

Davis Family Dairies

The Dairy Appreciation Award is meant to recognize dairy producers who have made outstanding contributions to the dairy industry and for supporting the mission at the College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Minnesota. The 2015 Dairy Appreciation Award is given to Davis Family Dairies and specifically to Mitch Davis and Mark Davis.

In 2009, the Davis family joined in an affiliation with the College of Veterinary Medicine that led to the creation of the Dairy Education Center at New Sweden Dairy. It started with an empty field and has grown to the nation's premier education site for dairy veterinary and dairy professional education. The Dairy Education Center has been designated as the USDA's only National Center of Excellence in Dairy Veterinary Education. It is the College's key facility for educating dairy veterinary students. The college uses the site to teach both clinical dairy skills and advanced dairy production medicine courses. The Center is also the College's major venue for continuing education and dairy professional education.

According to John Fetrow, MBA, VMD and CVM Professor of Dairy Production Medicine, the Davis family and everyone associated with the dairies has been the ideal partner for the University of Minnesota.

"They are wonderfully accommodating and supportive of the college's academic programs. Whether adjusting day-to-day working schedules on the dairy to accommodate teaching needs or encouraging students to become deeply involved in the dairy's operations, the Davis' dairies have gone the extra mile to be welcoming, flexible, approachable and tolerant of the inevitable disruption that occurs when students and other learners work to develop their skills in dairy health, production, and management."

For many students their experience at Davis Family Dairies marks their introduction to dairy production medicine.

"We couldn't be more pleased with this phenomenal partnership with the college," says Mitch Davis. "It's real-world training and a way we are able to contribute to the future of our industry by ensuring that students can hit the ground running in the industry."

The award was presented to Davis Family Dairies and Mitch and Mark Davis on May 8, 2015 during the Minnesota Dairy Health Conference in Bloomington, MN. The Conference is an annual event for dairy veterinarians, industry professionals, and dairy producers on advancements in the dairy field. During the three-day event, nationally renowned speakers give presentations on the latest developments in dairy production science, health management, and food quality.

