



For Immediate Release

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CENTER WAIVES DAIRY DECISION CONSULTANT APPLICATION FEE

Grant Funding Available for Dairy Farmers to Work with Consultants through Economic Downturn

Harrisburg, Pa. – With many dairy farms facing below-break even margins, the Center for Dairy Excellence is waiving the \$100 application fee for the Dairy Decisions Consultant (DDC) Program for applications received up to January 31, 2017. The Dairy Decisions Consultant Program offers up to \$2,000 in funding to provide dairy farm families with professional consulting resources to help make decisions to shape the future of their dairy operation.

“With the help needed immediately on many farms, the Center will work quickly with the farm, once the one-page application is received, to identify a Dairy Decisions Consultant who can work with the family or management team on solutions,” said Jayne Sebright, executive director for the Center for Dairy Excellence.

The Dairy Decisions Consultant Program focuses primarily on helping farms achieve their goals in their business and financial performance. The program lends an outside perspective into the operation to help producers identify bottlenecks, troubleshoot barriers and develop a plan for the future.

“(Wayne) provided a comprehensive and informative financial review for us to present as we sought financing to determine our next step forward in the dairy industry,” said Julie Martin of Pleasant Valley Jerseys in Chambersburg, Pa. Julie and her husband Doug consulted with Wayne Brubaker, a dedicated consultant for the program, when they were evaluating a possible transformation on their dairy farm. “We really appreciated the generosity of the CDE in paying a portion of the fee for our Dairy Decision Consultant.”

The Center has thirteen consultants available to work with dairy farms. Other consultants can be requested specifically by a farm, but must be approved by the Center to qualify. 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.

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 the Center for Dairy Excellence at 717-346-0849 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.