

Maintaining High Cost Animal Production Programs

SAAESD Spring Meeting

*March 26, 2012
Raleigh, NC*



Research and Education Centers



- Ten Research & Education Centers
- Cattle at 7 of the 10 Centers
- Large pastures; 3 to 5 acre pastures; 1 acre pastures
- Drylot/feedlot; feed storage/preparation facilities
- Facilities for intensive animal research
- IACUC and AAALAC support

Research and Education Centers



- ❑ **Beef cattle** at 6 centers - over 900 cows
- ❑ Underutilized – primarily due to shifts in faculty appointments with retirements/re-hires.
- ❑ Over 50,000 beef cattle producers in TN

Research and Education Centers



- ❑ **Dairy cattle** at 3 centers - over 450 cows
- ❑ Underutilized – primarily due to shifts in faculty appointments with retirements/re-hires.
- ❑ Approximately 475 dairy producers left in TN
- ❑ Southeast dairy industry in serious trouble



□ Field facilities are associated with RECs not Departments: allows flexibility and quick movement of staff and resources.

□ RECs bring real resources to the faculty: highly trained staff (PhD, MS, BS, level staff) and operating dollars.



- ❑ RECs are not fully funded - budget is a mix of hard state funding and revenue from commodity sales.
- ❑ Ratio of hard funds to sales is lower at animal-based RECs meaning they must rely more on sales: cannot lose mission focus.



- ❑ Increase industry collaborations across all areas.
 - ❑ Facilities
 - ❑ Un-biased program collaborations

- ❑ **Institutional collaborations are a must for the future:**
 - ❑ Sharing facilities
 - ❑ Sharing faculty
 - ❑ Academic programs & extension
 - ❑ Requires buy-in from institutions & clientele

- ❑ **In-state facility consolidation/closure**
 - ❑ Successful in some states
 - ❑ Requires buy-in from clientele & state legislators

