



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **CENTER FOUNDATION GRANTS FUND DAIRY FARM FIELD TRIPS** *Elementary Classrooms Visited Local Dairy Farms*

**Harrisburg, Pa.** – Last month, elementary classrooms from six school districts received grants for educational field trips to local dairy farms where students learned about milk production and the dairy industry. The Center for Dairy Excellence Foundation of Pennsylvania funded the \$250 grants through the Discover Dairy program.

Discover Dairy, a program managed by the Center Foundation, is provided at no cost to educators and others interested in teaching students more about dairy foods and farming. Any classroom that is enrolled in the program was eligible to apply for a field trip grant during the 2016-2017 school year.

Bethany Farnan, a first-grade teacher at Abbottston Elementary in Baltimore, Maryland, learned about the grant from a coworker.

The grant was a big deal for her students, especially because their trip was filled with new experiences that made their lessons in the classroom come to life.

“There are some of my students that have never left the city,” Farnan explained. “My students do not get to see the animals on a regular basis, so being able to receive a grant to have them get this experience adds to what we learned in the classroom.”

Farnan’s class visited Cow Comfort Inn Dairy, owned and operated by David Pyle and Katie Dotterer-Pyle in Union Bridge, Maryland. The Pyles care for a herd of more than 350 cows and an additional 150 young stock, with the herd being mainly Jerseys.

“Discover Dairy is the best venue to teach consumers about the dairy industry and what farmers do,” said Katie Dotterer-Pyle, a former teacher. “It is a convenient way to learn, and with the grants, it is beneficial for schools with restricted budgets.”

The Center Foundation provides up to ten grants to elementary classrooms each school year, with five specifically reserved for Pennsylvania classrooms. Selection was based on a first-come, first-serve basis with consideration for the number of students eligible to attend the tour and additional plans of dairy education in the classroom.

“The grants are incredibly beneficial, especially with the Discover Dairy unit on animals,” Farnan said. “I can’t forget that [the grants] bring the food to table process alive. Without a grant, we could not be here.”



The Center for Dairy Excellence and the Center Foundation also assisted elementary classrooms in connecting with local farms to host students as part of the Farm Field Trip Grants.

Discover Dairy is an engaging, interactive, cross-curricular, multi-leveled educational series that meets Common CORE Standards for math, science and reading, while incorporating social studies concepts.

To learn more about Discover Dairy and its Farm Field Trip Grants, visit [discoverdairy.com](http://discoverdairy.com) or contact Mary Foote, at (717) 346-0849 or via email at [mfoote@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:mfoote@centerfordairyexcellence.org).

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Established in 2010, 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. The foundation was created to develop and support programs for both the Center for Dairy Excellence and other Pennsylvania dairy organizations which educate, cultivate, and inspire a thriving and sustainable Pennsylvania dairy industry. Learn more about the foundation at [centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://centerfordairyexcellence.org).

Photo Captions:

1591: A first-grade student from Abbottston Elementary, Baltimore, MD, interacts with a cow for the first time during a Farm Field Trip Grant tour at Cow Comfort Inn Dairy, Union Bridge, MD.

1630: First-grade students from Abbottston Elementary, Baltimore, MD, learn about basic milking parlor procedures during a Farm Field Trip Grant tour at Cow Comfort Inn Dairy, Union Bridge, MD.

