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## **State to Host Meeting for Small Dairy Processors**

INDIANAPOLIS (15 Dec. 2010)— Increased consumer demand for local and artisan foods has sparked growth in the Indiana dairy industry, particularly among small start-up processing facilities. Operators of those facilities—often dairy producers who want to manufacture products on the farm—have a unique set of concerns unlike their larger counterparts, such as obtaining information and finding resources to comply with food safety laws.

To address some of those issues, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) will be hosting a meeting for operators of smaller-capacity dairy processing facilities. The meeting will be at the agency's Indianapolis office, located at 4154 N. Keystone Ave., at 1:30 pm on Thursday, January 20, 2011.

According to Terry Philibeck, Dairy Division Director, this will be the inaugural meeting for the Small Dairy Processors Advisory Committee. "The Board of Animal Health has various advisory committees that will meet periodically to discuss specific issues in depth and provide guidance to the members of the Board on proposed rules and agency programs," explained Philibeck.

The goals of this meeting are to:

- Hear the concerns of small dairy processors about regulatory issues related to production;
- Exchange ideas and share creative solutions to provide more opportunities for small dairy processors to be successful within state and federal regulations;
- Discuss how to meet growing consumer demand while assuring the safety of those products; and
- Increase understanding of BOAH's structure and how the inspection program works.

The meeting is open to anyone who works in the niche dairy processing industry, or is considering starting a processing facility. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP to Terry Philibeck (by email at [tphilibeck@boah.in.gov](mailto:tphilibeck@boah.in.gov) or phone at 317-544-2400) to assure ample meeting space is available.

"Because we've never had this type of meeting before, we are not sure what the response will be," said Philibeck. "We hope the small processors will see this as a valuable opportunity to participate and join us. We hope to establish this ad hoc committee as resource for our niche processors, so that sector can continue to grow."

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***\*\*Please note the new address and phone number as of Mar. 29, 2010\*\****