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PDMPPROFESSIONAL DAIRY
MANAGERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Toll Free: 877-326-5993

Seats are still available for Vermont Tour

By SHERRY BUNTING
Special for Farmshine

BURLINGTON, Vt.—Seats are still available on the bus for the Vermont Dairy Tour March 23-26, 2010, hosted by the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) and Penn State Dairy Alliance.

The Tour will spotlight dairies that have extended their reach in the marketplace by taking advantage of “value-added” opportunities.

From creameries to cow-power, tour goers will get a firsthand look at what Vermont dairies are doing to add value, produce products consumers want, and harness their dairies’ resources to capitalize on green energy.

As always, the Tour will be an opportunity

for learning together on the road.

With the dairy industry at a crossroads in terms of pricing and policy, the 2010 Dairy Tour presents a unique opportunity for PDMP to meet with other stakeholders during the main meal on each day of the tour.

On day one, tour attendees will have dinner with leaders from Dairy Farmers Working Together at the Cow Palace Steakhouse in Derby.

On day two, the tour group will meet with special guests from the Holstein Association at the Wildflower Inn, Lyndonville.

On day three, before returning home, the tour will end with lunch at the Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, with Vermont’s Secretary of Agriculture Roger Albee.

Through December 31, PDMP members have first option for seats on the bus at a member rate of \$375, which includes meals and transportation on the bus between farm stops. Lodging is not included, and Tour attendees will be responsible for their transportation to Vermont where they will meet and board the Tour bus. This is a great time to consider membership with the reduced rates for events like the Vermont Dairy Tour in March and the upcoming 2010 Pa. Dairy Summit in February.

Beginning January 1, 2010, March Dairy Tour registration will open up to non-members in the dairy industry at a cost of \$575.

For more information, call toll free at 877-326-5993 or visit www.pdmp.org.

Don't miss Summit scholarship deadline

LANCASTER, Pa.—Students and young adults between the ages of 17 and 25 may be eligible to receive financial assistance to attend the upcoming 2010 Pennsylvania Dairy Summit February 3 and 4 at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, Pa. The Summit will feature an outstanding array of speakers from around the country, and provide practical and timely information dairy producers and industry leaders.

Scholarship funding is provided by Pa. Dairy Stakeholders and the Pa. Dairymen’s Association. Young persons qualifying for the scholarship and the additional Work Force Development Board discount will pay only \$25 of the normal registration cost of \$200. To be eligible, applicants must operate a dairy farm, be employed on a dairy farm or be enrolled in an agricultural degree program in a college or trade school. All applicants must agree to attend and pay the \$25 difference at the time of registration.

Scholarships are also available to offset hotel costs. Up to 25 one- or two-night hotel scholarships are available for Dairy Leader Scholarship winners. Each hotel scholarship has a maximum value of \$220 and may be used only on February 2 and/or 3, 2010.

The scholarship application deadline is December 31, 2009, and applications must be mailed to N. Alan Bair, Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057. Applications and complete conference information are available at www.padairysummit.org.

Searchable Silage Trial data available online

BELLEFONTE, Pa.—What if you could look at the major commercial corn silage hybrids in the maturity ranges important for your operation and compare them using standardized testing methods?

PDMP Corn Silage Project Leader Gary Kline of Y Run Farms, LLC, Bradford County, Pa., talked about the silage research trials at the organization’s Issue Forum in November. The searchable hybrid data from the 2009 season trial has been available for a few weeks. This is one of the services PDMP provides to producers in fulfilling its mission of: “Seeking to advance the dairy industry in Pennsylvania through improved productivity and profitability.”

Providing cutting edge, real-world performance information has been the mission of the Research and Development Committee of the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) ever since the organization teamed up with Penn State and FORAGE Data several years ago to provide a comprehensive and unbiased comparison of hybrid performance profiles and deliver them in an easy-to-search format at the PDMP website (www.pdmp.org).

If you can benefit from unbiased, comprehensive yield and nutrient information presented in a powerful application, simply fill out the interactive form located in the Silage Trial area of the website, using your farm’s criteria, and then begin to take a unique look at the performance of silage hybrids with the exact characteristics you need to make your operation more productive and efficient.

There are three steps to selecting better silage hybrids:

1. Choose one of the hybrid maturity groups you would like to evaluate.
2. Provide some basic information about your herd and feeding regimen:
 - How many cows do you feed daily? (explain)
 - How many pounds of corn silage do you feed daily per cow (on average) (based on 35% DM / 65% moisture silage)? (explain)
3. Select the three characteristics most important to you when choosing a silage hybrid.

Dairy Tour To Vermont March 23 - 26, 2010



Hosted by:

Professional Dairy Managers of PA and
Penn State Dairy Alliance,
an initiative of Cooperative Extension**Only one bus is available.**

Until December 31, PDMP Members will have the first option on seats. On January 1, 2010 the remaining seats will be available on a first come-first served basis to anyone in the dairy industry. The registration fee includes all meals and bus transport during the tour; hotel reservations will be made for you, but are not included in the fee.



2010 Dairy Tour Itinerary

Dairy Producers On the Road and Learning Together
A Tour with an Emphasis on Value Added Opportunities

Tuesday, March 23 – Arrive in Burlington, Vermont

(Transportation to and from Vermont is on your own - either drive or fly into Burlington International Airport)

7:00 pm - Welcome Reception at the hotel (Tour travelers meet & receive their information packets; light refreshments)
Reception Sponsored by Dairy Lea Cooperative and Dairy Farmers of America - Northeast Council

Wednesday, March 24 – Dairy Tour Day #1

6:00 am - Breakfast at the hotel and at 7:00 am bus departs for stops at:

- ▶ Green Mountain Dairy, Sheldon, VT
 - ▶ Branon’s West View Maples, Fairfield, VT - At the height of maple sugaring season!
- 11:30 am - Lunch at West View Maples
- ▶ Pleasant Valley Farm, Richford, Vermont

6:00 pm - Dinner at Cow Palace Steakhouse, Derby, VT with leaders from Dairy Farmers Working Together
Dinner Sponsored by GHD, Inc. and Martin Machinery, LLC

Thursday, March 25 – Dairy Tour Day #2

6:00 am - Breakfast at the hotel and at 7:00 am bus departs for stops at:

- ▶ Cow Town Dairy, Derby, VT
 - ▶ Maxwell Neighborhood Dairy, Coventry, VT
- 11:30 am - Lunch at a Coventry restaurant as guests of Vermont Feed Dealers and Manufacturers Assoc.
- ▶ Jasper Hill Dairy & Creamery, Greensboro, VT
 - ▶ Cabot Creamery, Cabot, VT

7:00 pm - Dinner at Wildflower Inn, Lyndonville, VT with farm hosts & representatives from the Holstein Association

Friday, March 26 – Dairy Tour Day #3

6:00 am - Breakfast at the hotel and at 7:00 am bus departs for stops at:

- ▶ Hatchland Dairy, North Haverhill, NH (just over the state line)
- ▶ Vermont Butter & Cheese, Websterville, VT

12:30 pm - Lunch at Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, VT with Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Roger Albee

1:30 pm - Depart for Burlington (Airport arrival at approx. 2:30 pm and then return to Doubletree Hotel for car pick-up.)

All PDMP programs are supported in part by the Premier Partners.

