Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium - Research and Extension  
(http://thedairyconsortium.org/)

This multi-university, multi-disciplinary and interagency Consortium was established in 2007 to provide a recognized framework for coordination of rapidly expanding research, educational, extension and service needs of the intensive dairy production and processing industries in the Southern Great Plains. The focus of the Consortium centers on developing and adapting technologies and delivering educational programs to enhance the efficiency and quality of milk production, and its related impact on the Texas economy and Southern Great Plains dairy industry.

It's goals are to:
Create opportunities for developing federal and state Legislative initiatives that will help establish “centers of excellence” among member institutions with the initial focus placed on major issues identified in a producer forum such as: Environmental Quality, Dairy Production, Dairy Products/Quality, Economics & Marketing, Human Resource Development, Water Utilization, Resources for Industry, Energy/Resources.
Identify priorities based on dairy industry inputs through a broad-based Industry Advisory Committee.
Establish multi-disciplinary faculty teams to address the industry’s identified problems and issues through collaborative research, education, extension and service programs.
Provide coordinated and enhanced undergraduate and graduate training programs.
Develop grant opportunities and competitiveness through synergy of the resources and talents of outstanding faculty employed by the partners.
Develop technological partnerships with producers and allied industries to gain access to resources.

Since its inception in 2007 the SGPDC has received in excess of $500K for research in the areas of:
Air Quality – emission research data collection for open lot style dairies in the southwest contributing to the growing data base for dairy AQ and as a part of the NAEMS study.
Carbon Footprint data collection contributing to DMI’s LCA for fluid milk being app. 2% of US GHG.
Water usage study to determine water usage and opportunities for conservation practices.
Economic impact study for the Southwest (TX,NM, AZ and OK) on both the dairy production and processing industry determining a combined total $18 billion impact, creating close to 60,000 jobs.
Development of a Decision Support tool for Anaerobic Digestion in the Southwest.
Development of a Dairy Employee Safety Training DVD for the Southwest.
Performance evaluation of resistivity surveying as a tool for the determination of seepage.