

## ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Every seven years, the School of Veterinary Medicine is reviewed by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education. In 1998, the school met all but one of 11 essential AVMA standards for accreditation—adequate facilities. The council was particularly concerned about Haring Hall, the core teaching building constructed more than 50 years ago.

Although assigned “limited accreditation” status, the school remains nationally accredited (authorized to confer the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree) while the school, the university and the state address facilities issues on several fronts.

The school has developed an ambitious \$350 million facilities plan—the largest construction undertaking of any veterinary program in the nation. The plan, endorsed by the chancellor and UC Office of the President, calls for the following new buildings and additions:

Phase one (\$124 million, to be completed between 2002 and 2005) includes a laboratory facility with a student surgery complex; an instructional facility with classrooms, auditoriums and seminar rooms; a multipurpose facility with teaching laboratories, research space, an orthopedic laboratory and a necropsy facility for the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital; a clinical cancer center, a feline health center and a genomics facility at the Center for Companion Animal Health; and a treadmill program at the Equine Performance Laboratory.

Phase two (\$116 million) includes research and clinical space that will complete the replacement of Haring Hall, the school’s first building, completed in 1948.

Phase three (\$110 million—much of the funding depends on state bond measures scheduled for 2002, 2006 and 2010) includes research and clinical space, faculty offices and laboratories.

School administrators have invited the AVMA to review the school’s progress toward providing excellent facilities in early 2003. They hope that the combination of completed construction, detailed planning documents and secured funding resources for the remaining phases of the building plan will persuade the AVMA to restore full accreditation.

## Dairy Technology Center Will Further Education and Research

**T**he California Dairy Technology Center will create a state-of-the-art educational dairy facility serving high-school, community-college and university students. The only such facility in the world, it will be a collaborative effort of the California dairy industry, the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, the College of the Sequoias and the Tulare Joint Union High School District.

The planned dairy technology center will break ground in 2002 in Tulare, California. It will include a 1,000-cow dairy and initially serve as many as 430 students per year, more than half of them enrolled in high school or community college. As of May 15, 2001, pledges to the center’s \$5 million fundraising campaign totalled \$2.1 million.

“This center will form a critical part of the infrastructure in our dynamic California dairy industry,” says Ron Foster, campaign chair and president of Foster Farms Dairy in Modesto. “The ability to perform cutting-edge applied research and educate future industry leaders in a truly commercial-size dairy is a capability unsurpassed by any other facility.”

The School of Veterinary Medicine will administer the center, with industry and academic councils providing guidance and oversight. The center will maintain operations through research contracts and grants, and the sale of milk and dairy beef.

The model dairy center will provide expanded educational opportunities to meet both regional and statewide employment needs. Students will receive academic and technical training in animal care, business management, animal science and veterinary medicine. It is hoped the team atmosphere of the center also will engender student outreach activities that will encourage students to pursue university studies and science-related careers.

The new facility will replace both the existing College of the Sequoias dairy, which is being lost due to urban development, and the aging Tulare Joint Union High School District dairy. As the California Dairy Technology Center is a field facility, its research and teaching missions are different from ongoing research and teaching activities at the UC Davis dairy on campus—the two are expected to complement one another.

Dairy industry members will be active participants in the Tulare center, maintaining critical access to applied research findings related to on-farm food safety, food animal health, productivity and welfare, public health, consumer education and cogeneration of energy.

Dairy-related businesses already have made sizable gifts to the center, including a leading gift of milking machinery valued at more than \$600,000 from Alfa Laval Agri of Kansas City, Missouri. Private funds and industry involvement are still being sought for construction of barns and classroom facilities.

The center will be built on 100 acres of the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center, a satellite facility of the School of Veterinary Medicine. The College of the Sequoias is contributing cattle, the value of its milk quota and \$500,000. Tulare Joint Union High School District will supply its herd and milk quota. The academic collaborators also will contribute faculty expertise from their respective dairy education programs.

With California milk and cream sales totalling more than \$4 billion per year, the dairy technology center is intended to help maintain the state’s competitive edge as the foremost milk-producing region in the world.



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