



GEORGIA DAIRYFAX

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Dear Dairy Producers:

The enclosed information was prepared by the University of Georgia Animal and Dairy Science faculty in Dairy Extension, Research & Teaching. We trust this information will be helpful to dairy farmers and dairy related businesses for continued improvement of the Georgia Dairy Industry.

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Sincerely,



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DAIRYFAX NEWSLETTER

The UGA Teaching Dairy: A review of 2006

Dr. Lane Ely
Dairy Extension Specialist

For all of the dairy industry, 2006 has been a year of transformation. Milk prices declined from all time highs and feed prices increased with a tremendous rise in corn prices due to the interest in alternative fuel production from corn. For the UGA Teaching Dairy it has been a year of stability after several years of changes.

During the past 12 months, 36 different students have worked at the dairy doing all of the tasks required. Some have worked all year and other have just been for a few months. Training, scheduling and finding students to work continues to be time consuming but very rewarding. The dairy is a success when one sees a student from urban Atlanta become comfortable around cows, starts to recognize problems and works at preventing them.

On the herd size several positive points were accomplished this year. Milk production has been very constant with 150 day milk per cow staying between 72 and 76 pounds. The herd had an increase of 20 cows from internal growth to reach a total of 108 milking cows. The herd is 71% first and second lactation animals. The somatic cell count has averaged 260,000. The whole herd is now on sand bedding and in renovated free stalls. This has contributed to the improved udder health with very little seasonal variation in SCC. We still have half of one row to convert.

The use of culture samples for monitoring the herd udder health is a large contributor. All cows are cultured at dry off, calving and 10 days in milk. Then samples are taken on high SCC cows or cows showing any signs of mastitis during lactation. This has helped to evaluate our prevention program and to decide on effective treatments. Also two trials are being conducted on mastitis products.

Water supply for the dairy has been improved with the drilling of a new well and the hydrofracture of our old well. This resulted in a 3 fold increase in the available water for the farm.

The calan gate (individual cow intake) area has been renovated. The free stalls have been rebuilt and converted to sand. The calan gates have been refurbished. Currently a feeding trial for added fat in the diet during early lactation is being conducted.

The breeding program continues to be focused on a September to November and January to April calving periods. Synchronization and CIDR projects with cows and heifers are being conducted.

2007 looks to be a year of change in the dairy industry. Hopefully the UGA Teaching Dairy will continue to progress.

First Southern Regional Dairy Challenge Hosts 41 Students

**Drs. Bill Graves & Lane Ely
Dairy Extension Specialist**

On Nov. 19-21, 41 students from nine southern colleges and universities participated in the first annual Southern Regional Dairy Challenge held at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center in Roanoke, Va. Dave Winston from Virginia Tech welcomed students from Alabama A & M University, Clemson University, University of Georgia, Ferrum College, University of Florida, Louisiana State University, North Carolina State University, Virginia Tech and Western Kentucky University.

The Southern Regional Dairy Challenge is an innovative three-day event designed by industry and university professionals to strengthen the dairy industry's future. Working in mixed-university teams of five students, contestants assessed all aspects of a working dairy farm and presented recommendations for improvement to a panel of judges and the participating farm family.

The UGA Team was made up of Jessica Davis, Lindsay Spencer and Olivia Mitchell. The team was coached by Rebecca Barber.

The host farm was L.R. Hammock and Sons in Chatham, Va. After hearing the students' recommendations, dairy farmer Nathan Hammock smiled and stated, "I thought I was doing great in the dairy business. Now I know there is room for improvement."

One objective of the Dairy Challenge is to create a real-life situation that stresses the importance of teamwork and professionalism. Program Chairman Dave Winston stated, "It's amazing what the students accomplished in a short time period. They built a team from scratch, analyzed the dairy farm from multiple perspectives, and made outstanding presentations to our judges to report their findings. The skills they learned through their participation in the Dairy Challenge will help them significantly as they prepare for their careers."

Students arrived at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center on the afternoon of Nov. 19. After check-in and registration, participants were split into mixed-university teams. The composite team approach provided a unique opportunity for students to build team skills as well as learn more about dairy programs at other universities. Team members got to know one another while eating pizza and then participated in team-building exercises.

Students worked to discover the strengths and capabilities of their teams, examine ingredients of effective teams, appoint a team leader, and examine personality styles of team members. At

the end of the evening, teams received detailed production, financial, nutrition and reproduction records, and began brainstorming in preparation of their farm visit.

The next morning, teams traveled to the host farm to evaluate cows, facilities and management practices. After a two-hour farm visit, teams returned to the hotel to analyze their data and develop recommendations for improvement. Each team prepared a 20-minute presentation that detailed their observations and suggestions.

