

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Emily Barge, 717-346-0849; ebarge@centerfordairyexcellence.org

October 12, 2023

WEBSITE AND VIDEO RESOURCES SHOWCASE CAREERS IN PA AGRICULTURE FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

The Website Has a Wide Range of Resources for High School Students and Educators

Harrisburg, Pa. – To showcase the wide range of careers available in Pennsylvania's agricultural and food industry, the AgandFoodCareersinPA.com website is available for high school students, educators, and families to utilize as they explore potential careers and education paths. The website includes a large collection of resources, including career-focused videos, an interactive career quiz, educator resources, and more. Over the last few months, a group of young professionals from agriculture organizations across the state worked to publish new career videos that showcase the diversity and breadth of Pennsylvania agriculture.

"The growth of agriculture is dependent on our future workforce. AgandFoodCareersinPA.com is an excellent resource for all of Pennsylvania agriculture to use to educate youth about the many opportunities that exist within our industry," said Raechel Sattazahn, Director of Industry Relations at Horizon Farm Credit.

The website includes more than 80 different career pages, each with an interview-style video, an infographic about the career, a job description, role responsibilities, education requirements, salary information, a job outlook and more. These pages give students the opportunity to learn about agriculture careers that match their interests and the steps they need to take to find future employment. A list of possible internship, scholarship, and apprenticeship opportunities is also available on the website.

For educators looking to promote agriculture in their classrooms, the website includes free resources, including web scavenger hunts for both middle and high school students, lesson plans, career pathway activities, posters, interest surveys and more.

"Whether a student is interested in science, math, natural resources or hands-on learning, many of them are not aware of the wide range of opportunities available within the world of agriculture" said Michelle Shearer, Workforce Development Manager at the Dairy Excellence Foundation. "This website is filled with free resources for students and educators to explore the specific types of meaningful and versatile careers in the agriculture industry."

Learn more about the resources available to students and teachers:

- Ag and Food Careers List Students can browse careers in different sectors of the
 agriculture industry and watch the accompanying videos. More than 80 career pages are
 featured, including agricultural business, agricultural production and mechanics, animal
 science, environmental sciences and natural resources, food science, plant science, and
 plant science.
- <u>Interactive Career Quiz</u> Students who are unsure about where to begin with their career search can take a short quiz to start exploring specific fields in the agriculture industry that match their interests.
- <u>Next Steps</u> Students who already have a career path in mind can access resources to help them take the next steps, including scholarship, internship, and apprenticeship opportunities.
- <u>Educator Resources</u>— Ideal for both in-person and virtual instruction, educators have access to free resources, including web scavenger hunts, lesson plans, career pathway activities, posters, interest surveys and more.
- <u>Interactive Career Map</u> Pennsylvania is home to a wide range of agricultural businesses. This interactive map includes pinned locations of several companies with agriculture career opportunities to help students with future job searches.

The website is a project of the Workforce Development Committee with the Grow PA Agriculture initiative. Grow PA Agriculture formed in 2014 as a collaboration of agribusinesses and organizations to support the growth of Pennsylvania's agricultural industry. Focus areas include workforce development, regulatory reform and economic development.

Partners for the initiative include the Center for Dairy Excellence, Country View Farms, Farm Credit, Herbruck's, Lancaster Ag Council, Land O'Lakes, PennAg Industries, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania FFA Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation.

###

The Center for Dairy Excellence Foundation of Pennsylvania is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax deductible organization that is Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) approved. Established in 2010, the foundation's mission is to build and invest in programs that cultivate and empower the next generation of producers, consumers, and advocates for the Pennsylvania dairy industry. Learn more at <u>centerfordairyexcellence.org/our-foundation/</u>.

Center for Dairy Excellence Foundation ▼2301 North Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110 ▼717-346-0849 ▼

www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/our-foundation/