What is CREAM?
The Cooperative Real Education in Agricultural Management program, also known as CREAM, is a student-run cooperative in which twenty-five to thirty UNH students, with the help of advisors, operate and manage a small business (a dairy herd).

CREAM is a year-long course, worth 4 credits per semester. Every fall the herd is passed on to the next group of CREAMers with the help of a transition team of student advisors, as well as dairy center personnel and faculty advisors.

CREAM helps to prepare students with real world experience while also helping develop their communication skills when dealing with the herd’s management, selection and breeding of animals, as well as the proper feeding and nutrition of the herd.

How Does CREAM Work?
Requirements Prior to CREAM:
Dairy cattle experience is encouraged but not required. Introduction to Dairy Herd Management (AAS 425) is recommended.

The Selection Process:
Students apply in late March with a written application that can be found on the CREAM website. After submitting an application, students get an idea of what is expected of them via interviews and shadowing chores. Accepted students will be informed shortly afterwards.

Leadership and Officer Positions:
Key officer positions such as: President, Vice President, Secretary and Office Manager, are elected in September to facilitate operation and management of the business.

Operation and Management of the Business:
Class meets twice per week to conduct business meetings and participate in other educational activities, such as presentations pertaining to the dairy industry.

Business meetings are student-run, and are broken down into committees.

There are five committees: Breeding, Production, Finance, Planning and Facilities. Each student gets a chance to work in each committee.

Chores are a mandatory part of CREAM; each student works approximately 2-3 shifts per week (depending on the number of people in the class) and will be responsible for a set number of weekend shifts as well. Commitment and time management are essential.

Students perform chores four times a day, which include milking, feeding, mucking and re-bedding stalls, picking the pack, calf care and feeding, and heifer feeding. Heat detection and animal health are also observed.

Grading:
CREAM operates on a Peer-Grading system. Students grade one another on their ability to perform CREAM related tasks, their involvement in CREAM, and their overall desire to learn what they can from the CREAM experience. The final grade assigned is based 60% on peer grading and 40% by the professor.
CREAM’s Mission Statement:

CREAM’s Mission is to provide students with a unique experiential learning model that will help them to understand:

- The applications of science to the management of a dairy herd
- How to work with other team members in a cooperative venture
- The work and decision-making skills required in production agriculture
- How to manage and operate a small business.

Cooperatively running a dairy business together encourages students to develop their leadership, communication and group skills and is considered one of the most important benefits derived from being a CREAMer.

The Herd Mission:

With regard to the herd, CREAM's mission is to provide a clean, comfortable environment for our cows and to manage them in such a way as to maintain a healthy, contented herd, which will produce high quality milk in an economical and sustainable manner. We will strive for genetic improvement in both type and production. In addition, we will maintain the herd so that it projects a positive image as we use it to provide public education about the dairy industry.

Visit Our Website

Prospective CREAMer? Fellow Cow Enthusiast?

For more information on:

- How to Apply
- Current CREAMers
- Current CREAM Cows
- News and Events
- Staff Members
- Contacts
- All this, and more!

Visit the website:

http://www.unh.edu/cream

CREAM Class 2013-2014

"THE RULE to be observed in this stable at all times, toward the cattle, young and old, is that of patience and kindness. A man's usefulness in a herd ceases at once when he loses his temper and bestows rough usage. Men must be patient. Cattle are not reasoning beings. Remember that this is a Home of Mothers. Treat each cow as a Mother should be treated. The giving of milk is a function of Motherhood; rough treatment lessons the flow. That injures me as well as the cow. Always keep these ideas in mind when dealing with my cattle."

-W.D. Hoard