



CENTER FOR
Dairy EXCELLENCE



PennState Extension

For Immediate Release

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

March 25, 2024

ANIMAL CARE WORKSHOPS FOR DAIRY PRODUCERS START NEXT WEEK

The First Workshop Will Be Held in Mercer County

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 next week in Mercer County. Dairy producers and their employees are invited to three other identical workshops that are being held across the state throughout April. The four free workshops will focus on animal care skill-building to help dairy producers meet National FARM compliance. A certificate will be provided at the conclusion of the workshop to help those attending demonstrate compliance with the National FARM training requirements.

Due to new biosecurity concerns related specifically to cattle and out of an abundance of caution, the workshops have been moved off-farm. Location details will be shared after individuals register.

“Consider bringing your dairy team to one of these free workshops, and spend the day strengthening your skills in animal welfare and cow management,” said Allen Hess, Customer Relations Specialist at the Center for Dairy Excellence. “There will also be a Spanish interpreter to ensure Spanish-speaking employees fully understand the valuable information being shared at the workshops. Lunch will be provided, so we hope to see you there.”

The first workshop will be held next week on Tuesday, April 2 in Mercer County near West Middlesex, Pa. The second will be held on Tuesday, April 9 in Blair County at Morrisons Cove Memorial Park in Martinsburg, Pa. Additional workshops will be held during the last two weeks of April. Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/animal-care or call 717-346-0849 to sign up.

During each workshop, attendees will move between sessions and gain training in several key animal welfare areas in the National FARM program:

- **Calf Care** — Learn about various strategies for improving calf health, the benefits of feeding colostrum beyond the first feeding, considerations for pair housing calves and more.
- **Lameness, Locomotion, Euthanasia and Fitness to Transport** — Learn about the FARM locomotion scoring system, how fitness to transport affects culling decisions on dairy

operations, and euthanasia protocols for dairy employees.

- **Think Beef, Meat Quality Matters** — Learn how to give shots in ways that will maximize beef quality and reduce risk condemnations on cattle.
- **Animal Handling and Stockmanship** – Learn how to more efficiently and patiently sort and move cattle using groups of heifers that are weaned up to six months old.

“Our employees both enjoyed last year’s event and came home with ideas we can use to improve our farm. One said it was one of the better farm meetings he attended over the years. Our grazing apprentice and young employee was overwhelmed with information but learned new concepts from the instructors,” said David Rice of Clover Creek Cheese Cellar.

View the full workshop schedule:

- **Tuesday, April 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
Mercer County
Near West Middlesex, PA
- **Tuesday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
Blair County
Morrisons Cove Memorial Park
201 South Walnut St.
Martinsburg, PA 16662
- **Tuesday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
Clinton County
Near Mill Hall, PA
- **Tuesday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
Berks County
Near Womelsdorf, PA

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. Location details will be shared after individuals register.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information about the events, contact Allen Hess at ahess@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.

###

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**