



CENTER FOR
DairyEXCELLENCE

For Immediate Release

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December 19, 2018

MYERS HIRED AS CENTER'S RISK EDUCATION MANAGER

Myers Joins Staff to Advocate, Support and Grow Pa. Dairy Industry

Harrisburg, Pa. – The Center for Dairy Excellence has named Zach Myers as risk education program manager to support the work of the Center for Dairy Excellence. Myers joins a team of employees who empower Pennsylvania's dairy industry and strengthen individual dairy farms with resources and support.

Myers, a native of Jonesville, NC, is a former third-generation dairy farmer with Myers Dairy, Inc. He earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from North Carolina State University as well as his master's degree concentrating in dairy cattle nutrition and management from the Michigan State University. Myers served on the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, now The Dairy Alliance, board of directors for the last twelve years. He has served two, three-year terms with the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board and Dairy Management Inc. Lastly, Myers has been on the Wilkes County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors for the last twelve years.

"I am excited to be in Pennsylvania starting my new role as Risk Management Program Manager for the Center for Dairy Excellence," Myers said. "With the passing of the 2018 Farm Bill, I will be focusing on learning the new Dairy Margin Coverage program and helping farmers in their risk management decisions during this prolonged period of depressed milk prices. I am grateful for the opportunity to be here and look forward to working to maintain and grow the Pennsylvania dairy industry for the next generation."

As risk education program manager, Myers will lead the Center's risk management and dairy markets education, helping to guide both dairy farm families and industry representatives on navigating an everchanging and volatile dairy industry. Myers fills the role vacated by Alan Zepp, who will retire on February 28 after ten years of services to the organization and to the industry.

"Zach brings a wealth of leadership and dairy experience to the role, having managed his own family dairy farm operation for 15 years and having held local, state, and national leadership roles within the dairy industry," said Jayne Sebright, executive director at the Center. "We are pleased to have Zach joining our team to continue in the important advisory role that Alan has provided to both dairy producers and the broader industry during this critical time in dairy."

In addition to Myers, six other individuals serve as part of the Center staff. Staff members include Sebright; Melissa Anderson, programs and operations manager;



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Brittany Haag, dairy education program manager; Karen Purnell, accounting manager; Myrannnda Kleckner, communications and marketing manager; and Heidi Zimmerman, dairy program coordinator. In addition to the staff, Dr. Charlie Gardner serves as a contractor for the organization, supporting dairy transition and transformation teams coordinated through the Center.

The Center works to achieve its mission to empower the people, create the partnerships and coordinate the resources to grow dairy profitability in Pennsylvania. They also support the work of the Center Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization intended to build long-term support for Pennsylvania's dairy industry. The staff also fosters collaboration and coordination across the dairy sectors and with key dairy partners and allies.

For more information about the Center, the Center Foundation and its staff, visit centerfordairyexcellence.org and click on "About the CDE." Call 717-346-0849 for more information about how Center for Dairy Excellence programs can benefit your dairy farm or business.

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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.