



For Immediate Release

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2017 PA DAIRY SUMMIT REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR DAIRY FARMERS

Future Leader Scholarships Also Available to Students and Young Dairy Farmers

Harrisburg, Pa. – Dairy farmers and farm employees who attend the 2017 Pennsylvania Dairy Summit will receive a discount on their registration fee, courtesy of the Center for Dairy Excellence. Due to the economic situation in the dairy industry, the fee has been reduced to \$75 for the first registrant and \$50 for each additional person from the farm. One-day registration for dairy producers and farm employees is \$25 per day.

Scheduled for February 8-9 in Lancaster, the 2017 summit promises a fast-paced program for dairy farmers that offers a mix of presentations featuring innovative management styles and motivating industry insight with networking opportunities for both dairy farmers and allied-industry representatives working within dairy. The Center for Dairy Excellence and the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) jointly host the annual summit expected to draw more than 500 attendees. Supporting partners are the Penn State Extension Dairy Team and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Lowell Catlett, a futurist with positive, upbeat predictions, will lead this year's summit, with a breakout and opening keynote on the International Marketplace and why now is the best time ever to be in agriculture. Dr. Catlett is one of three keynote speakers featured this year, with topics focused on leading within the industry and professionalizing the family business.

This year's producer showcase will be led by Jeff Burnett, who with his brother Jay and their wives Kim and Lisa own Burnett Enterprises, a 3,000+ cow dairy in southeast Wyoming. Burnett will highlight the farm's experience with working through a banking crisis and working with family. He will also showcase their operation, specifically referencing their recent changes to their feed center and calf management.

Future Leader Scholarships are available to students and young adults between the ages of 17 – 25 as of February 1 who currently operate a dairy farm or are enrolled in an agricultural degree program at a college or trade school. The scholarship discounts summit registration and hotel cost to \$50, which the grant recipients are responsible to pay. The scholarship application deadline is January 16, 2017. To learn more, call Mary Foote at 717-346-0849 or visit the "Scholarships/Credits" tab at padairysummit.org.

Registration for the summit can be done online at padairysummit.org. Advanced



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registrations are due by Monday, January 30, 2017. The non-producer rate to register for the summit is \$225 per person, with additional guests from the same business discounted to \$175 per person.

A block of reserved rooms are available at a discounted group rate on a first-come, first-serve basis now until the extended date of January 20. To make hotel reservations, please call 1-888-850-6146 and ask for the *Dairy Summit Rate*.

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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.

CAPTION Burnett Photo: Jeff Burnett, Wyoming dairy farmer, will speak about the financial and operational challenges his family has experiences on their ranch.

CAPTION Lowell Photo: Dr. Lowell Catlett, a Regents Professor in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business and Extension Economics, will lead a general session on "International Dairy Markets."