











funds. This commitment to research has resulted in a large body of published literature that provided much of the science cited in the recently published Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle. This science-based document describes best practices agreed upon by diverse stakeholder groups, including the dairy industry, government, grocery chain distributors, and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (see NFACC, 2009).

In contrast, a significant portion of the agricultural research undertaken by US research institutions is sponsored by corporations and, as such, is typically focused on measures of immediate economic interest typically hinging on increased animal or farm productivity and efficiency. Although check-off dollars from milk sales from US dairy farmers are collected by Dairy Management Inc. (Rosemont, Illinois), these funds are used for demand-related research and marketing and not for dairy production practices research. This leaves an important gap in the funding of research that addresses the growing public concerns about dairy cattle. Agricultural Research Institute (Chazy, NY), Elanco Animal Health, and the Dairy Innovation Center for providing the meeting places that allowed this group to meet face to face.

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