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Dr. Kraft is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and Medicine at the University of Vermont. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutritional Sciences from the Friedrich-Schiller University Jena in Germany in 1998, and a doctorate in Nutritional Physiology (with a specialization in Lipid Biochemistry) in 2004 at the Friedrich-Schiller University Jena. In addition, she complemented her education with post-doctoral training in lipid analysis at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Guelph, Ontario, and in animal nutrition at the University of Vermont before she joined the UVM faculty in 2009.

Dr. Kraft has 15 years of experience in teaching, mentoring students, conducting research, and working at the interface between animal science and human nutrition. Her scientific interests cross agricultural, life, and medical sciences. Dairy-derived fats are at the heart of her research program. Recent work focuses on the influence of a dietary pattern that consists of whole (full fat) dairy on long-term health and prevention of chronic diseases, especially type 2 diabetes. Dr. Kraft's research is specifically designed to improve the scientific basis for public health policy and recommendations concerning dietary intake of fat-containing dairy products.

A secondary focus of Dr. Kraft's research is to gain a better understanding of the roles and functions of rumen microbes and how they contribute to the composition of the dairy products. Current projects include targeted feeding trials in dairy cows to shed light on how specific dietary components affect rumen microbes which may have further implications on the levels of bioactive fats in milk.

Dr. Kraft has published 46 original research articles, three book chapters, and 70 proceeding abstracts.