

DEPARTMENT

of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion:

Research for Healthy Lives

The department that had been Food Science and Technology expanded its name and its scope during 2004 after receiving new faculty members in the areas of nutrition and health promotion.

Food safety is a major focus in the department, and current research includes work in the areas of marine and aquaculture seafood. Scientists in the department also are working to develop methods for rapidly detecting food-borne pathogens in muscle foods.

The department has a long tradition of research with dairy products, especially those related to Mississippi's dairy industry. Current research includes work with improving the sensory properties of low-fat dairy products.

The Dairy Manufacturing Plant is engaged in teaching, research and service to dairy processing plants and related industries and is self-supporting.

Manufacturing and sale of cheese and other dairy products is a by-product of the teaching and research program. Sales of these products enable the department to maintain a modern, functioning dairy processing plant in which to conduct research on milk and milk products.

Development of new commercial food products from Mississippi crops and improving the processing methods used with traditional foods are ongoing projects in the department.

Evaluations of food products are carried out in the department's James E. Garrison Sensory Evaluation Laboratory.

During 2004, scientists in the health promotion area completed a national study of health teachers and their current teaching practices regarding eating disorders. Youth obesity and eating disorders are focus areas for the health promotion area.

The department's nutrition projects include work with the Coordinated Approach to Child Health program. The program seeks ways to improve the health of children in K-2 schools by focusing on comprehensive school health education, including nutrition.



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For more about the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion, visit www.msstate.edu/dept/fst/.