

Video To Showcase Innovative Pennsylvania Dairy Services And Products

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders is looking for examples of innovative and creative ways businesses and institutions are providing services to dairy producers in Pennsylvania. Selected examples will be showcased in a video that will be produced this fall.

The goal of the video is show the wide range of non-traditional support services available to Pennsylvania producers, and to encourage producers to look beyond the traditional programs and services when it comes to operating their businesses.

"Pennsylvania dairy producers are in an enviable position because of the creative and innovative sales and service programs made available to them today by an aggressive support industry," said Joel Rotz, president of the

Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders. "Our goal through this video is create an awareness among producers of the many services that may help them be more competitive and profitable."

Companies and educational institutions are encouraged to contact the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders if they are offering a unique or non-traditional service or product to Pennsylvania producers.

The video oversight committee has identified six categories of products and services: professional consulting; professional services; specialization; marketing and promotion; and education/training.

An example of the kind of services that will be showcased in the video is the professional business planning service now provided by several companies and private consultants. Other exam-

ples are the programs and services being developed to help producers as they employ multicultural workers on dairy farms.

Anyone is welcome to suggest ideas for consideration for the video. Information should be sent to the Pennsylvania Dairy

Stakeholders at 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057, or contact Alan Bair at 717-948-6328, fax 717-948-6528, or e-mail at nab4@psu.edu.

PFB Concerned Over Possible Importation Of Heifers

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farming organization, expressed concern this week about a possible importation of heifers from Uruguay. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently received requests to bring at least three lots of heifers into the state.

"Farm Bureau is interested in protecting the viability of the state's agricultural industry, which means protecting the health of Pennsylvania's livestock is a foremost concern," said PFB President Guy Donaldson.

"the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is a staunch supporter of international trade, however, when it is possibly risking our own animals, we need Pennsylvania's Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission to review all possible precautions."

"PFB urges the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services to make every effort to ensure that USDA does not approve the importation before all avenues of concern can be favorably resolved," said Donaldson.

"The United States and Pennsylvania have expended large amounts of time and

money in efforts to eradicate these diseases, so we certainly don't want to take any avoidable health risks."

Concern has arisen because of the uncertainty of Uruguay's status with regard to tuberculosis, brucellosis, blue tongue and, despite Uruguay's "free status," foot and mouth disease, due to recent outbreaks in neighboring countries. The animal health risk presented by these uncertainties is amplified by the number of cattle to be imported, and the probability that these animals ultimately would be distributed to many different herds throughout the state.



September 24 - 28

FARM SHOW COMPLEX
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Jr. Dairy Management Contest - Tuesday

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Youth Showmanship Contest - Sunday

All-Dairy Antiques & Collectibles Show
Sat. 10a.m.-5p.m.; Sun. 10a.m.-8p.m.; Mon. & Thurs. 8a.m.-5p.m.; Wed. 8a.m.-8p.m.

Commercial Exhibits & Trade Show - Daily

Monsanto Farm Tours

9a.m.-4p.m.

Wednesday, September 27th

Maximizing genetic potential through facilities management.

Farm Tour & Lunch is free, compliments of Monsanto. However,
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Call (717) 787-2905 or (800) 300-6209

Meet at the Monsanto Booth in the All-American Dairy Activity Center
at 9a.m. Wednesday, September 27th.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, September 23

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Dairy Antiques & Collectibles Show,
Dairy Activity Center
6:30 p.m. - Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant,
Sheraton Harrisburg East

Sunday through Thursday - September 24 thru 28

12:00 Noon to 8:00 p.m. - Country Craft Market,
Dairy Activity Center

Sunday, September 24 - Youth Programs

10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Dairy Antiques and Collectibles Show,
Dairy Activity Center
12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m. - Community "Meet a Cow" Day,
Maclay Street Lobby
1:00 p.m. - Youth Showmanship Contest, Large Arena
5:00 p.m. - Senior Division Fitting Competition, Small Arena
6:00 p.m. - Pennsylvania Junior Guernsey Breeders
Meeting & Social, Room D
7:00 p.m. - Pennsylvania Ayrshire Youth Meeting & Social,
Room E
7:00 p.m. - Pennsylvania Junior Jersey Meeting, Room C
7:00 p.m. - Careers and Opportunities Night,
Dairy Activity Center
8:00 p.m. - Junior Dairy Show Olympics, Small Arena

