



CENTER FOR  
**Dairy**EXCELLENCE

## **For Immediate Release**

**Media Contact:** Myranda Kleckner, 717-346-0849;  
mkleckner@centerfordairyexcellence.org

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### **FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR BENCHMARKING DISCUSSION GROUPS**

*Center Encouraging Small Group Discussions Among Dairy Producers*

**Harrisburg, Pa.** – The Center for Dairy Excellence is offering grants to cover costs associated with discussion and benchmarking groups within Pennsylvania. To be eligible, a discussion group should be organized by a facilitator to provide an opportunity for dairy producers to share best management practices and become a source of encouragement to each other. Eligible costs are reimbursed by the Center, up to \$2,000 per fiscal year.

“The Center continues to hear more about how some farms have benefited by belonging to benchmarking groups,” said Melissa Anderson, Center for Dairy Excellence programs and operations manager. “Participating in a benchmarking group where you can exchange ideas and share insights can help farms identify opportunities to strengthen their own operations.”

Grants can cover the cost of food and meeting expenses, as well as facilitator costs, to discount any expenses incurred by the producers who participate. Fifteen grants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, with groups required to submit meeting summaries to validate expenses.

Although each group can choose their own style of reaching discussion objectives, the Center has suggested formats available. Visit [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org) under “Business Tools” and “Team Programs” to see formatting and application requirements. Facilitators are encouraged to provide details of meeting format along with your application form.

Program support is made possible through Ag Excellence funding provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. You will be notified of acceptance upon receipt of this application.

To learn more about the discussion group program, please visit [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org) or contact Melissa Anderson at [manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org) or at (717) 346-0849.

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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](http://centerfordairyexcellence.org).