Mission
Provide enabling infrastructural support for teaching, research, and service/outreach programs to meet the needs of higher education, the dairy industry and society in Texas and the southwest.

Goals
Utilizing the multi-disciplinary expertise and resources of Tarleton State University faculty and program personnel in conjunction with university outreach agreements with external universities and relevant agencies, the goals of the Center are to:

- Provide hands-on educational and internship opportunities in agriculture, veterinary medicine, environmental science, natural resource management, food science, engineering and business for undergraduate and graduate students in Texas and the southwestern states.
- Provide resources for basic and applied research in dairy science, environmental science and engineering; and field-testing of new equipment and technology.
- Provide continuing education opportunities for dairy and service industry representatives.

Status
- Funding of $11.1 Million approved by the State of Texas in April, 2006.
- Availability of funding anticipated September 1, 2007.
- Planning activities began Summer 2006.

Governance
The Dairy Center will operate within the infrastructure of Tarleton State University. An Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the dairy industry, related non-profit organizations, the university, and other stakeholders will provide input to overall guidance and direction based upon educational, research and outreach needs of industry and society, following prudent management and financial operating procedures.
Key Features

1) Housing for 200–400 cows
2) State-of-the-art waste handling protocols
3) Multiple milking parlors utilizing new technologies
4) Classroom, laboratory and conference facilities to support education, research, and service programs
5) Outreach center for public and continuing education with viewing access to key dairy operations and technologies
6) Human-animal interaction areas

Dairy Center

Desired Facilities

Production Dairy
- Freestall barns
- Milking parlors
- Calf/heifer barn
- Commodity barn
- Offices
- Observation rooms

Educational Buildings
- Classrooms
- Offices
- Meeting Rooms
- Computer Lab
- Conference room
- Covered teaching pavilion
- Student employee and visiting student dormitory

Research Facilities
- Animal metabolism unit
- Ruminant nutrition laboratory
- DHIA milk/forage analysis lab
- Compost analysis lab
- Sample processing lab
- Reproductive physiology lab
- Toxicology lab

General
- Biosecurity systems (restricted access areas, surveillance cameras, alarms, etc)
- Dedicated server/web cams in strategic locations to achieve a virtual presence

Possibilities
- Visitor Center
- Creamery for processing and manufacturing
- Retail product sample and sales areas