FORMATION AND ACTION OF DAIRY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Both the University of Florida and the dairy industry have at one time or another in past years asked the other to meet to discuss program direction in the Dairy Science Department. IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) has had at least two long-range planning committees involving a large amount of industry input, the first in the 1960's being DARE (Developing Agricultural Research Effectively) and the second in the 1970's being AGUA (Agricultural Growth in an Urban Age). These committees were short-term committees specifically formed to plan for future needs. Another committee was formed in the 1970's at the request of Dairy Farmers, Inc. to review dairy science research programs and discuss needs for future research.

These committees served their initial function well. I think all participating felt good communication was achieved. The greatest inefficiency, however, was that communication through an organized committee was not available during a few times when it might of been most helpful to both the department and to various facets of the dairy industry.

Why form an advisory committee? First the Dairy Science Department feels it would be beneficial to discuss with industry some of the priorities it sets for research, teaching, and extension. Deficiencies in our programs definitely exist simply because we cannot afford extensive programs in all problem areas. If industry understood what was considered in setting these priorities, they have a chance to influence these priorities or at least understand why they were as they were if we were not able to cover some needs. We need better coordination within IFAS for our work on programs relating to dairy production and dairy foods processing. Although the Dairy Science Department has the biggest concentration of faculty working on programs relating to dairy, faculty within the Veterinary College, Food and Resources Economics, Agricultural Engineering, Food Science, Agronomy, Entomology and Nematology, and others also work on dairy related problems.

Faculty in the Dairy Science Department decided we would be more effective in the long run if we consulted with an Advisory Committee. Our objective is to counsel with dairy producers, dairy processors, and agribusinesses that employ our graduates and adopt the new technology that leads to more efficient production of dairy foods. In order to get good representation industry has helped in the selection of the committee. The committee appointed to date met for the first time December 11 (afternoon and evening) and December 12 (morning), 1979 and again immediately following the Dairy Production Conference

on May 7, 1980. Current committee members (in addition to Dairy Science Department Faculty) are:

Aubrey L. Burnham - IDFA Dairyman, Okeechobee
Louis E. Larson, Jr. - IDFA Dairyman, Okeechobee
Truman Smith - TIDFA Dairyman, Brooksville
John A. Peachey - TIDFA Dairyman, Sarasota
George Richardson - Dairyman, Upper Florida MPA, Sanderson
Arthur Aukema, Dairyman, Sunshine State Dairymen's Coop., Chipley
J.T. (Tom) Christian, Jr. - Dairyman, Suncoast MPA, Bradenton
C.L. (Bud) Ward - Dairyman, Florida DHIA Board Representative, Astatula
Gene Smith - Food Processor, Superbrand Dairy Products, Jacksonville
A. Lamar Garrett - Food Processor, Borden, Inc., Orlando
Thomas B. Hart - Food Processor, Hart's Dairy, Fort Myers
Jay Boosinger - Director, Dairy Division of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Paul Glasscock - Hillsborough County Extension Agent, Seffner
Mike Kelly - Duval County Extension Agent, Jacksonville
Kent Price - Okeechobee County Extension Director, Okeechobee
Travis Seawright - Manatee County Extension Agent, Palmetto

At the first meeting in December, this committee (including 13 Dairy Science Department Faculty) spent considerable time reviewing important problems the dairy industry faces to improve efficiency of milk production, processing and product delivery. After listing a large number of problems, fairly extensive reports of various faculty were presented to show what is currently being done at the university in research, teaching and extension. This was done in order to review priorities previously set in program direction and we discussed whether or not future priorities should be changed. Plans for a few specific programs in the future were developed.

Table 1 attached summarizes problem areas discussed with some indication of the amount of current work directed to these problems and of needed program additions in the future. This table is not meant to be a complete listing of all problems. Problems were listed as they came up in the discussion and reflect a quick judgement made of current work and future need.

At the December meeting, need was expressed for a Pregnancy Diagnosis Short Course for Dairy Managers. In the May 7 meeting Dr. Dan Webb presented a proposal for a short course we expect to offer during November, 1980 on Reproductive Management. It will be a 3 or 4 day course held in Gainesville with rectal palpation laboratories at the Dairy Research Unit. Enrollment will be limited to twenty people to allow considerable pregnancy diagnosis training in addition to coursework in overall reproductive management. It is for people already breeding cows and actively managing reproduction programs in dairy herds. An enrollment fee will be charged to cover materials used in the course. Probable faculty which will do the teaching are Dr. Thatcher from Dairy Science and Dr. Drost from the Veterinary College with

TABLE I

DAIRY PROBLEM AREAS (NEEDS), CURRENT DAIRY SCIENCE DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM ACTIVITY AND NEEDS

