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DIRECTIONS:

To: Berks County Agricultural Center,
1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533

Berks County is located in southeastern Pennsylvania, its principal city and county seat is Reading, situated approximately 26 miles southwest of Allentown and 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

The following are directions for the major interstate highways but do not contain details, so you are encouraged to use maps or GPS to get specific directions from your location.

FROM THE EAST/New England:
Take I-95 South or I-95 South to I-90 West, to I-78 West

FROM THE NORTH:
Take I-81 South to I-380 S, PA-33 S and I-78 E to US-222 S in South Whitehall Township. Take exit 54A from I-78 W

FROM THE WEST:
Take I-76 East

FROM THE SOUTH:
Take I-81 North

LODGING:

There are many options for lodging in the greater Leesport area, with Reading and Wyomissing PA close by. Hotels are booking up fast and the rates will rise the closer we get to Field Days, so you are encouraged to make plans now rather than waiting until September. A Google search of your favorite travel site is the best place to start. These days, cancellation policies are pretty flexible, so keep that in mind if you aren't totally sure you will be able to attend. In addition to hotels, inns, camping and RV sites, VRBO (www.vrbo.com) and Airbnb (www.airbnb.com) offer vacation rentals, ranging from single rooms to whole houses.

We hope to see you at the 26th Annual NODPA Field Days in Leesport, PA on September 24th and 25th and we hope you will register today! Please contact Nora Owens, NODPA Field Days Coordinator, if you have questions or to register early. Call 413-772-0444, if you reach the voicemail, please leave a message, or email her at noraowens@comcast.net.

ABOUT NODPA:

The mission of the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance is to enable organic dairy family farmers, situated across an extensive area, to have informed discussion about matters critical to the wellbeing of the organic dairy industry as a whole. Contact Ed Maltby, Executive Director, by phone, 413-772-0444, or by email, ednodpa@comcast.net. Visit the website at www.nodpa.com.

QUESTIONS? If you have questions about the NODPA Field Days, contact Nora Owens, NODPA Field Days Coordinator, at noraowens@comcast.net or 413-772-0444.

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Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
c/o Ed Maltby
30 Keets Road
Deerfield, Ma 01342



Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance

The 26th Annual
NODPA Field Days

*Hope for the Future:
Strategies for Success*



September 24 & 25, 2026
Berks County Agricultural
Center

1238 County Welfare Road
Leesport, PA 19533

EARLY BIRD RATE!
Register by September 12th
(Pay ahead or in-person)

* Trade Show Participants ^ Product/Food Donations

SCHEDULE: Thursday, September 24, 2026

8:30 – 11:30 am

FARM TOUR

COUNTRY SUNRISE

CREAMERY AND FARM STORE

Hosted by the Nelson Martin Family

48 Mountain View Road, Myerstown, PA 17067

Although this grass-based farm isn’t certified organic, it employs organic practices. The Nelson Martin Family manages this farm using no pesticides and herbicides. It has an on-farm processing facility where they produce milk, butter, cheese, yogurt, ice cream and grass-fed beef, all sold at their farm store. Come tour this farm where the Martin’s are using a variety of innovative practices on their thriving dairy farm.

8:30-11:30 am

Farm Tour: Country Sunrise Creamery, 48 Mountain Road, Myerstown, PA 17067, hosted by the Nelson Martin Family. Please go directly to the farm.

Noon - 1:00 pm

NODPA Field Days Registration and Lunch Berks County Agriculture Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533

1:00 - 1:30

Country Sunrise Creamery wrap-up and questions for the Martin Family.

1:30 - 3:00

Big Things from Little Packages: The Important Role of Minerals and Vitamins in Cow and Calf Health: This presentation will discuss the importance of minerals and vitamins relative to immunity and disease prevention throughout the animal's lifecycle. There will be discussions of how proper feeding of the late pregnant cow is essential for minimizing disease conditions of mastitis and uterine infections.
Presenter: Dr. Robert Van Saun, DVM, Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Penn State University.

