



You're Invited to the Center's Summer Open House Events

Editor's Note: This is a special feature from the Center for Dairy Excellence exclusively for the Farmshine newspaper.



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For the past two years, the Center for Dairy Excellence has been hosting our summer "Open House and Dairy Tour" series across Pennsylvania.

These events are some of our favorite because they offer a chance for dairy producers to get together, learn from one another and share with each other. They also give us the opportunity to meet more dairy farm families across the state and share with them the resources the Center has available to help them succeed.

The 2009 summer series of "Open Houses and Dairy Tours" promises to be just as appealing as the ones held the past two years. Four dairy farm families are joining us this year to host the events. Each family will provide a tour of their farm and will share a unique aspect of their dairy facilities and/or management style that others can learn from.

One of the best ways to get new ideas is by visiting other dairy farms. Join us for a picnic lunch, fellowship and a unique opportunity to get new ideas for your dairy business.

Whether you're looking to renovate your dairy, expand your operation or just want to see something different, every one of these dairy farms offer something you can take back to your own operation.

We will discuss strategies to help dairies weather the current economic downturn, and we will look at some of the resources the center has available to help you strengthen your dairy business. You will get an update on the Dairy Profit Team Program and find out about the new LGM for Dairy insurance program.

You and your family are invited to participate in one or more of these "Open House and Dairy Tours." We are looking forward to seeing you there and are hoping you will plan to attend.

Call the Center for Dairy Excellence at 717-346-0849 or visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org to register. Click on "Center for Dairy Excellence Events," then on "CDE Open House and Dairy Tours."



Wednesday, July 15, 2009
Moyer's Rolling Green Acres
1484 Corley Road,
Manns Choice, Bedford Co.

Moyer's Rolling Green Acres perfectly describe this farm, owned by Glenn, Evelyn, Matt and Jenny Moyer.

In 1985, the Moyers switched to grazing, and since 1995, they have had a seasonal grazing operation.

When they first started dairying in a tie-stall facility in 1982, they looked at grazing as an alternative method of dairying. Twenty years later, they are able to weather yet another rollercoaster in the price cycle.

Here is what you will see at this

event, being co-hosted by Penn State Cooperative Extension:

- ◆ A 400-cow herd of cross-bred Jerseys, Holsteins and Swedish-Reds
- ◆ A 40-cow rotary parlor
- ◆ No freestall facility needed for out-wintering cows
- ◆ Baby calves are the only animals housed inside

Supporters are AgChoice Farm Credit, Cargill Animal Nutrition, Graham Dairy Supply, PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Genex.



Thursday, July 16, 2009
Spring Lawn Farm, LLC
248 Stoney Lane
Lancaster, Lancaster Co.

Spring Lawn Farm LLC is owned by Joe, Dave and Josiah Garber. The seventh generation of Garbers on the farm is pictured on the left.

The past 150 years have held many changes for the Garber's Spring Lawn Farm, LLC. But the biggest change may have been the switch to a robotic milking system in November 2007.

Their decision to invest in robotic milkers wasn't made overnight. Visiting over 20 farms before breaking ground, the Garbers have learned much along the way. They are eager to share their story with you.

Here is what you will see at this event:

- ◆ 230 cows milked by four Delaval VMS robotic milkers
- ◆ Tunnel ventilation and automatic winter ventilation systems
- ◆ Delaval Smart IDs with a Smart Selection gate
- ◆ 275 acres, with no-till planting used for most of the corn

Supporters are Triple H Construction, Delaval, Fulton Bank, Land O'Lakes, White Oak Mills, Lancaster Vet Associates and Genex.



Thursday, July 30, 2009
Grassycrest Farm, Inc.
638 Miller Road
Slippery Rock, Butler Co.

Grassycrest Farm, Inc., is owned by the Kind family — Dick, his wife Blanche, and their two sons Dean and Dwight.

Dick started milking on his father's farm in Beaver County in 1947 with only three cows.

In 1970, the Kind family moved their herd to Butler County. In April, Dick and his sons Dwight and Dean completed a double-12 herringbone parlor. This and other renovations have made room for a third generation, Layne, to enter into the business.

Here is what you will see at this event:

- ◆ A 300-cow herd milked in a Herringbone parlor
- ◆ A drive-through freestall barn for the milking herd
- ◆ Renovated dry cow facilities
- ◆ 275 head of youngstock in two recently-renovated heifer barns

Supporting this event are Witmers Feed and Grain Supply, COBA Select Sires, and Deerfield Farm Services, Inc.



Tuesday, August 4, 2009
at Brymesser Farms
1463 Leidigh Road
Boiling Springs, Cumberland Co.

Sheldon Brymesser, his wife Mary Ann, and their sons Matt and Mike own Brymesser Farms

Since the farm's beginning in 1881, quality and safety have been a priority for the Brymessers. In fact, the farm has had a closed herd for the past 70 years.

The Brymessers have been the top producers in Cumberland County for the past eight years, and their farm is a Dairy of Distinction. Mike and Matt became full partners with their parents just a couple of years ago.

Here is what you will see at this event:

- ◆ 250 cows milking in a BouMatic Double-10 Herringbone Parlor
- ◆ Slatted-floor freestall facility
- ◆ Twenty-six recently-built, labor-saving indoor calf hutches
- ◆ A Dairy of Distinction farm in the Land Preservation Program

Supporting the Brymessers' event are Cargill Animal Nutrition, Genex, Douglas Wallick Insurance, Land O'Lakes Inc., Dover Area Animal Hospital and M&T Bank.

All of the "Open Houses and Dairy Tours" will be held from 10 a.m.—1:30 p.m., with a bar-be-cue style lunch included. For more information or to register, call the Center for Dairy Excellence at 717-346-0849 or visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org and click on "Center for Dairy Excellence Events."