being at 3:30am). This helps them to see if they could see themselves doing CREAM, and gives them an idea of what they'd be doing if they were to join the program.
4. Attend an interview- This just helps people in the program to get to know you better, it is very relaxed and is more of a conversation than an interview.

Fun Facts About Our Herd

- On average, each cow produces roughly 94 pounds of milk daily.
- Our milk is shipped to the AgriMark Co-op, where it is used to make solid dairy products, most notably Cabot cheese.
- Roughly 50 calves are born each year! Our best genetic cows are bred to sexed semen- this gives the best chance (roughly 90%) of our highest quality genetic cows to have a holstein heifer born and improve the overall herd genetics.
- Out of all university owned dairy herds in the country, UVM's herd ranks 3rd for genetic excellence.

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