

2026 Student Directory



U.S. DAIRY EDUCATION & TRAINING CONSORTIUM

Endowed Sponsors:



Dairy Producer Sponsors:



Executive Platinum Sponsors:



Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:

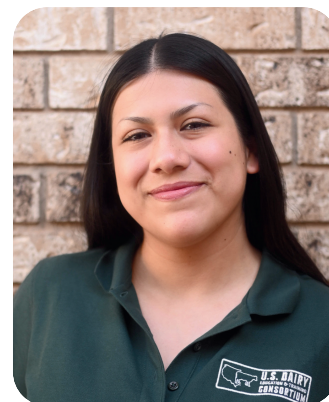
ABS Global, AgSure, Allied Milk Producers, Dairy Dealer, EverAg, Gallagher & Kennedy, Hi-Pro Feeds, J.D. Heiskell, L. Dwain Bunting, Lone Star Milk Producers, Prime Buildings, Progressive Dairy, New Mexico Beef Council, Southwest Dairy Farmers, Smart Block, Vet Outlet/Integrated Dairy Service, Udder Comfort, United Animal Health, Western Dairy Transport



Name: KaraAnn Akers
City/State: La Grande, Oregon
Telephone: (541) 975-3459
Email: scoutwithkaraann@gmail.com
School: University of Idaho
Major: Agricultural Education, Animal Science- Dairy
Expected/Graduation Date: 2028
Career Goals: I want to stay within the animal production industry, specifically within dairy. Through the consortium and the University of Idaho, I have found a love for the dairy industry and am using the consortium to explore industry opportunities and pathways available.

Name: Carolina Arzola
City/State: El Paso, Texas
Telephone: (915) 329-2341
Email: carolinaarzola2004@gmail.com
School: New Mexico State University
Major: Animal Science
Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: As a recent graduate with a bachelor's in Animal Science, I'm looking to explore the many job opportunities that this field has to offer and pursuing education in veterinary medicine while I work.



Name: Breck Averhoff
City/State: Garden City, Kansas
Telephone: (620) 290-1463
Email: breckaverhoff@gmail.com
School: Kansas State University
Major: Agribusiness
Expected/Graduation Date: 2029

Career Goals: Upon graduation from Kansas State University, I plan on pursuing a graduate degree in Agribusiness. Following this, I look forward to serving the dairy industry in some capacity, with the end goal of one day serving as a producer.

Name: Andrea Balderas
City/State: Fort Worth, Texas
Telephone: (775) 508-6254
Email: Andrea.lisa.balderas@gmail.com
School: Tarleton State University
Major: Animal Science, Concentration: Business
Expected/Graduation Date: 2026
Career Goals: After I achieve my bachelors degree at Tarleton State University, I hope to further my education by pursuing a master's degree. Beyond my academic pursuits, I look forward to contributing to the dairy industry as a supporter and innovator of future technologies.





Name: Shaina Benz

City/State: Sound Beach, New York

Telephone: (631) 827-0167

Email: shaina.Benz017@gmail.com

School: St. George's University

Major: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: Upon graduating from veterinary school, my immediate focus will be practicing large animal medicine in a general practice setting. Looking further down the road, I plan to deepen my expertise and interests in reproductive management by pursuing a board certification as a large animal theriogenologist.

Name: Neela Berdan

City/State: North Bend, Washington

Telephone: (206) 620-4604

Email: Neelab1235@gmail.com

School: Washington State University

Major: Animal Science - Pre vet

Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: I currently attend Washington State University and after I graduate, my goals are to go to vet school but if not admitted, graduate school. I am hoping to find a position within the dairy industry whether that be management or medicine.



Name: Lindsay Broman

City/State: Midlothian, Virginia

Telephone: (804) 955-9852

Email: lindsaybroman7@gmail.com

School: Virginia Tech

Major: Dairy Science, Minor: Food Science and Technology

Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: After college, I hope to go into dairy production by working on a dairy farm to gain more experience and hopefully work up to owning my own dairy one day. I am also considering reproduction or nutrition as potential careers as well.

