



What is the USDFRC?

Unique in Our Field

The U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center is one of about 90 units in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). We're the only USDA-ARS unit with the mission of improving forage use by dairy cattle.

Our Mission

To develop knowledge and tools to enhance sustainable and competitive dairy forage systems that protect the environment, promote animal health, and ensure a safe, healthy food supply.



Four Locations

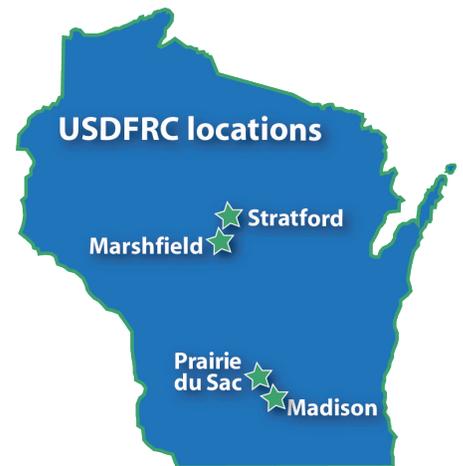
The U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center conducts research at four locations in Wisconsin but is managed as one Center. The four locations are:

Madison: Located on the University of Wisconsin campus. Main offices, laboratories, green houses and engineering lab.

Prairie du Sac: Research farm operated with the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Research Station; 2,006 acres and 350 cows.

Marshfield: Located at the University of Wisconsin Marshfield Agricultural Research Station. Main offices and laboratories for the Environmentally Integrated Dairy Management Research Unit.

Stratford: Research farm operated with the University of Wisconsin Marshfield Agricultural Research Station; 115 lactating cows and 530 heifers.

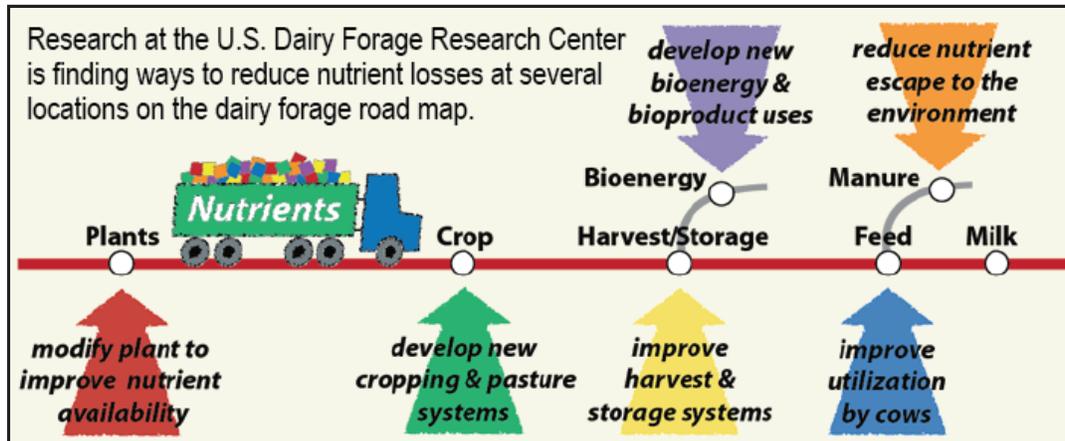


More information on next page

Road Map Guides Our Research

At the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, we created a National Dairy Forage Road Map to guide our research goals and collaborations into the future – research that addresses many of the challenges faced by dairy and forage producers. The six main ‘highways’ in the road map are:

1. Modifying plants to improve nutrient availability.
2. Developing new cropping and pasture systems.
3. Improving harvest and storage systems.
4. Improving nutrient utilization by cows.
5. Reducing nutrient escape to the environment.
6. Developing new bioenergy and bioproduct uses.



Our Scientists

To solve problems that are national in scope, we take a multidisciplinary approach to our research and look at the whole farm system – forage, cows and the environment. You can't improve a plant without knowing how it works in the cow. Our scientists have different areas of expertise, and they work together to make sure all bases are covered.

Our research team is led by 17 scientists:

- 3 dairy scientists
- 2 agronomists
- 1 dairy scientist/agronomist
- 3 soil scientists
- 1 agricultural engineer
- 2 plant geneticists
- 1 plant physiologist
- 1 molecular geneticist
- 2 microbiologists
- 1 chemist