



For Immediate Release

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LEARN HOW TO DECODE DAIRY MARKETS AND PROTECT YOUR DAIRY'S MARGINS AT FREE OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

Dairy Producers Are Invited to Free Workshops on October 8 and October 15

Harrisburg, Pa. – As dairy producers work to navigate market uncertainties and emerging trends, the Center for Dairy Excellence and Penn State Extension are hosting free Risk Management and Financial Literacy Workshops this October. The workshops will be held on Thursday, October 8 in Lancaster and Thursday, October 15 in Chambersburg. During one of the sessions at the workshops, Jayne Sebright and Valerie Mason-Faith will help you decode dairy market signals and explore key factors that are currently influencing milk prices – including dairy market economics, domestic and global supply and demand, and other market highlights.

“Our goal with these workshops is to take some of the stress out of managing risk and finances on your dairy farm. Our speakers plan to take complex financials and ever-changing dairy markets and break it all down to the fundamentals,” said Valerie Mason-Faith, Risk Education Manager at the Center for Dairy Excellence. “We’ll help you decode dairy markets and outline core financial metrics, so you can walk away with practical skills to make confident financial decisions for your farm.”

Along with dairy markets, Dr. Rebecca Weir will cover the key federal dairy price risk management programs, including Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), Dairy Revenue Protection (DRP), and Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy (LGM-Dairy). Dr. Weir will break down how each program functions, share recent policy and program updates, and offer enrollment considerations to develop a risk management strategy tailored to your dairy’s needs.

In addition, Dr. Brian Reed will discuss the key financial statements every dairy farm should know as well as calculating and interpreting core financial metrics. He will demonstrate how you can use these numbers to calculate your farm’s cost of production and evaluate your financial health to make confident, informed management decisions.

The free events also include lunch, and attendees will have the option to work one-on-one over lunch with an industry expert. The workshops will be held on the following dates:

October 8, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Lancaster Farm and Home Center
1383 Arcadia Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

October 15, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Franklin County Extension Office

185 Franklin Farm Lane

Chambersburg, PA 17202

Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/rm-workshop or call 717-346-0849 to sign up for the free events. Contact Valerie Mason-Faith at vmason@centerfordairyexcellence.org with questions about the workshops.

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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 ▼

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