Welcome to our new and improved website! We hope you find information here that is relevant, timely and interesting. Whether you are new to dairy science and our programs or a colleague, student, alumnus or old friend our goal is to educate and serve our students, the dairy industry, and the citizens of the commonwealth of Virginia. Our name Department of Dairy Science encapsulates our purpose. Certainly dairy practices and husbandry are part of our teaching and extension programs but our focus and emphasis is on critical thinking, generation of data, evaluation, and interpretation. In other words, our work is firmly grounded in the scientific method and hypothesis testing, the ‘science’ of dairy science. This means that some of our research activities rely on testing and measurement using model animals, cell culture, or computer simulations for example. Regardless, these tools and systems we believe ultimately have merit in understanding essential biological functions and properties of dairy cattle. Other research and learning activities enjoy very direct and apparent application. The impacts of diet composition and/or feed management on the excretion of nutrients that can alter wellbeing of the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay or the rate of gain and onset of puberty in heifers are examples. It is worth some reflection to consider what we perceive as our departmental mission and vision of our future.

Mission of the Virginia Tech Department of Dairy Science

To educate students, create and disseminate knowledge, and develop applications of technology through study of dairy and related biological systems.

Department Vision

Be the recognized source for (1) accurate information, (2) meaningful, progressive innovation, and (3) informed leadership in Virginia, the Southeast, the USA, and the World. Be the premier Dairy Science program for education and research by becoming more self-sufficient, collaborative, and productive.

Again welcome and enjoy the surfing.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Akers, Ph.D.
Horace E. and Elizabeth F. Alphin Professor &
Department Head

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University