In the dairy science program, 100 percent of students complete an internship or field experience. The department offers an internship course under the guidance of a faculty or staff member.

UW–Madison’s proximity to farms, agribusinesses, and events—such as World Dairy Expo—provide undergraduates with unique networking experiences and valuable hands-on learning.

Research experience

More than half of the students complete a research project under mentorship from a faculty member. Dairy science researchers are internationally recognized specialists in nutrition, genetics, lactation, reproduction, animal welfare, herd management, and more. Students can take on research projects with faculty members for either course credit or pay, depending on the opportunity.

Student organizations

The Badger Dairy Club (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/badgerdairyclub/) is a large, motivated student organization on campus with more than 75 members of various majors who share a passion for the dairy industry. Students are involved in dairy industry events that provide leadership and networking opportunities. Highlights of the club’s activities include work at the World Dairy Expo, hosting the Badger Invitational Sale, volunteering at the Wisconsin 4-H Dairy Bowl and FFA Dairy Judging Contests, and club trips.

There are other opportunities for students to get involved in agriculture-related organizations on campus such as Collegiate FFA (http://collegiateffamadison.weebly.com/), Association of Women in Agriculture (http://awamadison.org/), Babcock House (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/babcockhouse/), and Alpha Gamma Rho (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/agr/).

Competitive teams


Global engagement

Dairy science students are encouraged to study abroad; the department offers globally focused courses that look at livestock production, health, animal agriculture, and sustainable development, including a summer field study program focused on animal agriculture. Students can find more information on the International Academic Programs website (https://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/) and the CALS study abroad advising page (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/international-programs/study-abroad-advising/).