



Oregon State University

An Initiative to Advance Dairy Processing in the Pacific Northwest

Background

Dairy foods are advancing in the Pacific Northwest on several fronts – in new product innovation, in a global reach to expanded markets, in national recognition for quality without peer, and in honors received for some of the world's most respected products.

Vital to this advancement is a host of talented people, whose knowledge, skills, and abilities compliment the long history of well-respected dairy brands.

Yet, the Northwest dairy industry has potential to advance further, as shown by gains in other states and regions. New plant investment, targeted innovation, and a greater focus on research have all increased nationwide. The Northwest can be competitively positioned to capture that momentum.

Central to this vision, Oregon State University's Dairy Foods program is becoming well positioned to drive future success by providing a well-trained professional workforce, opportunities for expanded innovation, extension assistance to plants, and focused dairy research for regional needs.

The Plan Forward

Sparked by the contributions of Paul and Sandy Arbuthnot, the Arbuthnot Dairy Center will advance OSU's stature as a respected regional and national peer in supporting the processing, marketing, innovation, research and development of dairy foods.

This effort will be anchored by two key components. First, as part of the Oregon Quality Food & Beverage Products Initiative, we will build a new automated, small-scale dairy manufacturing plant with state-of-the-art equipment for production of cheese, ice cream, cultured products and powder. Contemporary lab and classroom facilities will ensure a relevant educational experience. And an applied research component will be greatly enhanced, to serve both student and industry training needs.

Secondly, by attracting top students into field of dairy science, OSU will take a lead role in the training of the current and future work force. Through a strong academic center we will establish a greater emphasis on manufacturing for undergraduates through core curriculum and diversity of coursework. Dairy foods science graduate students will engage in high-level technical dairy research, which can be readily applied to the field and as advised by industry.

Total projected cost for the new dairy pilot plant is \$6 million. Funds to create the facility will be sought from individuals, corporations, and state support. Of that, \$3 million will be from philanthropic support and a matching \$3 million will be from state bonds.

Benefits to the Dairy Industry

OSU will help grow the Northwest dairy industry by enabling greater assistance in two key areas: by assisting plants to become more efficient and competitive businesses through extension services, trained personnel, technical support and research, and; by helping grow profit margins through new and value-added products, markets, and joint ventures.

In our expanded role as an industry resource we will deliver:

- **Education** – We aim to attract and educate outstanding future dairy industry professionals. We will work strategically with industry to turn food scientists into dairy scientists through the combination of part time work in the OSU commercial cheese program, applied research projects, university course work, and summer industry internships
- **Sustainability** – The new pilot plant will be utilizes to optimize sustainable dairy processes. Equally important, the expanded dairy program will unite researchers across departments to focus on the multiple facets of sustainability from field to retail and the unique challenges facing animal agriculture while creating economic and social value.
- **Product Innovation** – The pilot plant will serve as a point of industry collaboration with world-class researchers focused on the development of products and cutting-edge processes.
- **Collaboration and Troubleshooting** – Industry and OSU collaborations will catalyze the development of new knowledge benefiting the industry in a pre-competitive environment, while serving as a central point for solving challenges facing the industry.
- **Catalyzing Growth for Economic Vitality** – Bringing together producers, processors, regulators, and resources is critical to continued growth and dairy industry vitality. OSU is uniquely positioned to facilitate this collaboration to ensure these elements are aligned for sustained future growth and economic advancement.

We invite you to invest in elevating OSU as the pre-eminent dairy science, training, and innovation program in the region.

For more information on how you can support this important endeavor, contact:

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