

Protecting the Nation's Food Supply

Fourth-year students from DVM programs across the country visit the school's Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center (VMTRC) in Tulare to gain invaluable experience as they pursue careers as food animal veterinarians. They will be on the front line of protecting the nation's food supply by ensuring the health of animals in the dairy, beef and poultry industries.

Earlier this year, UC Davis fourth-year students Margaret Austin (left) and Hannah MacDonald received hands-on training at Tulare-area dairies under the guidance of Dr. Wagdy El-Ashmawy, a resident at the VMTRC. They helped vaccinate calves, took blood samples to test for various diseases and learned more about herd health management. Both students say their experiences in working on large dairy farms have been a huge help in expanding their knowledge of herd health management, while also developing skills like muscle memory.

In Egypt, where El-Ashmawy serves as assistant professor of infectious disease at Cairo University, approximately 70 percent of animals are owned by small farmers, although there are some large farms. The residency program with UC Davis provides him with more experience on farms with a greater number of animals.

"Additionally, I've increased my experience in designing and evaluating epidemiology studies," he says. "I look forward to transmitting this knowledge to my students in Egypt."



Keeping livestock and poultry healthy is critical in preventing the rise of antibiotic-resistant infections that kill 23,000 people each year in the U.S.