



For Immediate Release
July 15, 2008

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DAIRY FARMS WANTED TO PROVIDE FARM TOURS FOR SCHOOLS

HARRISBURG – The Center for Dairy Excellence is seeking dairy producers to host farm tours for school-aged children. The list will be compiled in a database and shared with schools participating in the Discover Dairy educational program.

Discover Dairy is an online lesson series that showcases Pennsylvania dairy farmers' contributions through videos, lesson plans, classroom activities and interactive games. The lesson series, found at www.discoverdairy.com, is funded by the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program and the local Dairy Checkoff program to educate youth about the dairy industry.

“Many of the teachers using Discover Dairy have expressed interest in visiting a dairy farm as part of the curriculum,” said John Frey, executive director for the center. “By establishing a network of farms willing to host school tours, we hope to help teachers find local operations their classes can visit to learn more about a working dairy farm.”

In addition to building the database of farms, the center will create resources to help schools set up field trips to local farms, and help those farms prepare for visits from a local elementary class. These efforts can aid dairy producers in giving effective farm tours to ensure students are receiving appropriate and accurate take-home messages.

Producers interested in sharing their contact information for the database should contact the Center for Dairy Excellence at 717-346-0849 or e-mail the information to c-tigrove@state.pa.us. To learn more, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org and click on “Education;” then “Education Focus.” To learn more about Discover Dairy, visit www.discoverdairy.com.

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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.