



**For Immediate Release**

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**CENTER OFFERING PRODUCER SUPPORT THROUGH DECISION CONSULTANTS**

*Grant Funding for Dairy Farmers to Work with Consultants through Challenges*

**Harrisburg, Pa.** – Grant funding for the Center for Dairy Excellence’s Dairy Decision Consultants program is now available for the 2018-19 fiscal year. This program intends to provide dairy farm families with professional consulting resources to help make decisions that will shape the future of their farm.

A farm can apply to receive up to \$3,500 in financial assistance to work with a DDC-designated consultant on financial and business performance. Up to \$2,000 is available for farms who want to work with a DDC-designated consultant on employee relations and management. Farms are eligible to apply to participate in the DDC program every three years.

“The economic environment proves how critical it is to make strong decisions for your dairy business,” said Melissa Anderson, program and operations manager for the Center for Dairy Excellence. “The DDC program puts resources around your dairy to help in making those decisions affecting your future.”

The program focuses on helping farms achieve their goals in their business and financial performance. It lends an outside perspective into the operation to help producers identify bottlenecks, troubleshoot barriers and develop a long-term plan. Three key areas covered by the program are: business performance and reaching financial benchmarks, new business opportunity exploration, and employee relations and development.

Anderson serves as the coordinator for the program and can help farm families applying identify a consultant that best suits the needs of their dairy. A list of sixteen designated consultants are available online; however, farms can specifically request other consultants, but they must be approved. Through the program, the consultant will do an initial visit with the farm to review the operation and business, then do a follow-up visit to present a report with recommendations.

Funding for Dairy Decisions Consultant Program is made possible through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s support of Ag Excellence and support provided by the Pennsylvania Dairymen’s Association.

To apply for the Dairy Decisions Consultant program, visit the “Business Tools” tab on centerfordairyexcellence.org. The information on Dairy Decisions Consultants can be found under “Dairy Farm Profitability Resources” on the left sidebar. Call Anderson at (717) 346-0849 or email her at manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org for more information.



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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](http://centerfordairyexcellence.org).