During Monday night's dinner, David Craun and his wife, Julie, dairy producers from Franklin County, Va., joined the group and reflected on their approach and challenges in starting a new dairy with use of intensive grazing plus a total mixed ration. After dinner, participants enjoyed indoor go-carts, laser tag and the game room at the Thunder Valley Family Entertainment Center in Salem, Va.

On the program's final day, each team presented their evaluation and recommendations to a panel of industry judges. Teams were ranked as platinum, gold or silver – based on how well their evaluations matched the judges' evaluations of the dairy operation. All participants traveled to National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va., while they were not presenting. The Dairy Challenge ended with dinner and an awards ceremony.

Louisiana State University will host the second Southern Regional Dairy Challenge Nov. 15-17, 2007.

The Southern Regional Dairy Challenge is under the guidance and support of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, which was established in April 2002, as a management contest to incorporate evaluation of all aspects of a specific dairy business.

2007 Southeast Dairy Herd Management Conference

**Dr. Lane Ely
Dairy Extension Specialist**

An early heads up. The 2007 Southeast Dairy Herd Management Conference is scheduled for November 6-7, 2007 at the Georgia Farm Bureau Building in Macon, Georgia. Make plans to attend.

Dates To Remember

UGA Spring Dairy Show, April 13 & 14, 2007 Athens, GA

2007 UGA Dairy Heifer Show

**Dr. Bill Graves and Dr. Mark Froestchel
Professors**

The 2007 UGA Dairy Heifer show was held in Athens on February 10, 2007 at the Instructional Arena. Mike Eade (Merial) and Steve Waggoner (Clemson University) served as judges. A total of 215 animals were shown in weight classes and 168 youth participated in the showmanship competition. The winners were:

Senior Showman	Anna Savelle	Oconee County
Reserve Showman	Whitney Franks	Morgan County
Junior Showman	Randy Hurst	Elbert County
Reserve Showman	Brittany Amerson	Perry County
Grand Heavyweight Heifer	Alana Carter	Houston County
Reserve Grand Heavyweight Heifer	Whitney Franks	Morgan County
Grand Lightweight Heifer	Amanda Porter	Houston County
Reserve Grand Lightweight Heifer	Brooke Helton	White County

With \$4.00 Corn, What is Forage Quality Worth?

**Dr. Lane Ely
Dairy Extension Specialist**

With the interest in alternative feeds, the price of corn has increased dramatically as demand for ethanol from corn has increased. The result is corn increase in feed cost for dairy cows.

A series of rations for 60, 70 and 80 pounds of milk per day were done. The ration was very basic with wheat silage, corn, soybean meal 48, whole cottonseed and minerals. The price of corn was raised from \$3.00/bushel to \$4.50/bushel in \$.50 increments. As shown in table 1, the feed cost increased as the price of corn increased. As milk production increased from 60 to 80 pounds per cow, the increase in feed cost/cow/day was greater with the increase price of corn. The first set of rations were done with average quality wilted wheat silage with composition of CR=107, NeL=.58 and NDF=50.

A second set of rations were done with increased quality of wheat silage, CP=137, NeL=.63, and NDF=45. This is the equivalent of harvesting one stage earlier in the wheat development. So how did increased forage quality affect feed costs? It lowered feed cost as shown in the second part of Table 1. Feed cost increase with increasing milk production and

corn price. The value of the increased forage quality is between \$.10 to \$.19 per cow per day. For 100 cows, this is equal to \$3650 to \$6935/ year.

Being ready to harvest on time is worth while.

Table 1.

Feed Cost Per Cow Per Day				
\$ Corn/Bushel	\$3.00	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.50
Milk Production	Average Wheat Silage			
60	2.91	3.04	3.16	3.29
70	3.32	3.46	3.60	3.74
80	3.66	3.82	3.97	4.12
	Above Average Wheat Silage			
60	2.81	2.92	3.03	3.12
70	3.19	3.32	3.44	3.55
80	3.52	3.67	3.82	3.97

