



TO: Department of Dairy Science and Interested Parties  
FROM: Alan L. Grant  
DATE: June 28, 2011  
RE: Update on Relocation of Dairy Science Facilities

As you know, planning for relocation of the dairy unit from its current location on Southgate Drive to a new site has been underway to achieve a long-term sustainable land-use scenario for agricultural activities in light of the expansion of Corporate Research Center (and Tech Center Drive), expansion of the Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport, and relocation of the Route 460/Southgate Drive intersection. The proposed relocation is a key component of an integrated land use plan for the University and it also offers the Department of Dairy Science, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and other units an opportunity to construct new state-of-the-art facilities to meet future teaching, research, and Extension needs. The relocation planning has been conducted through extensive involvement of faculty, staff, administrators, and outside consultants with information shared at the dairy program relocation portal at ([http://www.cals.vt.edu/about/reloc\\_dairygen.php](http://www.cals.vt.edu/about/reloc_dairygen.php)).

In the Spring of 2011, the planning team made a recommendation for specific facilities and infrastructure to support the dairy program. The relocation plan calls for construction of a facility at Kentland Farm that would support a 230-cow dairy. The plan also calls for a metabolism unit at Kentland, teaching facilities at Plantation Road and at the Moore Farm on Prices Fork Road. The entire project is a one-for-one replacement of the current facilities with upgrades to meet future programmatic and operational needs. The relocation report is available at: ([http://www.cals.vt.edu/about/reloc\\_dairylinks.php](http://www.cals.vt.edu/about/reloc_dairylinks.php)).

The current total project cost estimate from University Design and Construction is about \$21 million, which is considerably higher than anticipated resources would support. The current potential funding sources include proceeds from the sale of land to the airport for its expansion, which is estimated to be about \$5 million. Any funding beyond the land sale proceeds would need to come from the state through the General Fund. At this time, the university is uncertain as to the potential time frame to obtain \$16 million of General Fund from the state for the project.

We understand the new Route 460 intersection may begin construction in 2013 and that the new roadways for the intersection may be installed to work around the existing dairy center. We also understand the timing of the airport runway extension work may be arranged with the FAA to start after a dairy center solution is complete. Thus, based on current thoughts on the project, the university intends to find a scheduling and funding solution which would allow the dairy center operations to continue until a permanent solution is available.

We will continue to work with the University on this planning and we will provide updated information as it becomes available.

*Invent the Future*