Name: Chloe Brown

City/State: Vail, Arizona

Telephone: (520) 359-8822

Email: brownck47@gmail.com

School: University of Arizona

Major: Pre-Veterinary Science General Emphasis

Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: During this consortium I realized being a veterinarian is not for me. I now wish to pursue a career in reproduction within the dairy industry. I want to work hands-on with the cows and thanks to this consortium I know what options I have in this industry.





Name: Aaron Broyles
City/State: El Reno, Oklahoma
Telephone: (405) 664-4324
Email: aaron789@cox.net
School: Oklahoma State University
Major: Animal Science: Production and Operations
Expected/Graduation Date: 2026
Career Goals: To either further my education to be able to perform research at a higher level to inform producers regarding nutrition in an extension setting or to help producers as a nutritionist.

Name: Sharom Cardozo-Girdner
City/State: Stillwater, Oklahoma
Telephone: (918) 815-6487
Email: sharomcardozo27@gmail.com
School: Oklahoma State University
Major: Animal Science - Pre-vet
Expected/Graduation Date: 2027
Career Goals: Following graduation, I plan to attend veterinary school and specialize in dairy cattle medicine. Having grown up in the dairy industry, I developed a strong passion for dairy production and herd health.



Name: Camila Chacon
City/State: Las Cruces, NM
Telephone: (505) 525-1728
Email: camichaco55@gmail.com
School: New Mexico State University
Major: Animal Science - Science
Expected/Graduation Date: 2028
Career Goals: I'm interested in animal nutrition and livestock production. Through my studies and research experience, I've developed a strong interest in both the beef and dairy industries, and I'm still exploring which path is the best fit for me. My goal is to continue gaining hands-on experience and build a career that helps improve animal performance and productivity.

Name: Lily Clemens
City/State: Lauderdale By The Sea, FL
Telephone: (954) 607-8425
Email: fishingqueen101@gmail.com
School: University of Florida
Major: Animal Sciences, Animal Biology
Expected/Graduation Date: 2028
Career Goals: I plan on going to vet school for large animal medicine. I would love to work in the fields of dairy production or with the USDA and food safety.





Name: Hayley Daubert

City/State: Dayton, VA

Telephone: (717) 304-3552

Email: rwdairygirl@gmail.com

School: South Dakota State University

Major: Dairy Manufacturing

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: I will be working at a Land O'Lakes cheese plant in Wisconsin as a management trainee following the consortium. In the future I plan to pursue a career in the dairy industry that combines my interest in dairy plants or on dairy farms.

Name: Colin Davis

City/State: Kennedale, Texas

Telephone: (312) 806-1527

Email: cmdavis301@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M University

Major: Animal Science - Production

Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: I hope to go back to my family's land and raise beef cattle. I will also do a fair bit of land management and perhaps other ventures like beekeeping.



Name: Andrea Dominguez

City/State: San Antonio, Texas

Telephone: (210) 215-8397

Email: dominguez.aa@yahoo.com

School: Texas A&M University

Major: Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: After I graduate I am planning to either work in the animal industry or pursue a Master's degree in Animal Science in preparation for vet school. I hope to eventually open my own low cost vet clinic/shelter.

Name: Elsie Donlick

City/State: Cortland, New York

Telephone: (607) 597-9708

Email: elsiedonlick@gmail.com

School: SUNY Cobleskill Ag & Tech

Major: Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: My career goal is to pursue a position focusing on some aspect of dairy cattle health and management, ultimately working to optimize production and cow comfort. I am interested in herd management, reproduction, genetics, and lactation physiology.





Name: Madeline Edwards
City/State: Midland, Texas
Telephone: (432) 288-5855
Email: madeb2006@gmail.com
School: Oklahoma State University
Major: Animal Science and Reproduction
Expected/Graduation Date: 2029
Career Goals: After leaving the Consortium, I plan to continue working on my undergraduate degree at Oklahoma State. I hope to continue on to vet school and work as an equine vet.

