

Penn State Begins Capitol Region Dairy Program

• DairyWorks Workshop, 2 Sessions. Intended for farmers who are either expanding their herds and have personnel management issues or large-herd dairy managers who recognize personnel management as a bottleneck in their operations. Content focuses on the steps the dairy manager can take to manage employees and to develop systems for every part of the dairy. With expansion, more and more dairy industry professionals are managing people, not cows. They need systems in place to teach their workers how to make the right cow-side decisions. March 27-28. Fee and Location to be announced. Presented by Dr. Tom Fuhrmann, international large herd dairy consultant.

• Milking Systems and Parlors, Planning and Managing for Quality Milk and Profitability, An NRAES Event, A Conference for Producers and Their Advisors. Camp Hill, Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Quality milk, milk production per man-hour, and

profitability can be optimized on dairy farms through careful management and capital investments. New developments and research have occurred concerning milking parlors, milking systems, data collection and use, cow comfort, and cow handling to improve milk production. Producers considering expansion seek guidance on purchasing new milking systems and parlors as well as on effectively managing these systems.

On Jan. 30-Feb. 1 in Camp Hill, more than 30 experts on milking systems and parlors will share their knowledge and answer your questions at a conference entitled "Milking Systems and Parlors: Planning and Managing for Quality Milk and Profitability." The conference is being coordinated by NRAES, the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service.

The conference will provide guidance on planning milking parlors, parlor efficiency, testing and troubleshooting milking systems, system cleaning, data

collection and management, workforce management, cow behavior, ventilation, and milk cooling. The target audience includes producers, their advisers, milking managers, extension educators, service and supply industry representatives, milk plant field staff, veterinarians, sanitarians, engineers, and dairy scientists.

Producers with 200 or more milking cows and those considering expansion will find this program of interest. The conference will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 and end at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 1. For the evening of Jan. 30, a tabletop exhibit session/reception is planned, with hors d'oeuvres provided by industry sponsors. For the evening of Jan. 31, four concurrent discussion sessions are planned on the topics of robotics, data collection and management, workforce management, and remodeling parlors for 50-200-cow dairies. The conference is designed to allow plenty of time for audience questions and informal discussion. A postconference workshop for milking system technicians with intermediate to advanced skills is also being planned.

Conference speakers will include Don Rogers, First Pioneer Farm Credit; David Reid, Rocky Ridge Veterinary Service; Steve Spencer, Penn State University; Steve Eicker, Valley Ag Software; G. M. (Jerry) Jones, Virginia Tech; Doug Reinemann, University of Wisconsin; Jack Rodenburg, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs; Andy Johnson, Total Herd Management Services; Steve Stewart and Paul Rapnicki, University of Minnesota; Curt Gooch, Cornell's PRO-DAIRY program; Richard Stup, Penn State's Dairy Alliance Program; Edmond Pajor, Purdue University; speakers from leading manufacturers of milking equipment and parlors; and more.

If your company is interested in sponsoring, contact NRAES for information on the benefits of sponsoring. The following professional organizations have cooperated in making this conference possible: American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP); American Dairy Science Association (ADSA), American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS), National Mastitis Council (NMC), and Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA), Inc. Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders Note that ARPAS has approved 12 continuing education credits for this conference.

The registration fee is \$250 if postmarked by Jan. 8 and \$295 after Jan. 8 or at the door. The fee includes one conference admission, the tabletop exhibit session/reception on Jan. 30, one lunch, break refreshments, evening discussions, and a copy of the conference proceedings.

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dairy ration programs. Feeding practices such as dry matter and pH measurement, visual appraisal of forages, TMR mixing strategies, and the ensiling process are covered. Limited to the first 25 participants. Jan. 4. (Mason Dixon Farm, Adams County).

• Milker Training. 1 Day. Fee: \$35 (lunch included) This workshop provides training for dairy milking employees on proper milking procedures, mastitis detection, producing high-quality milk, and sampling cows for milk culturing. Milking employees can improve their ability to milk cows with a consistent routine using recommended milking practices. Mastitis detection and prevention will be highlighted. Limited to the first twenty-five participants. March 13. (Hershey Brothers, Manheim, Lancaster County).

Managing A Hispanic Workforce

• Managing the Hispanic Workforce. Dairy producers currently employing a Hispanic workforce, those considering workers from another culture, and industry professionals should plan to attend this conference. Knowledgeable speak-

ers and workshop leaders will present reliable information, free of the myths and misunderstandings some producers have about this issue. Conference participants will gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the Hispanic culture. They will learn methods of organization and communication to help workers and producers succeed. In addition, participants will learn about regulations governing alien workers and ways to avoid legal problems. To register, contact conference coordinator Dee Brothers at (607) 255-4478, dab2@cornell.edu. Jan. 16 (Harrisburg).

• Employee Management, Dairy Feeding Systems Management. 3 Sessions. Fee: \$500 (includes a feeder's kit valued at \$500). As managers seek to improve the efficiency of the dairy feeding system, they need tools to train employees to effectively prepare, deliver, and record appropriate dairy rations to the herd. This three-day workshop provides the resources that managers need to train dairy feeding employees and to set up systems for monitoring and controlling dairy rations. March 14 (Lebanon Extension Office); March 21 (Lebanon Extension Office); March 28 (Bomberger Dairy Farm).

te and Cornell Universities are 17 in Harrisburg and Jan. 18 in

and practical." "It increased my knowledge because I'm new to feeding." Dairy feeding employees are encouraged to attend this workshop to learn about important feeding management practices that influence successful

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