KBS Pasture-based Dairy Research Fees

The W.K. Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) maintains a dairy herd and pastures at its pasture-based dairy research and education center as part of its sustainable agriculture research focus. The pasture-based herd consists of approximately 145 lactating Holstein cows, plus an equal number of dry cows and heifers; both the herd and pastures can be used by Michigan State University (MSU) and non-MSU researchers for research, including, but not limited to, dairy nutrition, grazing and forage management, animal health and welfare and animal behavior. Limited facilities are available to support research on animals not utilizing the pasture-system.

All researchers working at the KBS pasture-based dairy are expected to complete and submit a Dairy Site Use Request Form (SURF) for approval, at least one month prior to the planned start date of a project. Fees are charged to all researchers using the pasture-based dairy facilities. These fees support the maintenance of the facility, including access to data from the robotic milking system and pasture performance. Researchers should work with the KBS farm and dairy manager to determine the feasibility and anticipated costs for their proposed work prior to submitting a SURF.

Researchers using the KBS pasture-based facilities will either be charged (1) a minimum fee of $250 for the first month of an animal or pasture study and $75 per month thereafter or (2) a fee based upon anticipated per diem and labor costs, whichever is greater. Researchers are expected to provide the labor or personnel needed for sampling and data acquisition for their work. Researchers will have access to data on milk production and related animal performance from the robotic milking system and baseline data on pasture production. Per diem rates and other charges related to studies using KBS pasture-based dairy facilities are summarized below.

**Animal Studies**: Fees for animal studies using the current herd will be on a per diem basis taking into account the number of animals used, their age and stage of lactation, whether milk will be saleable during the study, etc. Additional fees will be charged for supporting special pasture rotations or animal handling based upon anticipated time and labor. Animal studies requiring additional labor on the part of the farm staff will be charged at the rate of $25/hour. Examples of procedures requiring additional labor include, but are not limited to: mixing and feeding of rations for research trials, installation/movement of temporary fencing not included in the normal management of the grazing system, and retrieving animals for sample collection. Anticipated negative treatments or challenge trials must take into account estimates of production or animal loss prior to the start of the project. Unexpected loss of animals will be the responsibility of the research project.

Researchers wishing to use animals not in the KBS dairy herd should make arrangements with the dairy manager well in advance of the planned start of the study to ensure adequate space for animals and to allow for proper bio-security (quarantine) procedures. It is the responsibility of the primary investigator (PI) of the research study to purchase animals for the study. The KBS dairy farm will not purchase animals for individual studies. The farm manager or dairy manager


may be able to assist with the acquisition and disposal of additional animals purchased for a particular study, but it remains the responsibility of the PI to pay for any animals purchased.

**Pasture studies:** Research specified changes in hay harvest, fertilizer application, seeding, irrigation, or other management of the pastures will be charged in accordance with current field use fees for cropland studies. Studies requiring a change in the composition of the base pasture or management will be charged for planting of the new mixture and replacing the base pasture at the project’s completion. Fees for this will be based on the size and location of the area, condition of the base pasture and anticipated future use of the area.

**Animal Use per diems: Barn or Pasture —**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of Animal</th>
<th>MSU researcher rate</th>
<th>Non-MSU researcher rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calves, birth to weaning</td>
<td>$1.25</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heifers, weaning to 12 months</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heifers&gt;12 months and dry cows</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactating Cows</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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**Additional Charges — Discarded Milk:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Lactation</th>
<th>&lt;150 DIM</th>
<th>≥150 DIM</th>
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<tr>
<td>$10.00/head/day</td>
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<tr>
<td>$8.00/head/day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>≥Second Lactation</td>
<td>&lt;150 DIM</td>
<td>≥150 DIM</td>
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<tr>
<td>$13.00/head/day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8.50/head/day</td>
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*DIM – Days in milk.

**Special Needs:**

- **Special Feed Ingredients**: At Cost of provided by the PI
- **Special Drug or Veterinary Treatments**: At Cost or provided by the PI
- **Special Housing or Penning Requirements**: At Cost or provided by the PI

**Contact People**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brook Wilke</td>
<td>Farm Manager</td>
<td>269-671-2509</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wilkebro@msu.edu">wilkebro@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Straub</td>
<td>Dairy Manager</td>
<td>269-671-2508</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santiago Utsumi</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
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