



For Immediate Release
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DAIRY TOURS TO HIGHLIGHT UNIQUE OPERATIONS

HARRISBURG – The Center for Dairy Excellence will host open houses and dairy tours at four unique farm operations across the state next month for dairy producers and others in the industry. Each free event will include a tour of the facilities, an update on programs available through the Center for Dairy Excellence, and a picnic-style lunch.

“One of the best ways to learn and get new ideas for your dairy is by visiting other operations to see first-hand their best management practices,” says John Frey, executive director of the Center for Dairy Excellence. “Our 2009 round of open house and dairy tours showcase four innovative dairy operations across the state – each with its own unique management style and operational structure.”

The dates and locations of the four open house events are:

- Wednesday, July 15, at **Moyer’s Rolling Green Acres**, owned by Glenn, Evelyn, Matt and Jenny Moyer in Manns Choice, Bedford County. This event, being partnered with Penn State Cooperative Extension, will include a look at the Moyer’s 400-cow herd of cross-bred Jerseys, Holsteins and Swedish-reds. The herd is grazed and milked in a 40-stall rotary parlor built in 2004.
- Thursday, July 16, at **Spring Lawn Farm, LLC**, owned by Joe, Dave and Josiah Garber in Lancaster, Lancaster County. This event will include a look at the farm’s new robotic milking facility, featuring four Delaval VMS robotic milkers. The Garbers’ herd of 230 cows is kept in a tunnel ventilated freestall barn with an automatic winter ventilation system.
- Thursday, July 30, at **Grassycrest Farm, Inc.**, owned by Dick, Blanche, Dwight and Dean Kind in Slippery Rock, Butler County. This farm is a 300-cow freestall facility with a Herringbone milking parlor. The double-12 milking parlor was completed in April, and the heifer and dry cow facilities on the farm were renovated in the past five years.
- Tuesday, Aug. 4, at **Brymesser Farms**, owned by Sheldon, Mary Ann, Mike and Matt Brymesser in Boiling Springs, Cumberland County. This 250-cow herd is milked in a double-10 Herringbone parlor and kept in a slotted-floor free stall facility. The Brymessers have a closed herd that has grown internally. They recently built 26 labor-saving indoor calf hutches.

“The Center’s goal is to coordinate programs that promote growth and profitability in the dairy industry and to partner with others to maximize the value of these programs,” says Frey. “During



the open house events, we will share details on the programs and resources we have available to help Pennsylvania dairy farm families, especially as we face challenging and uncertain economic times.”

The forums and tours will run from 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., with the first 90 minutes being farm and facility tours. A free barbecue lunch will follow an update on center and industry programs. The host family will also share the steps they have taken to build their dairy business.

The open forums and dairy tours are open to anyone within the local dairy community. Pre-registration is required by calling 717-346-0849. For more information about the events or the Center for Dairy Excellence, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org. Click on “Center for Dairy Excellence Events,” then on “CDE Open House and Dairy Tour Events.”

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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.