



For Immediate Release

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DAIRY LEADERS OF TOMORROW STUDENTS EXPLORE VETERINARY MEDICINE

"Exploring the Bovine from the Outside In" as Part of New Exploration Experience

Harrisburg, Pa. – High school students gathered in late May to explore dairy veterinary careers through the first of its kind "Exploring the Bovine from the Outside In" Exploration Experience at Meadow Vista Farms in Bainbridge. The event is a new supplemental program to the Center for Dairy Excellence Foundation's Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow high school education program which provides hands-on learning for students interested in dairy industry careers.

Students witnessed how common diseases of cattle manifest, how diseases are treated and how cattle differ from other mammalian species in terms of digestive anatomy. The all-day workshop included a basic physical exam of a cow, an overview of bovine anatomy, and a diagnostic necropsy.

Dr. Jared Risser led the Exploration Experience. Risser instructed the students through both live animal and post-mortem examinations that encouraged students to draw upon their fundamental knowledge of biology, anatomy and physiology.

Risser facilitated the lessons because he saw the need for agriculture students to take part in experiential learning which will impact their career choices and help them advocate for production agriculture. "If we can provide opportunities like this to students at a younger age and present to them that challenge, I believe we can provide the dairy and veterinary industries with better prepared practitioners," Risser explained.

A recent graduate from Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Risser will join the team at Dairy Veterinary and Management Services in Goshen, Indiana.

The Exploration Experience expanded on Risser's passion for veterinary science by offering students the opportunity to use formal education skills in hands-on experimental learning while allowing them to engage in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning through an agricultural-focused area.

"For me, the most interesting part of veterinary medicine is going through a list of diseases and sicknesses in my head that the animal could possibly have," said Victoria Kramer, a junior at Tulpehocken High School of Berks County. "It is always an experience because the animal cannot tell you what is happening to them."

The students who attended this event were selected based on their preexisting involvement in veterinary sciences, such as being an agriculture education student active in a veterinary science career development event with FFA.



“The compliments and positive feedback that we have received from the teachers and chaperones who attended the Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow Exploration Experience have been overwhelming,” said Mary Foote, dairy education programs manager at the Center. “It was evident that students were using the skills that they obtained in the classroom and that knowledge allowed them to dive even deeper into veterinary medicine as a possible future career.”

To learn more about Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow and its Exploration Experience supplement, visit dairyleadersoftomorrow.com or contact Mary Foote, at (717) 346-0849 or via email at mfoote@centerfordairyexcellence.org.

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Established in 2010, 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. The foundation was created to develop and support programs for both the Center for Dairy Excellence and other Pennsylvania dairy organizations which educate, cultivate, and inspire a thriving and sustainable Pennsylvania dairy industry. Learn more about the foundation at centerfordairyexcellence.org.

Photo Captions:

098: Dr. Jared Risser, bottom right, instructs students on the basics of a diagnostic necropsy with the help of Austin Kreiser, center, of Elizabethtown High School at the Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow Exploration Experience.

253: Kellie Charles, left, and Simone LaPorte, right, of Lancaster County Career and Technical Training review bovine anatomy after a diagnostic necropsy at the Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow Exploration Experience.

