



News

*1 Grand Ave, Building 18-2
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
Phone (805) 756-6101 Fax (805) 756-2998*

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The Art and Science of Producing Cheese . . .

Faculty and staff from Cal Poly's Dairy Products Technology Center and U.C. Davis held the 17th Annual Cheese I Short Course this week to another sold out crowd of cheese enthusiast. Thirty six students, mostly from the cheese industry, came to Cal Poly's Dairy Products Technology Center for the four day course. Participants from six states and as far away as Mexico and Venezuela were in attendance.

Students learned the why's and how's of safely, efficiently, and consistently producing high quality cheese. The basics were covered in the classroom, and practical experience was gained by evaluating cheeses, making cheeses in our pilot plant, and having the class complete some team assignments that are based on real world problems facing all cheese makers. The class split into groups and made a total of eight different cheeses in the center's state-of-the-art processing facility.

This program attracts attendees from large scale mechanized cheesemaking operations, small farmstead cheese manufacturers and entrepreneurs. In addition to the vat operators and others on the actual plant floor, companies send their accountants, sales people, quality supervisors, purchasing agents, etc. to gain an appreciation for the entire cheese operation. The popularity of this annual course continues to increase and is routinely sold out months in advance.

The Annual Cheese Short Course is one of many outreach program supported by the California Dairy Research Foundation and the Cheese Research and Education Fund. For further information about upcoming programs see <http://www.calpoly.edu/~dptc/short.html> or contact Laurie Jacobson (805-756-6097).

The Dairy Products Technology Center (DPTC), established in 1986, is a program within the College of Agriculture at Cal Poly State University that conducts education, research, and outreach activities to provide solutions to help manage risk, facilitate innovation, and defend equity in the dairy foods industry and related business sectors. For further information visit our website at www.calpoly.edu/~dptc.