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CENTER TO HOST TWO DAIRY PROFITABILITY FORUMS IN NOVEMBER

HARRISBURG – Dairy producers will have the option to attend one of two Dairy Profitability Forums in November. Hosted by the Dairy Excellence, Pennsylvania Dairy Task Force and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the third annual event offers identical programs at locations in Harrisburg and Mercer.

Each program will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The forums will be held Nov. 18 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center in Harrisburg, and on Nov. 19 at the Clarks Mill United Methodist Church in Mercer. The church is two miles west of Interstate 79 from Exit 130 (Greenville-Sandy Lake Exit), on Route 358.

“Our first two Dairy Profitability Forums provided producers with simple, low cost solutions for improving their on-farm profitability,” said John Frey, executive director of the Center for Dairy Excellence. “This year’s forum will follow the same theme, while offering ideas for producers to improve their dairy businesses by either increasing per-cow production or growing their herd internally.”

Dr. David Kammel, co-chair of the Dairy Modernization workgroup of University of Wisconsin’s Grow Dairy Team, is on the program and will offer training and solutions for designing low-cost dairy modernization options for parlors, free stall housing, and transition cow facilities.

Kammel spoke at the Pennsylvania Dairy Task Force’s April Dairy Advocacy and Resource Team, or DART, meetings and explained how the Wisconsin Grow Dairy Team worked helped producers modernize their dairies at “the cost of a pick-up truck.” Many of the producers transitioned from 60-cow tie-stall operations to parlor and freestall set-ups.



Producers attending the profit forum will learn how to develop a plan to allow cow numbers to drive the modernization project budget rather than the budget driving the cow numbers.

The forum will also educate producers about programs and funding resources available in Pennsylvania to help grow their dairy businesses. Attendees can also participate in one of three breakout sessions focusing on dairy accounting best practices, robotic technology and internal herd growth opportunities.

More information and registration details about the Dairy Profitability Forum will be available in the coming month, or those interested can visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org for more information. Click on “Producer,” then on “Upcoming Center Events” under the “More About” heading. Those interested in receiving a mailed registration brochure should 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.