

And help an aspiring dairy farmer get started!

Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy Farmers

Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and Farm and Industry Short Course
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, UW-Madison

Become a Friend of the

Here's what some graduates of the program have to say:

"If it wasn't for the School, we never would have been able to get a start at dairy farming. We are both from the city (Milwaukee area) and had no idea how to get started until we heard of the WSBDF." — *Jim and Julie Schweers, '99, Greenwood, Wisconsin*

"Individual attention, challenging assignments, and dedicated teachers all created a practical, stimulating experience. The WSBDF is an essential part of strengthening dairy farming in Wisconsin." — *Amanda Shine, '01, Madison, Wisconsin*

"Farming in the family dairy operation was always an option before short course. WSBDF really got me excited about grazing and planning to farm on my own." — *Mike Tomandl, '01, Medford, Wisconsin*

"We have so much in common with all of these bright students who also have farm goals. The most amazing thing so far has been the enthusiasm and willingness to share information that comes from the grazing community." — *Patty Laskowski and Bill Morren, '02, Hillsboro, Wisconsin*

For more information, visit the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy Farmers (WSBDF) Web site at <http://www.cias.wisc.edu/dairysch.html>
Contact the Coordinator, Richard Cates, at (608) 588-2836 or e-mail rlcates@wisc.edu,
or call Trish Haza at the program office at (608) 262-5200, e-mail phaza@wisc.edu

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Please send me information about the following:

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Dairy farming in Wisconsin

The Program on Agricultural Technology Studies at the UW-Madison estimates that in each year from 1992 to 1997, 1,860 Wisconsin farmers left dairying while only 344 started dairy farming. **That's a net loss of 7,580 dairy farmers over a five-year period!**

But there's something you can do to help new dairy farmers get started in a way that promotes profitable dairy opportunities, environmentally sensitive farming, vital rural communities, and scenic landscapes.

The Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy Farmers

The goal of the School is to start new farmers on Wisconsin dairy farms by offering classroom instruction, on-farm internships, field training, mentoring, and identifying opportunities for students to begin farming. Over 170 students have gone through the program since its inception in 1995. Seventy-five percent of the graduates are farming; many have started farms.

The program emphasizes low-capital, grass-based dairy farming. Using managed grazing, grass-based dairy farms can be environmentally sound while providing a good life for farm families.

The School is sponsored by the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and the Farm and Industry Short Course, both within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, UW-Madison.

Become a Friend!

Your support will help the School for Beginning Dairy Farmers train new dairy farmers. Gifts received will be used to create an endowment to sustain the program and also will immediately go to work in a variety of ways, including:

- Tuition scholarships
- Student conference travel scholarships
- Honoraria for farmer-speakers
- Two- and four-month internship expenses
- General program operations

Your benefits ...

Your gift is sincerely appreciated. As a Friend, you will receive:

- The satisfaction of knowing you've helped someone start a dairy farming career
- An opportunity to support environmentally sensitive family dairy farms in Wisconsin
- A sense of ownership in one of the nation's most innovative training programs for beginning dairy farmers
- A handsome bookmark to thank you for your gift
- Publication of your name in the list of Friends (unless you choose anonymity)

To become a Friend, simply fill out and return the form below.

Yes, I want to become a Friend of the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy Farmers

Your gift is tax deductible and **any amount is appreciated**. You may remain anonymous. Annual Friends contributions run from July 1 to June 30.

I am contributing \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other (\$____) This is an annual gift for 1 year 3 years 5 years

A check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed. **Please do not publish my name on the Friends list.**

Please charge my gift of \$____ to my Master Card VISA American Express Card Number _____ Exp. date _____

Cardholder's Name (please print) _____ Cardholder's signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

Please make your gifts payable to **UW Foundation-WSBDF Fund** and mail to the University of Wisconsin Foundation, Attn: Jodi Wickham, 1848 University Avenue, P.O. Box 8860, Madison, WI 53708-8860, or FAX to 608-263-0781. **Thank you for your support!**