	Problem (Needs)	Current Programs*	Needed Program Additions*
1.	Reproduction	RRR E	
2.	Energy	EE R	R
3.	Water		RRR EEE
4.	Waste Disposal	EE	R E
5.	Labor Management	EE	
6.	Toxins-Animal Feeds	E	R E
7.	Animal Health	EE	EE
8.	Mastitis	E	EEE R
9.	Dairy Business Management		E
10.	Residuals - Antibiotics Tests	EE	
11.	Market Research		E
12.	Regulatory Requirements	R E	
13.	Land Use Planning		
14.	Extended Shelf Life	RRR EE	
15.	Improving Production Efficiency	RRRR EEEE	
16.	Feed Supply	EEE RR	
17.	Breeding-Genetics	E RRR	
18.	New Product Development-Imitation Products	E	
19.	Milking Equipment	E	
20.	Housing	E R	E
21.	Vertical Integration-Processing, Retail		
22.	Milk Flavor	EE RR	
23.	Milking Management	EE	
24.	Toxins-Human Foods	E R	
25.	Environmental Stress	EE RRR	
26.	Dairy Product Processing	EEE R	

* The number of times R or E appears is an indication of the amount of current program or of needed addition in research (R) or extension (E).

develop an educational program for mastitis control and improved milking management but did not include extensive research in this priority. The Advisory Committee does not feel these priorities were incorrect as far as research is concerned but that everything possible should be done to develop educational programs to help dairy farmers reduce mastitis. This would increase efficiency of milk production more than any other single problem correction available to us at this time, probably yielding 10-15% more milk production without increased costs in many herds making recommended improvements. At the May 7 meeting, I reported to the committee that we had submitted a request to IFAS Administration for an additional extension specialist to give leadership to mastitis and milking management education. If IFAS does not have a position that can be assigned to Dairy Science, faculty will attempt to increase educational assistance to the fullest extent possible, for example, the Dairy Production Conference Program this year concentrated heavily on mastitis and milking management. The Veterinary College through faculty like Dr. Braun have made considerable advancement in their capability in mastitis and Dr. George Meyerholz, an Extension Veterinarian, is now concentrating mainly on dairy programs where in the past he could only serve dairy programs a small percent of his time. All these advancements help but if Dairy Science faculty are to give leadership to this "team effort" additional faculty support is needed because we don't feel we can afford to give up programs currently directed by Dr. Harris and Dr. Webb.

Related to mastitis is the general need to improve raw milk quality at the farm level. Part of the need involves leucocytes but much involves antibiotic residues and other residuals in milk. More sensitive antibiotic tests are going to be used for producer milk than have been used in the past. Once regulatory agencies decide specifically on which test to use and how they are going to interpret and enforce the test, Dr. Jim Jezeski will work closely with the coops and processors to help people understand the test and how it will affect withholding times after treating lactating cows with antibiotics.

At the May 7 meeting, Aubrey Burnham indicated he has seen inconsistency in recommendations various people give concerning vaccine usage in herd health programs. He recommended that faculty try to provide new publications updating best recommendations for these areas. In the herd health area, others expressed a desire to obtain diagnostic reports on animals taken to state diagnostic laboratories and to circulate information from these reports when they might be helpful to alerting farmers to forthcoming problems they might be facing. Faculty (probably Dr. Harris, Dairy Science and Dr. Meyerholz, Extension Veterinarian) will try to include such information in newsletters from both Dairy Science and Veterinary Science. Also if producers in certain areas will benefit from a educational meeting on a topic like this, please ask local extension agents to set up a meeting with state specialists.

At the May 7 meeting, Dr. D.W. Webb reported on his plans for a nine-month faculty development leave from the University of Florida to work at North Carolina State University investigating on-farm computer terminals for use in

dairy management. One major area he plans to study is the use of on-farm terminals to communicate with the computer storing data collected in the DHIA program to obtain day-to-day management information such as lists of cows for pregnancy diagnosis, drying off, those cows needing special handling, etc. This communication improvement will allow input of data from the farm frequently and access to the information as needed. Other options such as payroll, employee benefits calculations, other financial records, ration formulations, etc. will also be studied. Dr. Harris also reported on IFAS's commitment to develop computer based management assistance as a part of future extension programs.

The May 7 meeting concluded at 3:30 p.m. with a decision that the next meeting of this committee should explore dairy related programs being conducted in other IFAS departments such as the Preventive Medicine Department in the Veterinary College, Food and Resource Economics Department, and Food Science and Human Nutrition Department. This will require another noon-to-noon meeting and might best be scheduled in November, 1980. However, if the new Dairy Science Department Chairman is not yet appointed at that time, consideration will be given to delaying the meeting a couple of months to gain the benefit of his or her participation in these discussions.