Name: Isaiah Eisert
City/State: Goshen, Indiana
Telephone: (574) 304-7847
Email: IsaiahEisert@outlook.com
School: Purdue University
Major: Agricultural Economics
Expected/Graduation Date: 2026
Career Goals: I hope to work in commercial farm management long term, hopefully achieving partnership in an operation someday.



Name: Jan Feenstra
City/State: Stephenville, Texas
Telephone: (254) 485-1478
Email: janfeenstra06@gmail.com
Career Goals: I want to be a dairy farmer, calf raiser, cattle trader, herdsmanager.

Name: Samantha Fisher
City/State: Moscow, Idaho
Telephone: (469) 343-3820
Email: samantha@jnsf.com
School: University of Idaho
Major: Animal and Veterinary Science - Focus: Pre-Vet
Expected/Graduation Date: 2026
Career Goals: I have gained a new interest in livestock nutrition here at the consortium. I now hope to work as a livestock nutritionist; if I have any specialty it will probably be beef nutrition because the beef industry is closer to my hometown. I'd like to get a master's degree in animal nutrition after taking a gap year (or two) to work.





Name: Jessica Fleisher

City/State: Newport, Pennsylvania

Telephone: (717) 599-8100

Email: fleisherjess@gmail.com

School: Pennsylvania State University

Major: Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: After consortium, I plan to return to Pennsylvania to work as an Assistant Herdsman. I hope to apply the knowledge and skills I've learned from the USDETC and my other studies to have a successful career in the dairy industry.

Name: Helen Guadarrama

City/State: Sunland Park, New Mexico

Telephone: (915) 275-3824

Email: helengua16@gmail.com

School: New Mexico State University

Major: Animal Science - Science, Minor: Chemistry, Biology, Dairy Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: My career goal is to become a large animal mixed veterinarian with a specialization in dairy cattle. I am passionate about working with livestock producers to improve animal health, reproduction, and herd management while providing high-quality veterinary care. I hope to build a career that supports both animal welfare and the success of agricultural operations.



Name: Nicole Gómez

City/State: Chihuahua, Chihuahua

Telephone: (984) 330-1474

Email: nicolegomez521@gmail.com

School: New Mexico State University

Major: Animal Science - Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: My career goal is to work in large animal research, focusing on reproduction, genetics, and breeding. I hope to pursue graduate studies in Animal Science.

Name: Rian Heaton

City/State: Bowie, Texas

Telephone: (940) 867-0254

Email: heatonrian@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M

Major: Animal Science - Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2029

Career Goals: Get my masters and maybe a PhD, in something reproduction related.





Name: Hailey Horton

City/State: Mesilla Park, New Mexico

Telephone: (575) 520-9025

Email: tohailey31@gmail.com

School: New Mexico State University

Major: Animal Science - Industry

Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: Once I complete my undergraduate education, I plan to enter into the dairy industry. I have a passion for dairy cattle and the industry. I hope to find a career that I not only love but that I can help consumers and producers alike fall back in love with dairy. Whether this is through the repro side of the industry (which I find fascinating) or on the marketing side of things.

Name: Jacquelyn Howard

City/State: Tomball, Texas

Telephone: (832) 773-4018

Email: shelby1107@icloud.com

School: Oklahoma State University

Major: Animal Science - Production and Operations

Expected/Graduation Date: 2029

Career Goals: I plan to continue to study animal science at Oklahoma State, then pursue graduate school at Texas A&M. I hope to get my masters in reproductive physiology, and become a reproductive specialist.



