

# Dr. John Cant

Professor Cant focusses his research on milk composition, or more specifically, improving milk synthesis. Cant and his lab have been focussing on individual cow needs in early and late lactation. A current project in the Cant lab uses the high-tech sensor equipment at the research facilities and is investigating how their data can predict cows' dietary needs and improve milk synthesis. Using equipment like the Insentec feeders, Dairy Comp, and body condition scoring cameras can help estimate the energy balance of individual cows. The overall goal is to create an automated procedure for each individual cow's energy requirements.

In a previous study, the Cant lab investigated insulin sensitivity of cows during early lactation. It's been noted that cows often use the body reserves for milk production early lactation, and because of this their body condition fluctuates. We know the pancreas is putting out less insulin in early lactation, and this lack of insulin contributes to changes in body condition, but this doesn't explain everything. If we were to feed the cow more during this period, will she put more weight on her body, or where will the energy go? Cant and his lab hope to keep investigating this in the future.

When asked what is the best method for getting research into practice, Dr. Cant believes graduate students are the key. Although a slower method of delivering information, we are more likely to spread our own knowledge and findings compared to someone else's. There are many ways to reach producers like magazines, podcasts and articles, but the most effective way is through word of mouth. Being close to



someone, like a nutritionist, who stays up to date of current on research, can be a powerful way to communicate new research findings.

Aside from dairy cows, professor Cant is fond of cats and dogs. He mentioned his late dog Sadie, a springer spaniel and lab cross. He smiled and explained that she fit all the stereotypes of her breed, loved the water, and was always attached to your hip.