



For Immediate Release

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SEPTEMBER 6 DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR DAIRY FINANCIAL CONFERENCE

Harrisburg, Pa. – Dairy lenders and financial consultants have until September 6 to register in advance for the Center for Dairy Excellence's Dairy Financial Risk Management Conference, being held Wednesday, September 13, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Central Penn Conference Center, 600 Valley Road, Summerdale, PA 17093. Now in its eighth year, this dynamic one-day conference offers cutting edge information to the agricultural financial community on changing market dynamics and business tools impacting Pennsylvania's dairy farm families.

Cost of attendance is \$200 per person, including meals. Registration is discounted to \$150 per person for those who are representatives of Center Allies for Advancement. Registration for the conference closes September 6, 2017. Walk-ins will be welcome if seating is available. Registration information can be found by clicking on "Dairy Financial & Risk Management Conference" at www.centerfordairyexcellence.org under "Upcoming Events."

"Pennsylvania's dairy industry is in a state of transition. Understanding the dynamics that are shaping that transition is critical to mapping a path forward," said Alan Zepp, Center for Dairy Excellence risk management program manager. "This year's conference will provide participants with insight on what those dynamics are."

Keynote speakers that will highlight the conference include:

- Ben Buckner, head grains economist for AgResource Company, who will speak about market outlooks in the dairy industry,
- Jackson Takach, economist for Farmer Mac and lead author and co-creator of *The Feed*, will bring perspective from his career in agricultural finance and rural America to discuss analyzing credit, interest rate and other market-based risk that affect condition monitoring, operational information systems analysis and statistical programming,
- Dr. Andrew Novakovic, E.V. Baker Professor of agricultural economics and director of land grant programs at the Cornell Dyson School of Business, and Dr. Mark Stephenson, director of dairy policy analysis at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, who will share a look at the findings involved with a comprehensive Pennsylvania dairy industry study they are conducting.
- Rob Barley, co-owner at Star Rock Dairy, Inc., who will share a producer's perspective of dairy lending. Rob, along with his brother Tom and cousin Abe, own and operate Star Rock Dairy, a 1,500-cow operation, in addition to owning several other agricultural enterprises.



A complete program details with panel and speaker information is available online. The deadline to register is September 6, 2017, with limited space available.

To register, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org, under "Programs and Events", and click "Upcoming Events" for a registration form. For more questions or information, please call (717) 346-0849 or email Melissa Anderson at manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org.

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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 at centerfordairyexcellence.org.