Name: Ayla Janney

City/State: Broadway, VA

Telephone: (540) 810-8507

Email: janneyholsteinsabj@gmail.com

School: Virginia Tech

Major: Dairy Science, Animal Science, Poultry Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2029

Career Goals: My career goal is to pursue a career in dairy nutrition and feed sales, helping producers improve herd health, performance, and profitability through sound nutritional management. By combining my hands-on livestock experience with my Dairy Science education at Virginia Tech, I hope to provide practical, science-based solutions to dairy farms.

Name: Destiny Jaramillo

City/State: Richardson, Texas

Telephone: (469) 937-0591

Email: destiny.jaramillo2025@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M University College Station

Major: Animal Sciences - science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2029

Career Goals: I want to be a veterinarian. I am still deciding and seeing what kind of veterinarian I want to be.





Name: Delianne Jimenez-Matos

City/State: Haslet, TX

Telephone: (214) 621-6458

Email: delianne.jimenezmatos@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M

Major: Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: I plan to pursue higher education through veterinary school and work closely with livestock producers in Texas. As a veterinarian, I intend to be an advocate for animal welfare, elevate herd health, and support the dairy industry in meeting their productive goals.

Name: Allison Jorge

City/State: Tulare, California

Telephone: (559) 837-5308

Email: allisonjorge11@gmail.com

School: California State University, Fresno

Major: Animal Science - Emphasis: Dairy Production

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: After my time here at the Dairy Consortium, I hope to fulfill a career in dairy nutrition or reproduction. I am still unsure of what my career path will look like in the near future but I just want to gain as much knowledge as I can about the dairy industry and gain valuable hands-on experience!



Name: Kiara Konyndy

City/State: Escondido, CA

Telephone: (442) 281-0525

Email: kiara@konyndairy.com

School: University of Wisconsin - Madison

Major: Dairy & Food Animal Management - Pre-Vet

Expected/Graduation Date: 2029

Career Goals: I plan to become a large animal veterinarian with a focus on food animal medicine, particularly dairy cattle, while continuing to support and advance the dairy industry. I am committed to serving the agricultural community while promoting the well-being and productivity of livestock.

Name: Rendyn Lamance

City/State: Boyd, Texas

Telephone: (940) 210-7623

Email: rendyn.lamance@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M

Major: Animal Science, Biomedical Sciences, Pre Law

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: I will attend vet school at Texas Tech University in the fall, where I plan to further the capacity in which I can serve the agriculture industry.





Name: Jenna Larson

City/State: Okeechobee, FL

Telephone: (863) 447-5383

Email: jennaflarson@gmail.com

School: University of Florida

Major: Animal Sciences, Integrative Specialization - Animal Nutrition

Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: After graduating with my Bachelor's in Animal Science, I plan to pursue a Master's degree in Ruminant Nutrition. After that, I plan to gain experience in the dairy industry either on-farm or in consulting. Then, one day, I hope to return home to my family's dairy farm in Florida.

Name: Tyler Liere

City/State: Franklin, Texas

Telephone: (979) 446-8217

Email: tylerliere13@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M University

Major: Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2029

Career Goals: My goal is to continue my family's dairy business as the fourth generation in the operation. I plan to go to college to learn more about the dairy industry and use that knowledge to help the business succeed.



Name: Lila Mace

City/State: Houston, Texas

Telephone: (832) 620-5331

Email: lilanmace@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M University

Major: Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2029

Career Goals: I am pursuing a degree in Animal Science and am considering several career paths, including veterinary medicine and animal health research. I look forward to gaining hands-on experience that will help me figure out the best way to contribute to animal welfare and science. I've especially enjoyed gaining dairy experience and learning more about the industry, and I really enjoy it.

Name: Hannah Mansfield

City/State: Greenville, NC

Telephone: (252) 565-3023

Email: spideyhannah@gmail.com

School: Penn State

Major: Animal Science, Focus: Dairy Industry

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: I will pursue a master's degree in calf health and precision technology at Penn State with Dr. Melissa Cantor. I would like to work in university extension and teaching, specifically focused on dairy production.





