



For Immediate Release

Jan. 25, 2011

CENTER FOR DAIRY EXCELLENCE NAMES 2011 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Organization to Focus on Coordinating Resources for Farms, Industry

Harrisburg – The Center for Dairy Excellence and the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders named a new leadership team of dairy producers and industry representatives at the organizations' first integrated meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

"The Center for Dairy Excellence's board of directors guide the work of the center, identifying the resources needed by the Pennsylvania dairy industry and individual farm families," said John Frey, executive director of the center. "The directors' insight about dairy issues and opportunities drive the center to achieve its mission of coordinating the resources and partnerships necessary to grow industry profitability in the state."

Board chair since 2008, Lolly Leshner, dairy producer from Bernville, Berks County, will continue to serve the center. Gary Heckman, AgChoice Farm Credit sales and marketing director, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, was named vice chair of the board after serving the same role on the Dairy Stakeholders board.

John Siglow, vice president of sales and marketing with Dairy Marketing Services in Syracuse, N.Y., was reappointed secretary, and Betsy Albright, chief financial officer of Harrisburg Dairies, Inc., Harrisburg, Dauphin County, was named treasurer after previously serving as treasurer of the Dairy Stakeholders board.

The Center for Dairy Excellence has 21 board members and plans to transition to 13 members within the next year. In addition to Leshner, dairy producers serving on the board include Arlin Benner, Mount Joy, Lancaster County; Erick Coolidge, Wellsboro, Tioga County; Glenn Gorrell, Milan, Bradford County; Jennifer Heltzel, Martinsburg, Blair County; David Hunsberger, Mifflintown, Juniata County; Junia Isiminger, Union City, Crawford County; Ron Kline, Troy, Bradford County; John Ligo, Grove City, Mercer County; Steve Reinford, Mifflintown, Juniata County; Chris Waddell, Townville, Crawford County; and Matthew Wanner, Narvon, Lancaster County.

Members of the allied industry serving on the board in addition to Heckman, Siglow and Albright, include Brian Reed, Ag Vet Associates; Leon Graves, Dairy Marketing Services; David Dowler, Penn State Cooperative Extension; Gordon Hoover, Land O'Lakes; Sam Shannon, Weis Markets, Inc.; Vinton Smith, Elanco Animal Health; and Dr. John Stanton, Saint Joseph's University.

For more information about the Center for Dairy Excellence, call 717-346-0849 or visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org.

Media contact: Jayne Sebright, 717-259-6496; c-jsebrigh@state.pa.us



###

Photo: New leadership for the Center for Dairy Excellence includes John Siglow, secretary; Lolly Leshner, chair; Gary Heckman, vice chair; and Betsy Albright, treasurer.

The Center for Dairy Excellence is a non-profit organization developed by the Pennsylvania 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.