TOP 20 DHIA HERDS BY TEST DAY MILK PRODUCTION

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	Test Day Average				Yearly Average				
					% Days in Milk	Milk	Fat		Milk	Fat		Protein	
							%	Lbs.		%	Lbs.	%	Lbs.
Vista Farm	Jefferson	H	11	85	87	72.1	3.1	2.27	24524	3.3	816	3.0	747
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	11	218	88	70.7	4.2	2.99	24071	3.9	934	3.0	713
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	11	702	87	70.4*	3.7	2.63	24904	3.7	914	3.0	752
Scott Glover	White	H	11	94	89	69.7	3.6	2.53	23968	3.8	907	3.0	719
Krulic Dairy Farm, Inc.	Screven	H	10	94	85	67.5	3.6	2.42	24335	3.6	867	3.0	737
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	11	835	82	65.9*	3.8	2.53	25546	3.5	902	2.9	746
Brooksco Dairy	Brooks	H	11	2607	90	65.7*			25642				
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	11	128	82	65.1	4.2	2.72	21950	3.7	816	2.9	643
Agri-Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	11	216	88	64.5*	3.8	2.48	20883	3.5	738	3.5	622
Lee Whitaker	McDuffie	H	11	88	93	64.3	3.6	2.31	23448	3.7	856	3.2	741
Earnest Turk	Putnam	H	11	366	88	62.5	3.8	2.35	21837	3.8	826	3.1	676
Rufus Yoder Jr.	Macon	H	11	137	81	60.5	3.4	2.03	21609	3.5	766	3.2	681
Martin Dairy L.L.P.	Hart	H	11	268	84	60.1	3.7	2.21	23587	3.6	859	2.9	686
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	J	11	20	100	59.7	5.1	3.02	18193	5.0	908	3.5	635
Ralph Kotal	Hart	H	11	62	87	59.6	3.8	2.24	19656	3.6	713	3.0	591
R & D Dairy	Laurens	H	11	109	85	59.2	3.7	2.17	22054	3.4	749	3.0	653
Troy Yoder	Macon	H	11	150	79	58.9	3.9	2.29	23383	3.6	853	3.0	709
Irvin Yoder	Macon	H	10	132	81	58.1	3.7	2.14	25826	3.6	919	3.1	796
Horst Crest Farms	Burke	H	11	159	84	57.8	3.6	2.10	19885	3.7	728	3.0	600
B&S Dairy	Wilcox	H	11	495	88	57.6*			21202				

¹Minimum herd size of 10 cows. Yearly average calculated after 365 days on test. (Mo.) column indicates month of test. Test day milk, marked with an asterisk (*), indicates herd was milked three times per day (3X). Information in this table is compiled from Dairy Records Management Systems Reports (Raleigh, NC).

TOP 20 DHIA HERDS BY TEST DAY FAT PRODUCTION

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	Test Day Average				Yearly Average				
					% Days in Milk	Fat			Fat			Protein	
						Milk	%	Lbs.	Milk	%	Lbs.	%	Lbs.
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	12	213	94	77.0	3.8	2.95	24378	3.9	953	3.0	722
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	12	130	85	73.1	4.0	2.95	22040	3.7	824	2.9	644
Scott Glover	White	H	12	94	88	70.1	4.2	2.95	24080	3.8	910	3.0	720
Berry College Dairy	Floyd	J	12	33	85	53.1	5.4	2.88	17965	5.3	955	3.5	633
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	12	713	88	73.4*	3.6	2.65	25150	3.7	926	3.0	759
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	J	12	20	85	53.8	4.8	2.57	18390	5.0	921	3.5	642
Vista Farm	Jefferson	H	12	88	94	77.6	3.3	2.56	24713	3.3	811	3.0	750
Krulic Dairy Farm, Inc	Screven	H	12	92	83	64.9	3.9	2.55	24282	3.6	871	3.0	736
Larry Holdeman	Jefferson	H	12	148	92	63.8	3.9	2.50	18993	3.7	709	3.1	598
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	12	844	86	72.9*	3.4	2.48	25684	3.5	909	2.9	752
Larmar Anthony	Sumter	H	12	1082	87	72.7*	3.4	2.46	25421	3.4	861	2.9	749
David Moss	Morgan	H	11	105	82	58.5	4.2	2.46	19933	4.1	818	3.0	595
Sam and Jessie	Jones	J	12	94	93	45.7	5.4	2.46					
C. A. Boehs Dairy	Jefferson	H	11	81	88	59.3	4.1	2.43	21653	3.7	809	3.1	665
Agri-Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	12	228	89	67.0*	3.6	2.39	21450	3.5	759	3.0	639
Irvin Yoder	Macon	H	11	137	83	63.0	3.8	2.38	25720	3.6	917	3.1	794
T roy Yoder	Macon	H	12	158	82	62.5	3.8	2.38	23563	3.7	863	3.0	715
Kent Walker	Greene	H	12	120	87	57.1	4.1	2.36	22007	3.7	821	2.9	631
Cecil Dueck	Jefferson	H	12	69	84	65.0	3.6	2.33	21703	3.6	775	3.1	678
University of Georgia	Clarke	H	12	100	88	61.6	3.8	2.32	19968	3.8	766	3.1	625

¹Minimum herd size of 10 cows. Yearly average calculated after 365 days on test. (Mo.) column indicates month of test. Test day milk, marked with an asterisk (*), indicates herd was milked three times per day (3X).

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