



For Immediate Release
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DART MEETINGS FOCUS ON ENERGY, RISK MANAGEMENT

HARRISBURG – Six Dairy Advocacy and Resource Team (DART) July meetings will showcase alternative energy resources for today’s dairy operations. Hosted by the Dairy Task Force, the meetings will be held on progressive dairies that have on-farm renewable energy resources.

During the weeks of July 14 and July 21, sales and service representatives attending the DART meetings will also learn about dairy checkoff-funded programs in Pennsylvania and risk management opportunities that could benefit their dairy producer clients like the newly-available LGM for Dairy insurance program. They will also hear highlights from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau’s MSC Business Services’ 2007 Dairy Farm Financial Report.

The six DART meetings provide a forum for on-farm dairy professionals to broaden their network, share ideas and receive new skills and resources to share with their producers.

“We continue to build on the success of the DART program by exposing dairy professionals to new ideas, helpful resources and successful business practices that they can share with the producers they work with regularly,” says John Frey, executive director of the Center for Dairy Excellence. “Our goal with DART is to help participants become an even greater resource for their producer clients.”

“The value of the DART meetings is really two-fold,” says Jacob Thompson, Land O’Lakes Area Procurement Supervisor who has attended three meetings so far. “As a service provider, the information I receive at the meetings I can use to better serve my producers. And, as I work with producers and identify a need, the people I meet at the DART meetings become a resource for me to help that producer deal with the situation.”

The schedule for the July DART meetings is:



- Juanita County, July 14 - Reinford Farms, Inc., owned by Steve and Gina Reinford, Mifflintown at 1 p.m.;
- Blair County, July 15 - Penn England Farm, owned by Fred England in Williamsburg at 1 p.m.
- Lancaster County, July 21 - Brubaker Farms, owned by Luke, Mike and Tony Brubaker, Mt. Joy at 1:30 p.m.
- Bradford County, July 22 - Gorrell Dairy, owned by Glenn and Robin Gorrell, Milan at 1 p.m.
- Cumberland County, July 23 - Mains Dairy, owned by Daniel and Francis Mains, Newville at 1:30 p.m.
- Mercer County, July 24 - Fairview Cheese, owned by John Koller & Son, in Mercer at 8:30 a.m.

Any dairy professionals directly involved with producers in Pennsylvania are encouraged to attend. The meetings qualify for continuing education credits from the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) and in veterinary medicine.

More information can be found at www.centerfordairyexcellence.org. Click on the “DART” logo at the bottom center of the page. Make reservations for the meetings with Cerrita Reed at c-creed@state.pa.us or call 717-346-0849.

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The Center for Dairy Excellence is an initiative of the Department of Agriculture and was launched in January 2004 by Governor Edward G. Rendell. Bringing together people from more than 40 different dairy organizations in Pennsylvania, the Center’s mission is to enhance the profitability of the dairy industry by empowering people, creating partnerships, and increasing the availability and use of resources. Learn more about the Center at www.centerfordairyexcellence.org.