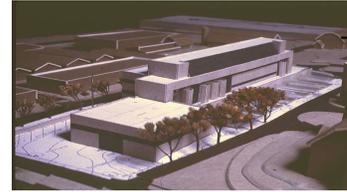




Ground breaking ceremony for the Farm

Architect design for the Farm Facility



Architect design for the Dairy Forage Research Center building at the UW-Madison Campus



Ground Braking Ceremony for the Laboratory Building



Installing trusses for the new barn



Construction meeting in the Barn



The original new Milking Parlor



The Tie Stall Barn completed

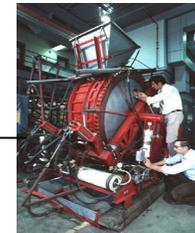


The Cows arrive!



The Farm Facility at Completion in 1981

Work begins at the Dairy Forage Center (Engineering Department)



Construction of the Building in 1980



The front of the Dairy Forage Center at Completion



The US Dairy Forage Research Center

The USDFRC consists of a federally owned Laboratory located on the University of Wisconsin- Madison campus and a federally owned support research farm located near Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin that includes a 320 cow research dairy herd. The decision to locate this federal laboratory and the farm facilities at these locations was predicated on the fact that Wisconsin is the center of dairy production in the US and is also in close proximity to forage and dairy research being conducted by public land grant institutions in the Mid-west which complements the research at the USDFRC.

While the early vision was that the USDFRC would be a regional laboratory, the program clearly developed a national scope. Approximately 50% of the Center's resources are used to support basic or fundamental research, which of course has no geographical boundaries. Approximately 25% can be considered applicable at all of North America and to many locations around the world. Less than 25% of the resources might be considered devoted to regional problems.

From the beginning, the USDFRC was considered a laboratory where interdisciplinary research facing problems of milk and forage production would be emphasized. Staffing of the Center in subsequent years has recognized this vision, and development of research programs has resulted in a highly integrated, interdisciplinary program. The concept of a Center at the University of Wisconsin and cluster scientist at several other universities was a crucial feature in mobilizing support for development of the USDFRC.

USDFRC Creation Historical Time Line

- 1974 July- Congress, USDA to study the needs for additional dairy forage research and most efficient way in which it can be performed
- 1974 Aug.-National and Regional Dairy Forage Task force appointed
- 1975 Feb.-National Dairy Forage Task Force report submitted to Congress, recommending establishment of a North Central Regional Dairy Management Forage Research Center (NCDRFC)
- 1976 Mar.-Dairy industry representatives testify in Senate and House hearings in support of NCDRFC
- 1976 Nov.-North Central Experiment Station Directors pass resolution unanimously supporting NCDRFC
- 1977 Oct.-ARS Administrator Edminster appoints NCDRFC Planning Committee
- 1977 Oct.-Congress authorizes \$1.1 mill. In planning funds for FY78
- 1978 Apr.- H.J. Hodgson appointed as interim director of NCDRFC
- 1978 Sept.-Congress authorizes \$9 mill. In construction funds for FY 79
- 1979 Jan.- Decision made to call facility US Dairy Forage Research Center (USDFRC)
- 1979 July- Raymond J. Bula named Director of USDFRC
- 1980 July-First animals arrive at Field Facility, USDFRC
- 1980 Sept.-Field Facility, USDFRC, dedicated on Sept. 20
- 1981 June-Campus Facility, USDFRC dedicated June, 30
- 1984 Charles Kiddy named Director of USDFRC
- 1987 Larry D. Satter named Director of USDFRC
- 1988 Feb.- Richard Smith named Interim Director of USDFRC
- 1999 Neil Martin named Director of USDFRC