

## Center For Animal Health

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economics, agronomy, mathematics, pathology and reproduction, to name a few. The CAHP has also developed collaborative relationships at the national and international level with a broad number of scientists and academic groups, thus making it a truly unique institution.

The faculty of the CAHP are often called upon for consultation on emerging health and production problems in livestock production systems throughout the commonwealth. In consultation with the local veterinary practitioner, complex problems on the farm are thoroughly studied and evaluated.

A typical scenario for a case problem would include a visit to the farm to understand the nature of the problem and its relationship to the production system at large. A complete history of the problem is taken along with an evaluation of the production, health, and financial records.

Upon identification of problem areas (nutrition, mastitis, reproduction, culling, nutrient management, primary health care program), intensive evaluations are made and solutions are formulated in consultation with the local practitioner. Problems that appear to be widespread within a livestock industry and of significant economic/social importance to the commonwealth are studied in more detail often in the form of research projects.

Research efforts of the CAHP form a vital and necessary link in the transfer of new information from the biological sciences into economically efficient applications and opportunities at the farm level.

With the focus of the CAHP at the farm system level a variety of problems impacting on farm health and production have become apparent.

Faculty of the CAHP have developed several breeding programs for dairy herds (Target Breeding Program and Milk

Progesterone Breeding Program), that integrate the reproductive biology of the cow and farm management into systematic breeding policies. These practical approaches offer economically efficient solutions to reproductive inefficiency problems affecting many dairy herds.

Another example is the emerging concern of nutrient losses to the environment associated with animal agriculture.

In recognition of the importance of this problem, the CAHP has several research projects to investigate the relationship between nutrition and animal management and the efficiency of nutrient capture in farm systems. Improving the efficiency of nutrient utilization within the farm system can significantly reduce nutrient losses to the environment.

By taking a systems approach to this problem, practical and new implementable strategies are emerging that greatly reduce the environmental impact associated with food animal operations. These solutions are imbedded in computer software that can be utilized at the farm level.

The basic product of the CAHP is knowledge. New knowledge is developed in its research programs. We apply and

developing an executive MBA training program for veterinarians. This unique program would allow veterinarians the opportunity to get additional special training in decision sciences and business economics with specific applications in animal production systems. With such academic training, these students would be uniquely qualified to understand the underlying biological principles of an animal production system with an economic perspective.

The educational activities of the CAHP include veterinary instruction in production systems medicine as well as post graduate training and continuing education for food animal practitioners. The CAHP participates in continuing education programs such as the Penn Annual Conference, the National Veterinary Practitioners workshops, and courses such as the Dairy Production Medicine Certificate Program presented in cooperation with Penn State University.

The center is developing a joint program with the Pennsylvania Animal Health Commission, Penn State University, and other commonwealth agencies to provide an integrated program of field investigation services and postgraduate training in production medicine.

In cooperation with the Wharton School of Business, faculty at the CAHP are

developing an executive MBA training program for veterinarians. This unique program would allow veterinarians the opportunity to get additional special training in decision sciences and business economics with specific applications in animal production systems. With such academic training, these students would be uniquely qualified to understand the underlying biological principles of an animal production system with an economic perspective.

The goal of the Center for Animal Health and Productivity teaching, research, and service is to improve the economic competitiveness of Pennsylvania farms through the generation and implementation of new knowledge and thus ensure their survivability into the 21st century.

Please visit the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania booth at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show, Jan. 11-16 for more information on the Center for Animal Health and Productivity as well as the many other services, programs, and research the school has to offer. You can visit the Center for Animal Health and Productivity Web site at [cahpwww.nbc.upenn.edu](http://cahpwww.nbc.upenn.edu)

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