



CENTER FOR
Dairy EXCELLENCE



For Immediate Release

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February 17, 2025

ANIMAL CARE WORKSHOPS FOR DAIRY PRODUCERS START ON MARCH 4

The Free Workshops Will Be Held in Five Locations 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 4 in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Dairy producers and their employees are invited to four other identical workshops that are being held across the state throughout March and April. The workshops will focus 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, and attendees can also get certified in Calf Care and Quality Assurance (CCQA) or get recertified in Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) if they are interested.

“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,” 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. Antibiotic Stewardship, Pain Management, and On-Farm Chemotherapeutic Stewardship. 2. Calf Care and Nutrition. 4. Biosecurity and Premise Mapping for Dairy Producers. 4. Fitness for Transport and Quality Assurance.

During the workshop, speakers from these training areas will help dairy producers and their employees answer the following questions:

- What Average Daily Gain (ADG) do you need to achieve in order to reach optimal growth targets by your desired Age at Calving?
- What are the critical control points (CCPs) on your dairy farm where disease transmission risks are highest?
- What are two of the conditions for approved extra-label drug usage in dairy cattle?
- How can you mitigate disease risk in your pre-weaned calves?
- How are animal movement and traffic flow managed within and around your premises?
- Are there any protocols or management decisions you could alter or areas to make improvements when it comes to fitness to transport and quality assurance?

- What procedures do you have on your farm to ensure that all medications are being administered at the right time to the right animal at the right dosage – and that you are following all necessary meat and milk withholds?

Lunch will be provided at each workshop, and attendees can attend an optional tour of a nearby dairy farm at the end of each event. Biosecurity protocols will be closely followed during each farm tour. The events will be held on the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Cumberland County)

Cumberland County Extension Office

310 Allen Road

Carlisle, PA 17013

Optional Dairy Farm Tour: Stover Farms

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Lancaster County)

Lancaster Farm and Home Center

1383 Arcadia Road

Lancaster, PA 17601

Optional Dairy Farm Tour: Franklin View Farms LLC

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Crawford County)

Crawford County Extension Office

1099 Morgan Village Road, Suite A

Meadville, PA 16335

Optional Dairy Farm Tour: Apple Shamrock Dairy Farm

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Mifflin County)

Belleville Community Center

95 N. Penn Street

Belleville, PA 17004

Optional Dairy Farm Tour: Kish View Farm

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Bradford County)

Troy Fire Hall

88 Firehouse Drive

Troy, PA 16947

Optional Dairy Farm Tour: Gorrell Dairy LLC

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 ▼
www.centerfordairyexcellence.org**