



For Immediate Release

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ON-FARM ANIMAL CARE WORKSHOPS FOR DAIRY PRODUCERS START ON MARCH 31 *The Free Workshops Will Be Held on Five Dairy Farms and Qualify as National FARM Training*

Harrisburg, Pa. – The first Animal Care Workshop, hosted by the Center for Dairy Excellence, PA Beef Council, the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) and Penn State Extension, will be held on March 31 at Rohrer Dairy Farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Dairy producers and their employees are invited to four other identical workshops that are being held on dairy farms across Pennsylvania throughout March and April. The events will be held directly on PA dairy farms for hands-on training, focusing on animal care skill-building to help dairy producers fulfill training requirements in four areas of the National FARM program. A Spanish interpreter will be present at each event.

“As you and your dairy team work to enhance efficiency and cow comfort, we hope you’ll join us at one of these animal care workshops this spring. We’re excited to host the workshops back on the farm for hands-on training,” said Valerie Mason-Faith, Risk Education Manager at the Center for Dairy Excellence. “The workshops are offered at no cost, and they also qualify as National FARM training. After rotating through the four training areas during the workshops, you’ll get a physical certificate that you can save in your files to show your commitment to FARM standards.”

The training areas for the workshops include: 1. Cull Cow Decisions, Down Cows and Transition Cows 2. Animal Handling, Stewardship and Meat Quality Issues 3. Dystocia 4. Farm Safety

Lunch will be provided at each event, and biosecurity protocols will be closely followed. The events will be held on the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Lancaster County)

Rohrer Dairy
126 Charlestown Road
Washington Boro, PA 17582

Thursday, April 2, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Lebanon County)

Farm to be determined

Thursday, April 9, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Centre County)

Breezy Farms

3760 W. Whitehall Road
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Franklin County)

Mercer-Vu Farms
12275 Mount Pleasant Road
Mercersburg, PA 17236

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Somerset County)

Pennwood Farms
262 Sugar Grove Road
Berlin, PA 15530

To register for one of the free animal care workshops, call 717-346-0849 or visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/animal-care. Please include the names of employees who will be attending from your operation.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information about the events, contact Valerie Mason-Faith at vmason@centerfordairyexcellence.org or call 717-346-0849.

The National Dairy FARM Program: Farmers Assuring Responsible Management works to set the highest standards when it comes to animal care, workplace settings, and environmental and antibiotic stewardship. These workshops qualify as National FARM training for dairy producers and employees.

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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.

PDMP is a not-for-profit, farmer-driven organization advancing the State's dairy industry through improved productivity and economic viability with continued stewardship of our animals, environment, and community. Programs offered by PDMP are designed by dairy producers for dairy producers. For more information on PDMP, visit their website at pdmp.org.

The Pennsylvania Beef Council is a non-profit organization working on behalf of nearly 18,000 beef, dairy and veal producers in the Commonwealth. The Beef Council administers the Beef Checkoff Program assesses \$1 per head on the sale of live domestic and imported cattle, in addition to a comparable assessment on imported beef and beef products. Checkoff revenues may be used for promotion, education and research programs to improve the marketing climate for beef.

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