This past January 11 undergraduate students in the Animal Science department here at the University of Massachusetts Amherst with our professor, Dr. Mark Huyler, travelled to Prince Edward Island, Canada to tour dairy farms as a part of our Winter Travelling Dairy course. The trip was funded in part by Farm Credit East’s AgEnhancement program whose generous grant made the trip possible. We travelled along with 30 other students from other New England universities including: University of New Hampshire, University of Connecticut, University of Rhode Island, and the University of Maine. Together we toured various farms all with fantastic genetics, management programs, and facilities. We learned about Canada’s quota system and how it is different from the United States’ free market. One of the highlights includes watching a Boumatic robot milking system in action. At another new farm, we saw the construction of a brand new barn equipped with a DeLaval robotic milking system and a DeLaval robotic feeding system. Another highlight was visiting the University of Prince Edward Island’s Atlantic Veterinary College. There were quite at few pre-veterinary students on this trip who were very excited for the opportunity to tour the school. We were also given the opportunity to socialize with a few veterinary students in the Bovine Club and from New England and ask them questions about applying, admissions, being an international student, and veterinary school in general. This trip was very educational; we talked to many farmers, learned different management styles, and saw some beautiful cows. It was a wonderful experience, and is highly recommended to other students, especially ones with interest in the dairy field.

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