



CENTER FOR
DairyEXCELLENCE

For Immediate Release

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AGRICULTURE PROFESSIONALS INVITED TO FREE MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS IN MARCH AND APRIL

The Series of Workshops Is Being Held in March and April Throughout Pennsylvania

Harrisburg, Pa. – Agriculture professionals who work directly with Pennsylvania livestock producers are invited to attend free mental health workshops happening throughout March and April. The interactive workshops will provide information on stressors that are specific to the agriculture industry and provide hands-on training to help navigate mental health issues in the farm community.

“Most ag industry professionals are frequently on farms and in contact with producers every day, so they are tuned into when times are challenging and producers might be struggling. Typically, ag industry professionals are trained in production agriculture and not human health and well-being,” said Ginger Fenton, PhD, Dairy Extension Educator at Penn State Extension, and one of the presenters at the workshops. “The goal of these workshops is to help prepare ag industry professionals to recognize stressful situations and to be better equipped to provide tools and resources to share with farmers in times of need.”

Two workshops were held at the beginning of March. Four additional workshops will be held across Pennsylvania throughout March and April. The events will be held on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Greensburg**
Hoss’s Steak and Sea House
1261 S. Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601
- **Tuesday, March 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Lancaster**
Lancaster County Farm and Home Center
1383 Arcadia Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
- **Tuesday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Mercer**
Mercer County Extension Office
463 North Perry Highway
Mercer, PA 16137
- **Tuesday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Honesdale**
Wayne County Extension Office
648 Park Street, Suite E.
Honesdale, PA 18431

During each workshop, attendees will learn about the stressors that are specific to the ag industry and how to recognize signs of stress. They will also be trained on how to assess, approach, and offer assistance to farmers who are at risk and learn about the variety of tools and resources available for farmers.

“These workshops are ideal for anyone who is in contact with livestock producers and is concerned about their mental wellness and overall well-being. This might include lenders, ag agency personnel, nutritionists, inspectors and regulatory staff, veterinarians, educators, consultants, agronomists, and other ag industry professionals or farm family members,” Fenton added.

To register for one of the free mental health workshops, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/workshops or call 717-346-0849.

The workshops are being offered as part of a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture effort, funded by a USDA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) Grant. The Center for Dairy Excellence, Center for Beef Excellence, Center for Poultry & Livestock, PA Beef Producers Working Group, and Penn State Extension Dairy and Livestock teams are partnering to host the workshops.

For more information about the FRSAN grant or to learn more about the initiative, contact the following partners:

- Center for Dairy Excellence – 717-346-0849
- Center for Beef Excellence – 570-687-3150
- Center for Poultry & Livestock – 717-651-5920
- PA Beef Council – 814-623-2698
- Penn State Extension Livestock Team – 484-614-7183
- Penn State Extension Dairy Team – 724-662-3414

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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.

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