



For Immediate Release

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Walk-Le Holsteins Hosts Final “Open House and Dairy Tour”

Center for Dairy Excellence Series Showcases Dairy Modernization, Planning for Future

Harrisburg – Dairy farm families and agribusiness representatives have a final opportunity to tour an innovative dairy farm and learn more about available resources that can help their businesses flourish as part of the Center for Dairy Excellence’s “Open House and Dairy Tour” program.

The Thursday, Aug. 11, event will be held at Walk-Le Holsteins, 6898 Oak Ln., Thomasville, York Co.

Walk-Le Holsteins, a 270-cow dairy, is owned by Leroy and Brenda Walker. Their son Brad is the dairy’s herdsman; Brad’s wife Charlene provides additional help. Another son, Greg, assisted with the dairy’s recent expansion.

“The Walkers have taken steps to make room for the next generation, and they have included conservation and water-flow management as a critical part of their expansion plans,” said John Frey, executive director for the Center for Dairy Excellence. “Anyone interested in learning new ideas for their dairy is encouraged to attend.”

The Walkers recently built a six-row freestall barn designed for possible future expansion. Facilities include a manure flush system and sand separator/recycling lane, and the barn features a drop ceiling with insulation to provide better ventilation and heat abatement for the herd. The Walkers milk in a double-five parlor three times a day and recently built a new calf barn.

The center’s other two “Open House and Dairy Tour” events were held in July at Kurtz Valley Dairy in Juniata Co., owned by the Gehman family and at Rolling Spring Farm in Venango Co., owned by the Bean family. More than 150 people attended the first open house at Kurtz Valley and an additional 110 toured the Bean dairy.

The open forums and dairy tours are open to anyone within the local dairy community. Pre-registration is requested by calling 717-346-0849. For more information about the events, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org and look under “Upcoming Events.”

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

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Photo: The Walker Family on their York Co. dairy.



The Center for Dairy Excellence is a non-profit organization initiated by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in 2004. 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.