**For Immediate Release**

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**NOMINATIONS DUE ON NOVEMBER 16 FOR PA DAIRY INDUSTRY AWARDS**

*The Annual Awards Recognize Individuals Who Are Excelling in the Dairy Industry*

**Harrisburg, Pa.** – Nominations are due by November 16 for the annual Pennsylvania Dairy Industry Award program. Each year, the awards recognize dairy producers and industry professionals who excel in leadership, service and innovation. The program includes three awards and is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania, and the Center for Dairy Excellence.

"As we near the end of 2026, take a moment to reflect on the dairy producers and industry professionals you interact with on a daily basis. Is there someone you know who provides outstanding leadership, service and innovation to the PA dairy industry?" said Emily Barge, Communications and Marketing Manager at the Center for Dairy Excellence. "Consider nominating them by November 16 to help shine a light on the contributions they're making to our industry. The nomination process is simple and shouldn't take more than a few minutes of your time."

The industry awards are offered annually to Pennsylvania residents. Recipients will be recognized at the Pennsylvania Dairy Summit in February 2027.

Nominations are being accepted for the following awards:

- **Pennsylvania Distinguished Dairy Producer Award** recognizes individual dairy producers or farm enterprises that have demonstrated superior management capabilities within their own dairy business and provide outstanding leadership and service to the dairy industry.

- **Pennsylvania Dairy Service Award** recognizes an individual who has distinguished him or herself in serving the greater interest of Pennsylvania's dairy industry and dairy farms.

- **Pennsylvania Dairy Innovator Award** recognizes an individual or business entity that has provided tremendous innovation to progress Pennsylvania's dairy industry toward a brighter future, either by advancing the marketplace or creating new opportunities for innovation on the farm.

Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/awards to submit a nomination. All nominations must be received by November 16, 2026 to be considered for this year's awards. Nominations must include the completed application form and one letter of support outlining why the candidate is qualified to receive the award.

Individuals who are nominated will be notified electronically in late November with a request for information due in December 2026. Selected award recipients will be notified by January 2027.

Qualified applicants stay in the nomination pool for three years after being submitted for consideration. Nominators can update the nomination each of the two years following their original submission. Once a candidate is honored as a winner in an award category, they or individuals representing them are not eligible to win in any other category for two subsequent years.

Contact Emily Barge at 717-788-0300 or via email at ebarge@centerfordairyexcellence.org with questions or to submit a nomination application.

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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.

Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) is a farmer-driven organization advancing our State's dairy industry through improved productivity and economic viability with continued stewardship of our animals, environment and community. To become a member go to www.pdmp.org or email membership@pdmp.org.

The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association is the oldest dairy group in Pennsylvania. The Dairymen's Milkshake is the top-selling food item at the Food Court. The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association has been supporting "Fill a Glass with Hope®" with agriculture partners, Feeding PA, American Dairy Association North East, corporate partners and food banks since 2015. Over the past three years, the PA Dairymen have donated more than $1.4 million to programs including The Calving Corner; agricultural and educational projects; initiatives and scholarships; the Fill A Glass with Hope® fresh milk campaign for neighbors in need; the Choose PA Dairy consumer education and awareness campaign; the PA Farm Bureau Mobile Ag Education Lab that travels to schools; and the PA Dairy Princess and Promotion Program. Their philanthropic efforts build a brighter future for all Pennsylvanians. For more information, visit www.padairymens.com.