3:00 - 3:15

Break

3:15 - 4:30

Silvopasture: The Challenges and Benefits of Adding Trees to Pasture: Strategic planning and techniques for effective tree establishment in actively grazed pastures.
Presenter: Joshua Greene, Director of Education, Trees for Graziers

4:30 - 5:00

Presentations on the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship (DGA) Program and Updates from USDA AMS personnel

5:00– 6:00

NODPA Field Days Trade Show and Social Hour

6:00 – 7:00

Banquet and NODPA Annual Meeting

7:00 – 8:30

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

Stop Farming like You’ll Never Leave: Rethinking Profit, Reinvestment, and Retirement.

Presenter: Ted LeBow
CEO, Good Roots
(formerly known as Kitchen Table Consultants) and a farmer panel

Learn about a practical, clear framework for balancing today's cash needs with tomorrow's continuity. The session tackles profitability with purpose: setting aside reinvestment capital, building retirement without starving the business, and structuring transitions that respect both the current farm family and the next generation.



Ted LeBow

8:30 pm

PROGRAM ENDS

Friday, September 25, 2026

6:30 – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast: Berks Agricultural Center

7:00 – 9:00

Producer-only Meeting: A meeting in which producers can speak freely about all things related to the organic dairy industry.

9:00 – 10:15

Renewable Energy On the Farm: Strategies to address the rising cost of energy on the farm, with innovative solutions that everyone can employ.
Presenter: Klaas Marten, Klaas and Mary-Howell Marten Farm, Penn Yan, NY

10:15 – 11:30

From Pasture to Profit—How Grazing Management Drives Intake, Milk Yield, and Efficiency: Learn how grazing decisions influence forage quality, cow behavior, and nutrient supply, and how these translate into milk yield and system-level efficiency.
Presenters: Dr. Leoni Martins, PhD., Asst. Clinical Professor of Precision Dairy Nutrition, Dept. of Animal Science, Penn State University, and Dr. James Lawhead, DVM, Extension Associate, Dairy Science, Penn State University

11:30 – Noon

Intro to Farm Tour: Spring Creek Farms 3880 North Church Street, Wernersville, PA, 19565, Friday afternoon’s farm tour.
Hosts: Forrest and Greg Stricker will give an overview of their operation and answer questions ahead of the afternoon tour.

Noon – 1:00 pm

Lunch: door prize drawing, final announcements

1:15

End of meeting and depart for Spring Creek Farms, Wernersville, PA

1:30 pm

FARM TOUR

SPRING CREEK FARMS

Hosted by Greg and Forrest Stricker

3880 North Church Street, Wernersville, PA 19565

Spring Creek Farms is one of the pioneers of organic and grass-based dairy in the US. Forrest and Greg Stricker will share their wide variety of innovative practices they use on their 600-acre (combination of owned and rented land) grass-based farm.

REGISTRATION FORM

The 26th Annual NODPA Field Days and Producer Meeting and Dinner

Early Bird Rates Until September 12th!

	COST		QTY	TOTAL
	Early	On-Site		
REGISTRATION: Thursday & Friday				
Organic dairy & transitioning dairy producers	FREE			\$0
All who aren't organic dairy producers	\$35	\$50		\$
MEALS: Thursday & Friday				
Thursday lunch for Adults	\$10	\$15		\$
Thursday lunch (under 11)	\$5	\$10		\$
Thursday dinner for Adults	\$25	\$35		\$
Thursday dinner (under 11)	\$12.50	\$15		\$
Transitioning farm member. Thursday evening dinner	Free			\$0
Friday breakfast (6:30-9am)	\$5	\$10		\$
Friday lunch	\$10	\$15		\$
NODPA NEWS SUBSCRIPTION (6 issues)	\$50			\$
DONATION TO NODPA	\$ _____			\$
				Total amount enclosed: \$

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to NODPA. Mail to: NODPA c/o Ed Maltby 30 Keets Rd., Deerfield, MA 01342. Email: ednodpa@comcast.net Phone: 413-772-0444; Fax: 866-554-9483

Pay by credit card. Circle type: Master Card • Visa

Cardholder Name: _____

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Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____ Security Code: _____

YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://nodpa.com/p/142/2026-NODPA-Field-Days>