

# Dairy Feeder's Training Workshops Announced

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Managing dairy feeding programs for optimum cow performance is critically important and merits special attention to improve cow performance and health. Penn State cooperative extension will be helping producers design and implement systems to manage and control feeding programs. Through a series of three hands-on workshops, dairy managers and feeders will receive a feeder's kit to help them achieve optimum performance from their dairy rations. The first two workshops will be conducted at the Lebanon County extension office Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 with the third session planned for Meadow Wood Farms near Lebanon on Oct. 9. Sessions run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Penn State instructors will include: Tim Beck, Jud Heinrichs, Virginia Ishler, Dan McFarland, Richard Stup, and Gabriella Varga.

A feeder's kit will be provided for each farm enrolled and participants will receive instruction on how to effectively use each of the items in the kit during the sessions. The feeder's kit includes:

Optional items (must purchase or bring your own to workshop):

- Microwave oven (add \$80).
- Digital gram scale (add \$125).
- Particle size separator (add \$160).

Included with \$135 base registration fee:

- pH paper.
- Supply list to purchase additional items.
- Flour sifter to separate concentrate feeds.
- Sample pan.
- Calculator.
- TMR mix sheet spreadsheet.
- Dry matter history spreadsheet.
- Feed cost control spreadsheet.

• Three-ring binder with dairy feeding publications.

• "From Feed to Milk" videotape.

• Silage preservation videotape.

• CD including all materials in binder and software.

Participants should bring a sample of all ensiled forages and a TMR sample to the program. They will have the opportunity to practice measuring forage dry matter, pH and particle size. Measuring, plotting, and analyzing particle size data will also be featured.

During the second day's program, participants will examine NDF intake for their herds and demonstrate their understanding of this fiber management tool. A hands-on computer lab will feature two spreadsheets that will help managers and feeders monitor ration changes and help control TMR mixes. The afternoon segment will feature carbohydrate management in dairy rations.

The final session at Meadow Wood Farms will begin with instruction on silage sampling and pH assessment in ensiled forages. Feed bunk observations, including the particle size of the TMR, feed refusal, and cow observations will be featured. Feeding facility fundamentals will be taught including bunk issues and design,

feeding area surfaces, and interactions of nutrition and dairy facilities, including air quality, temperature, cooling, cow comfort, and cud chewing time.

The fee for additional participants from the same farm is \$40 per person to cover meal and refreshment costs. The program is limited to 10 farms so that individual assistance can be provided during the many hands-on activities planned. Registration is requested by Aug. 31. Full payment

of the base registration fee on or before Aug. 31 entitles the farm to one free additional participant.

To register for the sessions, contact the customer service desk at the York extension office at 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402-9041. Please indicate if you will be purchasing the optional items at the time of registration. Telephone (717) 840-7408, Fax (717) 755-5968, or e-mail Tim Beck at tbeck@psu.edu.

## Pa. Farm Bureau To Sponsor Web Conference On Biotechnology

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farming organization, will host a free one-hour web conference on biotechnology and animal health, Friday, Aug. 10, from noon to 1 p.m. The program is designed to answer the concerns of farmers. This will be a live, interactive program, during which you will be able to submit questions via phone, fax or e-mail.

Topics to be discussed are: The Latest Advances Regarding Biotech Products, Handling and Safety Concerns, Protecting Your

Animals and Farms from Disease.

Here's what you need in advance of the program:

1. A computer with internet capability and speakers.
2. Real Player — this is software to view the video (download from the link on Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Website — www.pfb.com).
3. To preregister for the conference, go to www.pfb.com. After registering, you will receive log-on instructions and a password to access the program on Aug. 10, via e-mail.

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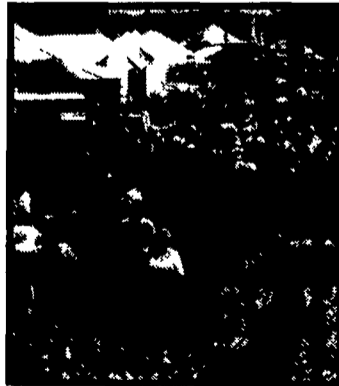
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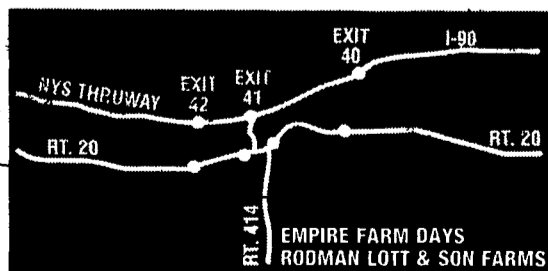
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