Name: Sara McNichols

City/State: Scranton, Pennsylvania

Telephone: (570) 862-0697

Email: Mcnic935@gmail.com

School: Pennsylvania State University

Major: Animal Science, Specialization: Dairy Industry

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: I will be attending The Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine in the fall where I will focus on mixed animal medicine. Once this is completed, I plan to practice medicine on both companion animals, livestock, and dairy cattle.

Name: Julissa Mendoza

City/State: Las Cruces, New Mexico

Telephone: (575) 202-9612

Email: julissamendoza6@outlook.com

School: New Mexico State University

Major: Animal Science, Minor: Chemistry

Expected/Graduation Date: 2025

Career Goals: I want to become a large animal veterinarian. Along the way, I hope to continue learning about animal nutrition and reproductive programs and how they can be used to improve animal health, performance, and overall herd success.



Name: Maddi Miller

City/State: Birdseye, IN

Telephone: (812) 351-0342

Email: malmiller525@gmail.com

School: Vincennes University

Major: Agribusiness - Concentration: Animal Husbandry & Agronomy

Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: I would like to pursue a career in farm management, dairy management or agronomy.

Name: Seth Moore

City/State: Brazoria, TX

Telephone: (979) 3004442

Email: sethhayden@icloud.com

School: Texas A&M University

Major: Animal Science - Production

Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: After graduation I plan on pursuing my DVM, specifically large animal medicine.





Name: Celeste Moreno

City/State: Edinburg, Texas

Telephone: (956) 884-3260

Email: celestesmoreno1129@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M

Major: Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: My ultimate goal is to become a veterinarian and open up a practice in my hometown. I'm heavily considering a Masters in repro or biomedical sciences. I love repro and would love to find work experience within the field.

Name: Hannah Morgan

City/State: Somerville, Texas

Telephone: (337) 512-9680

Email: hemorgan20323@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M University

Major: Animal Science - Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2029

Career Goals: I had no dairy knowledge, however, after attending the consortium I have realized how rewarding and important the dairy industry is. I plan on pursuing a masters degree in genetics or nutrition to help become a geneticist or nutritionist for dairies across the country.



Name: Jayci Nickels

City/State: Muleshoe, Texas

Telephone: (806) 566-2169

Email: jayci.nickels@gmail.com

School: West Texas A&M University

Major: Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary B.S.

Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: After completing my pre-veterinary undergraduate studies at West Texas A&M University, my career goal is to become a food animal veterinarian and support the livestock industry. As a fifth generation farmer's daughter, I hope to stay in Texas or New Mexico where I can serve the rural agricultural communities that shaped who I am today.

Name: Cait O'Sullivan

City/State: Hillsborough, New Jersey

Telephone: (908) 552-9665

Email: caitos181@gmail.com

School: SUNY Cobleskill

Major: Animal Science BT- Concentration: Dairy

Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: At this time, I am not exactly sure what career path I would like to pursue, but I have strong interests in reproduction and calf management. After earning my bachelor's degree, I hope to either attend graduate school or pursue a career in one of these fields.





Name: Makayla Osinga
City/State: Hico, Texas
Telephone: (254) 977-3327
Email: kkosinga05@gmail.com
School: Tarleton State University
Major: Agribusiness, Minor: Business
Expected/Graduation Date: 2026
Career Goals: My career goals consist of working at a company within the agricultural industry. I have a strong passion for the dairy industry and I hope to contribute that to my future career.

Name: Kaleb Osinga
City/State: Hico, Texas
Telephone: (254) 434-3416
Email: kalebosinga1@gmail.com
School: Tarleton State University
Major: Ag Business
Expected/Graduation Date: 2029
Career Goals: After I graduate from Tarleton State University, I plan to apply the knowledge and skills I have gained through both the USDETC and Tarleton State University and apply it on my family's dairy operation.



