



## For Immediate Release

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### **'TOAST TO DAIRY' EVENT TO FEATURE FARM-TO-FORK FOOD STATIONS, CHEESE PAIRINGS, TASTING EXPERIENCE AND MORE**

*Purchase Tickets by May 1 to Receive a \$10 Early-Bird Discount on Each Ticket*

**Harrisburg, Pa.** – To celebrate June Dairy Month and support dairy education programs, the Dairy Excellence Foundation is hosting its annual farm-to-fork celebration, “A Toast to Dairy,” on Thursday, June 15, 2023 from 6-9 p.m. at Melhorn Manor in Mount Joy, Pa. The event includes meal stations sourced with Pennsylvania Preferred ingredients, an interactive tasting experience with artisan cheeses from the PA Cheese Guild, locally crafted wines and brews, networking opportunities, and more. Individuals who purchase tickets by May 1 will receive an early-bird discount with \$10 off each ticket. Discounted rates are also available for groups or organizations that purchase bundles of eight or more tickets.

“Last year, more than 250 people joined us at A Toast to Dairy to celebrate Pennsylvania dairy and enjoy an evening out while learning about programs that directly support students who are pursuing careers in dairy,” said Emily Barge, Communications and Marketing Manager at the Center for Dairy Excellence. “We’ll have some new businesses and faces at the event this year – many with strong roots in dairy farming and local agriculture. From a winery and distillery owned by Pennsylvania dairy farmers to a honey vinaigrette salad dressing created by FFA students who were growing lettuce in their hydroponics lab, you’ll enjoy locally sourced food and drink and hear some fantastic stories. We hope you’ll join us this June.”

This year’s event will feature:

- **Farm-to-fork food stations** – Thanks to local businesses and food donors, attendees will enjoy a variety of food stations and dinner options sourced with local, PA Preferred ingredients.
- **Wine and brew tasting experience** – Attendees will receive a guided tasting passport to sample wine, beer and spirits from local wineries and breweries, including Brookmere Winery, Purple Cow Winery, The Winery at Hunter’s Valley, Troegs Independent Brewing, Lindgren Craft Brewery, and Distillery 51.
- **Cheese pairing sessions** – From Lebanon bologna to potato chips, Pennsylvania is known for popular snack foods. The PA Cheese Guild will be leading interactive, guided tasting sessions with artisan cheeses and Pennsylvania-specific snack foods.

- **Dessert bar** – A variety of dairy-themed desserts will be available, including ice cream sandwiches featuring ice cream from Fox Meadows Creamery and baked goods from Karns Quality Foods; fresh fruit parfaits with local granola and yogurt from Pennsylvania's very own Painterland Sisters; and mini root beer floats.
- **Raffle baskets** – A favorite each year, attendees can purchase raffle tickets and enter to win baskets donated by event sponsors.
- **Caricature artist** – Attendees can take home a personalized drawing from a live caricature artist during the event.
- **Other fun surprises**

All proceeds from the event will support the scholarships, curriculum, educational programs, and on-farm internships provided through the Dairy Excellence Foundation.

“Attending ‘A Toast to Dairy’ is an enjoyable way to support the Dairy Excellence Foundation’s dairy education programs,” said Melissa Mattilio, a previous attendee. “There are lots of delicious food, fun activities, and plenty of time to see old friends and meet new ones. It’s a great way to spend an evening supporting a good cause.”

Visit [centerfordairyexcellence.org/toasttodairy](https://centerfordairyexcellence.org/toasttodairy) to purchase tickets and learn more about the event. Discounted rates are available for groups or organizations that purchase bundles of eight or more tickets.

Premier sponsors of the Toast to Dairy event include the PA Preferred® Program and Land O’Lakes. Other sponsors include Dairy Farmers of America, Fulton Bank, Herbein & Company, Inc., Hostetter & Hostetter CPAs, Messick’s Equipment, Nauman & Smith, and Valley Grange.

To sponsor the event, email Jayne Sebright at [jsebright@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:jsebright@centerfordairyexcellence.org) or call 717-346-0849. Learn more at [centerfordairyexcellence.org/toasttodairy](https://centerfordairyexcellence.org/toasttodairy) or call the Foundation at 717-346-0849 with questions about the event.

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The Center for Dairy Excellence Foundation of Pennsylvania is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax deductible organization that is Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) approved. Established in 2010, the foundation’s mission is to build and invest in programs that cultivate and empower the next generation of producers, consumers, and advocates for the Pennsylvania dairy industry. Learn more at [centerfordairyexcellence.org/our-foundation/](https://centerfordairyexcellence.org/our-foundation/).

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