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PDMP

PROFESSIONAL DAIRY
MANAGERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Toll Free: 877-326-5993

Taking their commitment to the next level as 'Premier Partners'

BELLFONTE, Pa. — When the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania initiated the Premier Partner program a year ago, the Board envisioned these companies assuming a greater role in the organization than the traditional sponsors. The investment of Premier Partners is more than financial, it is a commitment to broaden their involvement in the organization and thus have a greater influence on the future of the dairy industry in the Commonwealth.

Professional Dairy Managers of PA
'SCHEDULE 2009-10
Call 877.326.5993 for Details

JUNE 4, 2009 — Lancaster County — Family Relationships on the Dairy Farm (includes tour of Rohrer Dairy Farm LLC)

AUG. 6, 2009 — Juniata County — The Green Movement and the Dairy Industry (includes tour of Reinford Farms LLC dairy and anaerobic digester)

NOV. 5, 2009 — Cumberland County — Dairy's Place in the World Markets (includes tour of Giant Distribution Center)

MARCH 2010 — Dairy Tour location changed from Mexico to Northeast U.S.

This partnering vision became a reality when the Premier Partners were invited in November to form an advisory group. This group has already met twice with PDMP leadership. The result has been that these companies are now providing resources, expertise, and contacts to the benefit of the dairy producer members of PDMP.

During a planning meeting for the Dairy Industry Issue Forums that will be conducted by PDMP in 2009, the original Premier Partners were able to provide insights that proved helpful in defining the key topics that will influence producer decision-making in the coming year.

Representatives from the Premier Partners also stepped up to help develop specific programs in the Issue Forum series.

Charlie Gardner from Cargill is chairing the program for the June 4 session on family relationships on the dairy farm.

Jeff Harding of Elanco is one of the three leaders forming the August 6 program that will focus on the green movement and the dairy industry.

The November 5 program on dairy's place in the world market is being planned by Gordon Hoover of Land O'Lakes and Mike Hosterman of AgChoice. Matt Antos of Pioneer and Dennis Milhoan of Lancaster Dairy Farm Automation have offered to be resources as needed.

The six founding Premier Partners have been joined in 2009 by three more companies who will participate in future advisory council meetings and will become equally involved in this new partnership in PDMP's education, advocacy, information, and networking services.

When asked why their companies decided to become Premier Partners this year, representatives from each of the business cited PDMP's forward-thinking leadership and the importance of this organization as a collaborative forum for dairy producers and allied industry.

"We find great value in the educational forums that PDMP has developed. Their willing-

ness to bring topnotch industry leaders in for high quality programs makes these forums a must," said Jeff Ainslie on behalf of Triple H Construction, which has supported the organization in some capacity since its inception. "Additionally, we see value in a continued commitment to bridge the ever present gap between the regulatory leadership in Pennsylvania and the on-farm leadership. PDMP-driven collaboration between all parties is a must for our state's dairy industry to prosper."

Ainslie also noted that Triple H is committed to supporting progressive and forward thinking organizations. "We appreciate the fact that PDMP recognizes that our industry has a place for all types of dairy operations," he said. "The one common theme we see is that they are interested in supporting open-minded and interested dairy operations of all shapes and sizes."

On behalf of T.A. Seeds, Taylor Doebler observed that instead of focusing on getting more and more members, "This is an organization caring about the producer. PDMP involves its membership in education, keeps its membership updated on important dairy issues, and lobbies other organizations and policy makers on the importance of the dairy industry and the health of the dairy producers," he said.

"Today it is more important than ever to have a strong voice in our communities about all the policies that effect agriculture especially the dairy industry, which is our base agricultural industry in Pennsylvania," Doebler added. "PDMP pulls all of these strengths together and offers education and solutions."

Doebler also notes that since "Our company relies on the dairy industry as our base, being a part of the organization lets us understand what we need to do help the dairy producer and keep us working toward better dairy-oriented products. I have traveled to other parts of the United States and other countries of the world, an organization like PDMP is paramount to main-

taining and growing a healthy dairy industry. Areas of the world that do not have organizations like PDMP are disadvantaged in achieving progress in the future. Some producers do not realize the benefits of an organization like PDMP until it is gone."

Jeff Mamett, with Pfizer Animal Health echoes these thoughts and adds that, "We recognize the way PDMP provides a forum for collaboration among dairy farmers and businesses," he said. "We have an interdependent stake in the strength and sustainability of the dairy industry in Pennsylvania."

Mamett also talked about the organization's membership, noting that, "It's constituency is dairymen who have a forward-looking mindset who have the intention of being in the business for the long haul," he said. "And are looking at the dairy industry from beyond their own farm gate in terms of how to improve it and how to insure the vitality of the industry in the state."

Mamett adds that he always looks forward to the educational meetings and the opportunities for interaction, collaboration, fellowship and networking. "I think this is important. It provides a vehicle for affiliated people who may not come in contact with each other in their day-to-day business," he said. "Here, we have the chance to communicate with each other about areas of common interest and concern. In doing that, it helps everybody do a better job for the dairy industry because we're more able to see issues from a different set of eyes and open whole new perspectives and certainly identify some potential synergies."

"The prime value is that PDMP is a forum for collaboration among the stakeholders in this industry who have an interest and concern in the future health of the industry," he said.

For more information about the Premier Partner program or to become a producer member or to learn more about upcoming Issues Forums, please visit our website at www.pdmp.org.

PDMP thanks these Premier Partners for taking their commitment and collaboration to the next level!



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