Name: Emma Peters
City/State: Spring, Texas
Telephone: (281) 726-6018
Email: Emma.Peters07@yahoo.com
School: Texas A&M University
Major: Animal Science - Pre-Veterinarian
Expected/Graduation Date: 2029
Career Goals: I am working on pursuing a career as a large animal veterinarian. I am wanting to attend Texas A&M's veterinary program then work my way to owning my own veterinary animal hospital in the future.

Name: Logan Pomi
City/State: Petaluma, California
Telephone: (707) 775-9430
Email: lpomi15@gmail.com
School: Texas A&M University
Major: Animal Science - Dairy Reproduction
Expected/Graduation Date: 2027
Career Goals: I hope to pursue a career in the livestock reproduction industry, applying my training to advance reproductive efficiency and animal health. As this is a constantly evolving sector of livestock production, I am eager to be a part of its continued progress.





Name: Isiri Prasad
City/State: Plano, Texas
Telephone: (469) 974-2222
Email: isirivp@tamu.edu
School: Texas A&M University
Major: Biomedical Sciences
Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: After completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to attend veterinary school and become a small animal veterinarian. I am especially interested in specializing in veterinary surgery or surgical oncology.

Name: Jett Ramaekers
City/State: Nazareth, Tx
Telephone: (806) 367-2221
Email: jlrchewy@gmail.com
School: Texas Tech
Major: Plant and Soil Science
Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: I hope to build a career as a dairy or crop consultant, helping farmers optimize their production through advice and sustainable practices. My goal is to combine knowledge with practical solutions to improve crop yields and dairy management for long-term success.



Name: Connor Rolf
City/State: Commerce, TX
Telephone: (469) 927-5963
Email: rolfconnor@gmail.com
School: Texas A&M University
Major: Animal Science, Minor: Wildlife & Fisheries Management
Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: After I finish my undergraduate degree, I want to pursue a masters program in animal breeding and genetics. Then I want to pursue a career in dairy and beef cattle genetic consulting.

Name: Michael Schaal
City/State: Burlington, Wisconsin
Telephone: (262) 210-8528
Email: mschaal223@gmail.com
School: Iowa State University
Major: Agricultural Studies - Farm Operations Management, Minor: Agronomy
Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: My plan is to return home to our family's dairy adapting to new technologies and continuing to stay at the forefront of the industry. I am excited to see where the future of the industry grows and to be a role model for others.





Name: Elizabeth Schieferstine

City/State: Verona, NY

Telephone: (315)982-3206

Email: 23eschieferstine@gmail.com

School: SUNY Cobleskill

Major: Animal Science BT - Concentration: Dairy

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: I am looking to enter a career of large herd management. I hope to gain knowledge about managing both cows and people and be able to use my skills to find new ways to help both cows and people find success.

Name: Kylee Seats

City/State: Aldrich, Missouri

Telephone: (336) 401-0721

Email: kyleed070521@gmail.com

School: Oklahoma State University

Major: Animal Science - Production and Operations

Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: I hope to get my masters in repro and genomics and then go on to become a large animal veterinarian focusing specifically on dairy cattle.



Name: Clinton Shellenberger

City/State: Pleasant Hill, Ohio

Telephone: (937) 216-9489

Email: Shellendairyc@gmail.com

School: Huntington University

Major: Agriculture Education - Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: Returning home to Ohio to help run the family dairy. I plan to work alongside my brother to keep the farm going and teach jr. high/ high school agriculture.

Name: Peyton Simmons

City/State: Anderson, South Carolina

Telephone: (864) 541-5234

Email: peytonsimmons490@gmail.com

School: Oklahoma State University

Major: Animal Science, Pre-Vet

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: I hope to attend vet school and become a large animal veterinarian.





Name: Kayleigh Smith

City/State: Bowman, Georgia

Telephone: (762) 338-9461

Email: kayleighsmith71304@icloud.com

School: University of Georgia

Major: Animal and Dairy Science, Minor: Dairy Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: Upon graduation this fall, I plan to pursue a career in herd management. Through many incredible opportunities within the industry, I have found my true passion is working hands-on caring for dairy cattle as well as managing their genetic progression within a herd. I am thankful for the experiences gained through USDETC and how they will help me better serve the farmers, the cows, and the customers within the dairy industry.