Monday and Tuesday - September 25 thru 26

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Dairy Antiques and Collectibles Show,
Dairy Activity Center

Monday, September 25

8:00 a.m. - Invitational Youth Dairy Cattle Judging Contest
(4-H, FFA, and Collegiate) Small Arena
8:00 a.m. - Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show, Large Arena
7:00 p.m. - Judging Contest Awards Banquet,
Sheraton Harrisburg East

Tuesday, September 26

9:00 a.m. - Eastern National Ayrshire Show, Large Arena
9:00 a.m. - Pennsylvania Fall Holstein Championship
Show, Large Arena
10:00 a.m. - Junior Dairy Management Contest,
2nd Floor, Main Building
10:00 a.m. - Pennsylvania 4-H and FFA Dairy Judging
Forum, Small Arena
3:00 p.m. - Eastern National Milking Shorthorn Show
Large Arena

Wednesday, September 27

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Dairy Antiques and Collectibles Show,
Dairy Activity Center
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Monsanto Farm Tours, Leaving from
Dairy Activity Center
9:00 a.m. - National Guernsey Show - Large Arena
9:00 a.m. - Eastern National Brown Swiss Show
Large Arena
6:00 p.m. - All American Buffet - Dairy Activity Center
7:00 p.m. - Eastern National Holstein Sale, Small Arena

Thursday, September 28

8:00 a.m. - Eastern National Holstein Show, Large Arena
8:00 a.m. - Mid-Atlantic Regional Jersey Show,
Large Arena

**** - Supreme Champion (selection following the
Holstein and Jersey shows), Large Arena

PLAN TO ATTEND!

Soil Test To Determine Alfalfa Fertility

Paul Craig
Dauphin County
Forage Crops Agent

Although haymaking conditions have not been ideal this year because of unpredictable weather forecasts, the total amount of forage production from most alfalfa stands is significant.

Many alfalfa producers will soon be completing fifth cutting with yields approaching seven tons of dry matter per acre on many fields. Fertility programs for established stands of alfalfa should be reviewed at this time of year and topdress additions made before winter dormancy.

Fertility studies have shown that one-ton of alfalfa hay equivalent removes 15 to 20 pounds of phosphorous and 45 to 60 pounds of potash. Simple math calculations for a five-ton hay yield show that removal of 100 pounds of phosphate and 300 pounds of potash are not uncommon. In fact, potash is so valuable for alfalfa production that most top alfalfa producers regularly apply 300 pounds of potash or more per acre to their established stands.

It is difficult to appreciate how much potassium is removed by a productive alfalfa stand, and underfertilization of alfalfa is common. Soil K levels can become depleted in only a couple of years, resulting in lower yields and reduced winter survival.

No agronomist would responsibly recommend the application of any nutrient to a crop without a soil test to determine existing soil nutrient levels. However, too few producers use soil testing to base their nutrient and manure inputs.

The best method to determine alfalfa top dress requirements is to use a soil test. Without a soil test, fertilizer additions can be based on estimated crop removal rates and crop records.

When and how often should you apply topdress fertilizer? The recommended program to maintain alfalfa production is to split potash applications two times a season. Immediately following first cutting and early fall are the best times. By applying after first cut, the producer is providing nutrients to the second and third crops. Applying nutrients early in the fall allows the plant to enter the winter dormancy period in optimal fertility status. It is critical, however, that fall fertilizers are applied well in advance of fall dormancy and freezing soil conditions.

Avoid application when soils are soft — such as early spring, when injury to crowns is likely. Split applications to avoid salt injury and provide nutrients at optimum time periods. High rates applied to wet foliage can also cause leaf injury. Apply topdress as soon after harvest as possible.

Alfalfa absorbs most nutrients from the six to eight inches of the soil. Unlike nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium move very little through the soil. For this reason, alfalfa fertility programs must begin with optimum soil fertility level at establishment with topdress applied to meet plant removal rates.