



For Immediate Release

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DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR EXPLORATION EXPERIENCE EXTENDED TO APRIL 8 *Day-long Workshop Perfect for High Schoolers Interested in Genetics Industry*

Harrisburg, Pa. – With school restrictions now loosening up, the Dairy Excellence Foundation has extended the deadline for high school students in eleventh and twelfth grades to register for the Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow “Own It” Exploration Experience until Thursday, April 8, to allow more students the opportunity to attend. The day-long workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at Brubaker Farms in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In partnership with Premier Select Sires, the Foundation is hosting this free event to cultivate interest among high schoolers in a variety of careers available in the dairy industry.

Students interested in learning more about careers in dairy or beef genetics are encouraged to apply. Those who attend will learn about the roles and responsibilities involved in specific dairy careers, discover how to analyze herd information using various software programs, and create their own solutions to everyday challenges found on the dairy farm.

“Premier Select Sires is thrilled to be part of the 2021 Exploration Experience. With our various career stations and plenty of hands-on learning experiences, this year's event should provide high school students with a ton of opportunities,” said Karen Wheatley, Manager of Employee Development, Training and Engagement at Premier Select Sires. “It's one thing to learn about careers in the classroom, but it takes it to a whole new level when you actually ‘do’ the career in a real-time setting like this.”

At the start of the experience, students will explore careers in the four divisions of Premier Select Sires which include the “do-ers,” “analyze-ers,” “techies” and “sell-ers.” They will work with their peers in one of these four divisions throughout the day as they learn about Brubaker Farms, identify common challenges, and analyze herd information to create their own solutions. At the conclusion of the event, they will present their solutions and plans of success to the farm’s herd manager and owner.

“For high school students who have an interest in dairy, the Exploration Experience is a hands-on, experimental learning opportunity that we only offer once a year. The event is a great way for them to see a progressive dairy farm, explore their individual career interests, and build one-on-one connections with dairy industry professionals,” said Michelle Shearer, Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow Curriculum Coordinator.

To participate, students are required to submit an application by April 8, 2021. A limited number will be selected to participate in the Exploration Experience. Students who apply for the event must meet the following expectations:

- Must be in grades 11 or 12
- Must have an interest in dairy
- Must wear a mask, coveralls and boots at all times during the event
- Must have a chaperone/advisor travel with them
- Coursework completion in Algebra I, Biology and Chemistry is also preferred.

The Exploration Experience event is free, and lunch and snacks are provided. Applications must be submitted by Thursday, April 8, 2021

To apply for this year's event and learn more about the experience, visit www.dairyleadersoftomorrow.com/exploration-experience.

If you have questions, contact Michelle Shearer, DLT Curriculum Coordinator, at mshearer@centerfordairyexcellence.org or by phone at 570-768-8316. The Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow Exploration Experiences began in 2017 and offer high school students the opportunity to utilize formal education skills in hands-on, experimental learning experiences. These experiences give students the opportunity to apply skills they learned in the classroom in real-world settings, engage in STEM learning through agricultural-focused areas, explore potential career opportunities, and cultivate a network of industry professionals.

Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow is a program managed by the Dairy Excellence Foundation and designed specifically to prepare high school students to work in the dairy industry. A three-part model program, Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow offers classroom instruction, on-farm experiences and scholarship opportunities. Learn more at www.dairyleadersoftomorrow.com.

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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/.

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