

# Dairy Farm Planning Resource Guide Soon Available

Pennsylvanians who are considering building new dairy facilities or expanding their current operations will soon have a new tool to get the job done. The Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders, along with Penn State's Dairy Alliance and various industry supporters, are compiling a Dairy Farm Planning Resource Guide to assist farmers in the correct steps to take and resources available to use when building or expanding a dairy operation.

This guide, a result of the Dairy Development Executive Task Force meeting conducted in April 2002, will include a comprehensive list of the steps that should be taken in preparing for and constructing a new dairy operation or expanding an existing one. It will include information on business planning, permitting, community relations, construction planning, operational planning and much more.

The value of the guide lies in its resources. Within each step, the guide will list resources that dairy owners may contact for help or information. As the resources listed will continually grow and change, the

guide will be available to producers online. Printed versions will also be available upon request.

"Expanding a modern dairy farm is a complex and time-consuming job. The Dairy Farm Planning Resource Guide should help producers save time and avoid costly mistakes during the planning and construction phases of a building program," said Chuck Cruickshank, Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders president.

The guide should be available by late fall 2002.

## Tighter Nutrient Restrictions

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guidelines, dairy producers were still having difficulty adjusting to the new requirements. The problem has gone unmonitored for so long, that it is difficult to find a way to adapt any early solution to the problem. I feel that producers in the rest of the Northeast can look at this as an opportunity to better situate their business for future production and growth. It is very likely that similar guidelines will be hastened into place in our region as well, so whatever can be done to reduce P waste now should be implemented. This can be accomplished by upgrading manure systems, reducing P feeding levels in the ration, and soil testing to determine P content, etc.

Knowing where you are today in relation to future regulations will ease the transition into a more intensive waste management system.

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