



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **CENTER FOR DAIRY EXCELLENCE BOARD REORGANIZES**

**HARRISBURG** – The Center for Dairy Excellence’s board of directors recently reorganized, welcoming two new members and electing two new officers. The group helps guide the non-profit organization charged with bolstering the state’s dairy industry.

“The center depends heavily on our board’s input and insight, along with that of the Pennsylvania Dairy Task Force, to shape and guide our programs and efforts,” says John Frey, executive director of the Center for Dairy Excellence. “We are pleased to have strong representation from both the dairy farm and agribusiness sides of our industry on the board.”

Lolly Leshar, a Berks County dairy producer, was elected board president after serving three years as vice president. Leshar and her husband William own Way-Har Farms near Bernville, a 230-cow grazing operation with a dairy farm store.

Leshar replaced Jim Kennedy as president, a Butler County Commissioner and dairy producer, who resigned from the board to commit time to a new post as president of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

Erick Coolidge of Wellsboro, a dairy producer and Tioga County Commissioner, was appointed to the board to fill Kennedy’s vacancy and elected vice president of the center’s board. Coolidge is the fourth generation to dairy on their Century Farm, which has 120 mature cows.

John Siglow was re-elected to a second term on the board and as secretary. Siglow is vice president of sales and marketing for Dairy Marketing Services (DMS) in Syracuse, N.Y., a milk-marketing organization that serves both independent producers and cooperative farms.



Brian Reed, a veterinarian and partner at Agricultural Veterinary Associates in Manheim, Lancaster County, was re-elected as the board's treasurer.

Chris Waddell, a dairy farmer from Townville, Crawford County, was newly appointed to the board in 2008, along with Coolidge. Waddell and her husband Robert own Apple Shamrock Dairy Farms.

Rounding out the nine-member board of directors is David Dowler, Crawford County Dairy Extension Educator; Ronald Kline, partner in Y Run Farms in Troy, Bradford County; Allyn Lamb, CEO of AgChoice Farm Credit, Mechanicsburg; and Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff, Harrisburg.

The Center for Dairy Excellence was established by the Pennsylvania Dairy Task Force in January 2004, after Governor Edward G. Rendell recognized a need to stabilize and strengthen the state's dairy industry. Its 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](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org).

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**Photo caption:** The Center for Dairy Excellence board of directors has reorganized. Members are: front row (left to right): John Siglow, secretary; Erick Coolidge, vice-president; Lolly Leshner, president; Brian Reed, treasurer. Back row (left to right): John Frey, Executive Director for the Center for Dairy Excellence; David Dowler; Ronald Kline; Allyn Lamb; Chris Waddell; and Pennsylvania Agriculture Executive Deputy Secretary Russell Redding.

*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](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org).*