

## NE Winter Dairy Management Schools Set

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — This winter, Pennsylvania dairy farmers will have access to leading dairy scientists and extension specialists from across the Northeast.

A series of five Northeast Winter Dairy Management Schools, backed by the region's land-grant universities, is to be held in January. Two of the schools will be offered in Pennsylvania.

"The schools are designed for dairy farmers who want to be successful today, tomorrow and long into the future," said Dr. Michael O'Connor, professor of dairy science in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"The participating institutions are pooling their expertise to reach a wider group of producers," he said. "Our dairy producers can learn from experts in New York

and Maine, and farmers in neighboring states can learn from our experts. It's also a chance for producers to spend time with other successful producers and dairy professionals, discuss new ideas and find out how other farmers use the latest information."

Dates and locations for the schools are Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, Jan. 17-18; Holiday Inn-East, Bethlehem, Jan. 19-20; Radisson Inn-North Country, West Lebanon, NH, Jan. 24-25; Holiday Inn-Turf, Albany, NY, Jan. 26-27; and Sheraton Inn, Batavia, NY, Jan. 28-29.

Faculty from Cornell University, the University of Maine and Penn State will address a wide range of dairy management topics. The first day's morning session will explore the profitability of forage systems, detailing which

systems are appropriate for different types of farms. Nutrient management for forage systems also will be covered.

The afternoon session will focus on future dairy management considerations and how sharp business skills shape a dairy farm's future. "Topics covered in this session will include total quality management, competitive dairy businesses, reproductive technologies and nutrient management policies," said O'Connor.

An educational exposition is to be held from 7-9 p.m. on the first day. Participants can view several new videotapes related to dairy management and use spreadsheets to evaluate their management skills. Specialists will be available to meet with participants in small groups or individually.

The second day begins with a

demonstration of the National Dairy Database, a comprehensive source of dairy management information. Another session addresses managing the cow in transition, focusing on nutrition, management, health and economics from dry-off through calving. Other topics to be discussed include aids for estrous detection, mastitis control and culling.

The registration fee is \$30 if forms are received by Jan. 13, for the Pennsylvania seminars, or Jan.

18, for the New Hampshire and New York seminars. The fee will be \$40 after these dates and for walk-ins. Lunch and dinner are available at an additional cost.

For more information and a registration form, contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension offices in Lehigh or Westmoreland counties, or contact Dr. Michael O'Connor, Department of Dairy and Animal Science, 324 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802; (814) 863-5491.

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

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