Name: Collin Strittmatter

City/State: Aubrey, Texas

Telephone: (940) 365- 6278

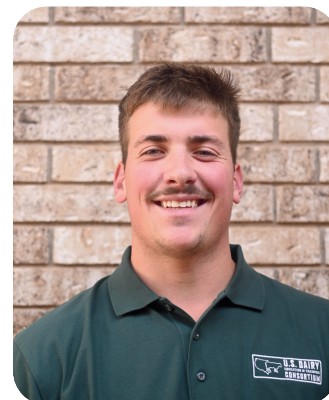
Email: cmstritt@yahoo.com

School: Texas A&M University

Major: Animal Science - Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: My goal is to attend veterinary school and become a mixed-animal veterinarian. After graduation, I plan to return to North Texas to join my family's veterinary practice and continue managing and expanding our cow-calf operation.



Name: Tanner Strunk

City/State: Avondale, Arizona

Telephone: (623) 826-2413

Email: tannerstrunk@icloud.com

School: New Mexico State University

Major: Range Science, Minor: Livestock Production

Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: I want to work in animal agriculture and range management for 10-15 years and then become a pastor for the rest of my life.

Name: Jada Sytsma

City/State: Everson, Washington

Telephone: (360) 815-8625

Email: jadasytsma@gmail.com

School: Modesto Junior College

Major: Dairy Science AS, Certificate: Artificial Insemination

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: I will be working on dairy farms and gaining experience and hands-on knowledge on a large dairy operation. This will hopefully lead to a career in dairy management, breeding and reproduction, or dairy consultation.





Name: Megan Trevino

City/State: Pearland, Texas

Telephone: (713) 560-5882

Email: megantrevino2015@gmail.com

School: Texas A&M University

Major: Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: I hope to intern/work at other dairy operations during my undergrad and gain more experience with dairy cattle. After graduating from Texas A&M University, I plan to work in dairy management or agricultural sales, focusing on methods that will improve efficiency for workers and the welfare of cows.

Name: Amber Utter

City/State: Weatherford, TX

Telephone: (817) 446-5423

Email: firedancecheer08@yahoo.com

School: Texas A&M University

Major: BS in Biology, Minor: English

Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: After graduating Texas A&M University with my degree in biology and a minor in English, I plan to go to vet school to be a mixed animal veterinarian. I plan to focus on livestock and nutrition with the hopes of opening my own practice.



Name: Mayra Velazquez

City/State: El Paso, TX

Telephone: (915) 600-3642

Email: mayravelazquez1011@gmail.com

School: New Mexico State University

Major: Animal Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: I recently graduated from New Mexico State University with a major in Animal Science and minors in Chemistry, Biology, and Human-Animal Interaction. After completing this internship, I will begin veterinary school in Mexico to finish my veterinary degree. Once I graduate, I plan to validate my credentials and begin practicing in the United States.

Name: Jack Van Warmerdam

City/State: Galt, California

Telephone: (209) 912-9410

Email: jvanwarmerdam41@gmail.com

School: Modesto Junior College

Major: Crop and Plant Science

Expected/Graduation Date: 2026

Career Goals: My career goal is to return back to the family farm and eventually manage that farm. My goal is to bring the dairy into the modern generation and possibly expand while correcting issues and maintaining profitability.





Name: Abba Wells
City/State: Cove, Texas
Telephone: (713) 859-8727
Email: abba.wells21@gmail.com
School: Texas A&M University
Major: Animal Science - Science
Expected/Graduation Date: 2028

Career Goals: Upon graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in Animal Science, I plan to apply to veterinary school at both Texas A&M and Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine. My goal is to become a mixed practice veterinarian. Ultimately, I hope to return to my hometown or contribute to the dairy industry.

