



For Immediate Release

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DAIRY PRODUCERS INVITED TO GET HANDS-ON TRAINING IN ANIMAL CARE AT FREE, ON-FARM WORKSHOPS

The Workshops Will Be Held on PA Farms for Hands-On Training in National FARM Areas

Harrisburg, Pa. – To help dairy producers and their employees boost their skills in key animal welfare areas, the Center for Dairy Excellence, PA Beef Council, the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) and Penn State Extension are hosting a free Animal Care Workshop series this spring. The on-farm workshops will focus on animal care skill-building to help dairy producers fulfill training requirements in four areas of the National FARM program. The free events will be held directly on five Pennsylvania dairy farms for hands-on training. English and Spanish speakers are both encouraged to attend, and lunch is included.

“We’re looking forward to being back on the farm for these workshops and having dairy teams join us this spring for these free National FARM training opportunities,” said Valerie Mason-Faith, Risk Education Manager at the Center for Dairy Excellence. “After rotating through the four on-farm training areas during the workshops, which include hands-on skill-building, your team will 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 - After a physical demonstration, participants can get in the pen and practice animal handling skills.
3. Dystocia – Attendees will practice hands-on skills related to dystocia with a calving model from Penn State.
4. Farm Safety - Not just another farm safety talk, but a walk-through of the farm and a conversation about safety do's and don't's.

The workshops 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
1895 Prospect Road
Washington Boro, PA 17582

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

Tulpa Canal Farm
455 Canal Road
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

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, on-farm 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.

In addition to workshop partners and speakers, these events are made possible through support from dairy industry sponsors. Thank you to the following businesses for sponsoring the workshops: Pennsylvania Beef Council, Mid Penn Bank, Premier Select Sires, 4WardAg, North Group Consultants, Clover Farms, White Horse Construction, Bank of Bird-in-Hand, Agricultural Veterinary Associates, DairyOne, Kish Bank, ESB Dairy Supplies LLC & IBA Dairy Supplies, East Gate Feed and Grain, and Allegheny Ag.

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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