

This article appeared in *Farmshine* on August 22, 2008



Dean Steele to PDMP: 'Thanks for all you do'

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Special for Farmshine

BELLEFONTE, Pa.— “We’ll have another year of increased enrollments as we’ve had for four or five years now,” said Robert Steele, Dean of Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences during his impromptu visit to PDMP’s summer Issues Forum in Bellefonte on August 7.

“We were dropping 10 to 12 years ago, but turned the tide thanks to people like you,” he said. “Yes there are challenges out there, but real opportunities as well. Thank you for continuing to bring our young people here. We couldn’t do it without you.”

Dean Steele noted that PDMP is “helping the 16, 17, 18 year old kids who have not been exposed to agriculture as they were years ago, to be more aware of what’s out there: the opportunities and rewarding, enriching careers. Even here at your meeting today,” he said. “It’s nice to see the age distribution of people attending the Forum. It’s a very encouraging sign.”

Steele has been the Dean of Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences for nearly 12 years. He noted this year will be his last, saying that “12 years is a long time for this position, but I’ll still be around and involved in some way in the agricultural community.”

He indicated how much he has appreciated and enjoyed his planning sessions with PDMP.

“Engaging with a group like yours has helped our programs remain relevant to producers,” said Dean Steele. “All programs at Penn State have this first and foremost in mind and in our priorities. Having come from Wisconsin just when their Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin was getting started, it has been a pleasure to be a part of your group from the beginning in the formation of the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania.”

Having listened to the day's panel of speakers discussing dairy animal well-being and quality assurance, Dean Steele noted that "the issues you were talking about years ago are different from the issues you are talking about today. That's a good sign. That's healthy."

He concluded with a special thanks "for all you do for Penn State. We're going in the right direction and it's because of folks like you."

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