Name: Breanna Wiley
City/State: Thorntown, Indiana
Telephone: (317) 966-2378
Email: breannajwiley17@gmail.com
School: Purdue University
Major: Nursing, Minor: Animal Science
Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: I am currently studying nursing at Purdue University with a minor in animal science! After graduation, I plan to work as a registered nurse, likely in pediatrics. Long-term, I hope to continue to explore both human and dairy nutrition as well as their relationship!



Name: Kimberly Zapata
City/State: Yakima, Washington
Telephone: (509) 985-0273
Email: zkimberly10937@gmail.com
School: Washington State University
Major: Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Expected/Graduation Date: 2027

Career Goals: After graduation, I plan to attend veterinary school and work primarily with large animals, particularly dairy cattle, where I can help contribute to herd health and productivity. I hope to combine my hands-on experience from USDETC and research to better understand producers and support them in the most effective ways I can.

Why contribute to the USDETC?



"The knowledge, connections, and hands-on learning gained through this program have made it the most valuable six-week educational experience I have ever had."

"The networking opportunities offered through the USDETC have been unparalleled and have introduced me to professionals from every sector of the dairy industry."



"Beyond the knowledge gained, this experience has been a rewarding way to build friendships and connect with people from across the country."



"The Dairy Consortium has provided invaluable opportunities to connect with industry leaders and experience the full scope of the dairy industry, from farm to processing."





The U.S. Dairy Education & Training Consortium (USDETC) is a specialized organization, founded in 2008, dedicated to advancing practical, hands-on education in large herd dairy management. Here's a breakdown of its objectives and structure:

Objective: The primary goal of the USDETC is to provide leadership, support, and resources for the development and facilitation of practical education and training in large herd dairy operations. This education is aimed at advanced college students specializing in animal science, dairy science, and agribusiness. The ultimate aim is to prepare these students for careers in the dairy industry or for further advanced degree programs.

Program Development: Programs offered by the USDETC are developed in collaboration with allied industries, academia, and government entities. This ensures that the curriculum is comprehensive, relevant to industry needs, and integrates the latest technology and information available in the field.

Capstone Learning Experiences: The USDETC provides capstone-learning experiences, focusing on practical, hands-on teaching methods. This includes on-farm practicums, field trips, laboratory sessions, and interactive experiences with allied industries. By uniting top-tier students with esteemed faculty in conducive geographical locations, the consortium facilitates effective knowledge transfer and skill development. Since programs inception, 776 students have completed the program. More importantly, a recent survey of our graduates found 81% have entered some facet of agriculture while 52% are working on a dairy or in a dairy related industry.

Faculty and Expertise: Instructional faculty involved in the consortium are recognized national experts sourced from universities and agribusinesses. Their expertise ensures that students receive high-quality education grounded in industry best practices and cutting-edge research.

Challenges and Funding: The USDETC acknowledges challenges stemming from budget constraints that have led to the closure of many traditional dairy science departments. This has resulted in a reduced emphasis on dairy educational opportunities across universities. To address these challenges, the consortium emphasizes the importance of establishing a dedicated fund. This fund would ensure the sustainability and success of the program, enabling it to continue fulfilling its mission of educating and training the next generation of dairy industry professionals.

Industry Partnership and Job Opportunities: The USDETC's unique partnership with industry sponsors not only enriches the educational experience but also opens doors to potential job opportunities for students. This interaction ensures that graduates are well-prepared to enter various roles within the dairy sector, including as owners, managers, employees, and allied industry personnel.

In summary, the US Dairy Education & Training Consortium plays a crucial role in filling gaps left by budget cuts in traditional dairy science departments. It focuses on providing practical, industry-aligned education to prepare students for successful careers in the dairy industry or further academic pursuits.

Website: <https://usdetc.tamu.edu>

Email: usdetc@tamu.edu

Mailing Address: USDETC

2471 TAMU

College Station, TX 77843-2471