

INTRODUCING GENETICS

GENETIC RESEARCH FOR DAIRY CATTLE 2024
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MAY - AUGUST



Impact

This summer internship gave me a new perspective on how much there is to learn and how much we don't know yet and that's the exciting part about research, influencing that discovery!



Main Tasks

TRAINING COWS



Every 6 week trial we would train cows to their own individual gates, allowing access to the number they wear on their neck. 48 gates were utilized.

DNA ISOLATION PROCESS



There were blood draws periodically throughout the summer, we were able to isolate and extract DNA from the blood. Resulting in the ability to analyze their genome's

RECORDING DATA



Recorded data through shoveling and recording weights based on how much the cow consumed. Milk sampling a homogenous sample and body weight scoring.

NEW EXPERIENCES



Never worked with heavy machinery before, tractors to feed the cows and skid steers to load the feed.



Own individual research project, looking at research sites and articles, on assigned chromosome 14 for milk quality

Skills Learned

- Communication- You are not alone overcoming situations or clarifying confusion, ask questions!
- Flexibility - Things could change in a heartbeat at a farm, learning how to adjust and think fast is important.
- Patience - Broken equipment was tricky, all you can do is try to navigate through the issue with patience.

Why an Internship?

Connect yourself to a industry your passionate about. For me I got to experience another aspect of the dairy industry I knew nothing about previously. Explore something new your passionate about!

