



For Immediate Release

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Center Offers Producer Scholarships to Participate in Dairy Education

Harrisburg – Educational opportunities are available for Pennsylvania dairy producers through scholarships from the Center for Dairy Excellence.

The scholarships, awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, will offset the cost of registration for the AgBiz Masters program and the Middle Managers Conference.

“A key part of the center’s mission is to create partnerships and coordinate resources to improve dairy farm profit potential,” said John Frey, executive director of the Center for Dairy Excellence. “Learning about new technologies and best management practices will offer essential insight for any growing dairy business. Partnering with other organizations and leveraging industry resources to provide educational opportunities and promote key programs is a big part of what we do at the center.”

The center is offering \$75 scholarships to the first 25 dairy producers who register for the first year of the AgBiz Masters Program. AgBiz Masters is offered by AgChoice Farm Credit and partnering organizations as a new approach to building the business and financial management skills of young and beginning farmers. It is an educational series where participants complete e-Learning modules and attend face-to-face regional seminars.

The reimbursement scholarship provided by the center will be refunded to the AgBiz participants upon successful completion of the program in March 2012. The full registration cost for the two-year program is \$225, and the registration deadline is Oct. 31. To learn more or register, visit www.agbizmasters.com.

The first 20 producers who register for the Middle Managers Conference, hosted by the Penn State Extension Dairy Team on Nov. 8 at the Central Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg, can receive a \$50 scholarship from the Center for Dairy Excellence. The scholarship would be discounted from the registration fee, which is \$97 per person.

The Middle Managers Conference helps dairy middle managers develop practical skills they can use to make their dairies better places to work and more successful businesses. To learn more about the conference, visit www.das.psu.edu/dairy-alliance/education and click on “Middle Managers Conference” or call 1-888-373-7232.

To learn more about scholarship opportunities from the Center for Dairy Excellence, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org and click on “Producer.” Then click on “View Scholarship Opportunities.”

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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.