Project Summary

Livestock-based production accounts for over 60% of agricultural cash receipts in Idaho. In southern Idaho, dairy herds have tripled in the past 25 years, vaulting the state’s milk production from 10th to third nationally. Idaho’s food processing industry has paralleled this growth, expanding cheese and yogurt production.

Idaho CAFE will be the largest research dairy in the U.S. that will address animal agriculture and food processing challenges and opportunities nationwide. The center’s mission will include examining the sociology of dairy industry and community relations, and business and economic factors. This approach will improve upon existing sustainable practices to support a profitable and environmentally sound dairy and food industry.

Key Points:

- **1,000 – 2,000-cow dairy** relying on advanced technology
- **1,000 acres** of associated cropland
- Improved wastewater treatment and nutrient management systems
- Development of a food processing facility in collaboration with the College of Southern Idaho
- Components of the project will support laboratory space, offices for faculty and student housing

uidaho.edu/cafe

Contact
Jim Miller
Director of Development
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, U of I
jimmiller@uidaho.edu | (208) 885-7476
From our farms to the tables of people all around the world, Idaho will continue to provide consumers with the highest quality milk and dairy products, and we see CAFE as a key component in making that possible.  

Idaho Dairymen's Association

Regional Model
A distributed model for CAFE that will benefit the entire Magic Valley region.

Research Dairy
- Located near Rupert (Minidoka County)
- Purchased in partnership with the Idaho Dairymen’s Association
- New site prepared for a dairy but with limited infrastructure
- Power, road and lagoons exist
- Permitted; score of 4.5/5.0 on CAFO evaluation
- Build dairy from scratch with first focus on environmental research

Outreach and Education Center
- Located at Crossroads Point – at I-84 and Hwy 93 intersection (Jerome County)
- Opportunity to learn about all Idaho agriculture
- Engaging activities and retail opportunities

Food Processing Pilot Plant/Training Center
- Located on CSI campus (Twin Falls County)

Timeline
Mapping the future of CAFE development

March 2019
Closed on research dairy property

April 2019
Begin environmental research at dairy location

August 2019
Close on outreach/education property

December 2019
Complete designs for both the dairy build and the outreach and education center

July 2021
Begin building research dairy

June 2023
Open outreach and education center

Spring 2024
Begin milking cows at the research dairy

Funding Progress
$18M Total allocated for the project to date.

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University of Idaho
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

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