



For Immediate Release

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DAIRY AND BEEF CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE OFFER GRANTS TO ASSIST FARMS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE COMPLIANCE

Compliance Plan Writing Workshops Offered in Addition to Grants

Harrisburg, Pa. – The Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence and Center for Beef Excellence are offering financial assistance and support to both dairy and beef farms that need professional assistance in developing plans to meet baseline agricultural compliance.

The grants will assist with the cost of hiring professional plan writers to develop Nutrient Management, Manure Management and Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Control Plans and must be used by June 30, 2017. Farms can receive up to \$1,000 to reimburse for professional services associated with environmental planning.

Applicants must submit a one-page application and must be able to demonstrate their needs cannot be met through the environmental planning workshops hosted by the conservation districts. Grant applications can be found at centerfordairyexcellence.org under the “Business Tools” tab or contact Melissa Anderson at 717-346-0849 or via email manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org.

The centers are working in partnership with local conservation districts to support and conduct workshops helping dairy and beef farmers write Agriculture Erosion & Sediment Control Plans. Featured speakers Bob Neiderer and Rick Day, from Penn State Cooperative Extension’s *PAOneStop* program, will provide direct assistance to attendees on mapping their farms and writing the environmental compliance plan.

The schedule is as follows:

- January 18 and 25 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Huntingdon County, Comfort Inn, 100 S 4th St., Huntingdon, Pa. To register, contact Abbe Hamilton at 814-627-1626.
- February 4 and 18, from 8:30 - 4 p.m., Lehigh County, Best Western, 300 Gateway Drive, Bethlehem, Pa. To register, contact Damian Painter at 610-391-9583, ext. 26.
- February 22 and March 1, from 5 – 9 p.m., Perry County, Greenwood High School, 405 E Sunbury St., Millerstown, Pa. To register, contact Scott Flanders at 717-582-8988, ext. 118.
- February 23 and March 2, from 9 – 1 p.m., Tioga County, Tokishi Training Center, 124 Nypum Drive, Wellsboro, Pa. To register, contact Andrea Boyce at 570-724-1801, ext. 1301.
- February 24, from 9 – 1 p.m., Bradford County, BLaST IU 17, 33 Springbrook Drive, Canton, Pa. To register, contact Nate Dewing at 570-265-5539.



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- March 8, from 10 - 2 p.m., Clinton County, Clinton Conservation District and County Extension office, 45 Cooperation Lane, Mill Hall, Pa. To register, contact Lisa Blazure at 570-726-3798, ext. 3803.
- March 6 and 27, from 9 – 3 p.m., Luzerne County, location TBD. To register, contact Amy Salansky at 570-938-3022.
- March 22 and 29, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Cambria County, Penn State Extension, 499 Manor Drive, Ebensburg, Pa. To register, contact Genny Christ at 814-472-2120, ext. 4135.
- April 1 and 8, from 9 – 12 noon, Washington County, Washington Conservation District Office, 2800 N Main St. #105, Washington, Pa. To register, contact Tom Ulrich at 724-705-7098.

For locations with two workshop dates, participants should plan to attend both days as the second day will build on content covered in the first day.

Support for this joint initiative is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Ag Excellence initiative within the state budget. It complements a growing emphasis on helping Pennsylvania's agricultural producers to contribute to water quality improvement goals, particularly within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, by offering assistance for beef and dairy farmers to attain a base level of compliance with state conservation and clean water requirements.

By 2025, Pennsylvania agriculture is responsible for reducing nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment runoff to meet the annual allowed discharges entering the Chesapeake Bay, a number set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the federal Clean Water Act in 2010. Pennsylvania plays a significant role in Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts.

For more information about the grants, dairy farmers and beef farmers can contact:

- Center for Dairy Excellence at 717-346-0849 or via email manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org.
- Center for Beef Excellence at (717) 705-1689 or via email at anoganCBE@gmail.com.

For more information about the environmental planning workshops, farmers can contact:

- Ombudsman Beth Futrick at (814) 696-0877 ext. 113 or via email at bfutrick@blairconservationdistrict.org.
- Agricultural Ombudsman Shelly Dehoff at 717-880-0848 or via email at shellydehoff@lancasterconservation.org.

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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.



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