

RICA Enterprises are not large scale commercial production units, but utilize many of the technologies found in such operations. RICA students focus on smallholder operations during their first year, and enterprise operations in their second year. While RICA Enterprises are managed as unique entities in some ways, in others they are naturally intertwined. For example, irrigated

crops rely on capacity of the mechanization and irrigation enterprise; manure from livestock enterprises is used to fertilize crops. Students rotate through all enterprises during their second year before they choose an area of specialization. A secondary aspect of RICA enterprises is that RICA produce is used in our cafeteria to feed students and staff.

Row and Forage Crop Enterprise

This enterprise focuses on all aspects of producing row and forage crops, such as maize, soybean, hay, dry beans and sorghum. These components include land preparation, planting, pest management (weeds, insects, disease), soil quality and fertility, sprinkler and drip

irrigation, harvest, storage and marketing of grains and forages. The enterprise produces crops that are used for food as well as animal feed.



Mechanization and Irrigation Enterprise

This enterprise teaches how to manage, operate and maintain equipment used in crop and livestock production. It includes powered and non-powered equipment: tractors, planters, cultivators, harvesters, grain handling and processing, milkers, sprayers, etc. it

also teaches the use of drip and center pivot sprinkler irrigation systems, with emphasis on both profitability and environmental protection.



Poultry and Swine Enterprise

While these are two distinct commodities, there are enough similarities between poultry and swine that they are grouped into a single enterprise. Both house livestock in biosecure facilities to mitigate risk of disease and optimize production. The poultry operation has

broilers for meat and layers for eggs. The confined swine operation teaches swine production from breeding to rearing to processing. Both poultry and swine operation generate manure resources which are then utilized on RICA cropland.



Dairy Enterprise

The dairy enterprise is a pasture-based production system, using small herds to teach animal husbandry (both cows and milking goats), operation of a milking parlor, breeding and disease management.



Food Processing Enterprise

This enterprise takes produce from other enterprises - grain, milk, vegetables, fruit, meat and eggs, and preserves and adds value to these products. Students learn critical aspects of food safety, safe operation of food processing equipment, and how to turn raw products into

items of greater value and storage longevity. Products such as cheese, butter, yogurt, jams, etc. are produced in this enterprise and either consumed in RICA's cafeteria or sold on the market.



Vegetable and Tree Fruit Enterprise

This enterprise teaches all aspects of producing vegetable and fruit for human use, using both rainfed and irrigated systems. The enterprise introduces production and marketing issues that are of particular concern to commercial production, such as scheduling production

and managing quality according to specific standards, especially for export markets. The enterprise takes advantage of pre-existing citrus and mango orchards on RICA's campus.

