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GEORGIA DAIRYFAX

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APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2010

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,

Wm. Graves

William M. Graves
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County Extension Director or County Agent

Dairyfax Newsletter

Heat Stress Abatement

by
Dr. Isaiah Smith, UGA-College of Vet Med and
Dr. Michael Overton, UGA-College of Vet Med, and
Dr. John Bernard, College of Ag and Env Sci, Tifton, GA

Heat stress is an important environmental influence that can negatively affect performance of the lactating dairy cow, most notably through decreased milk production, poor reproductive performance, and increased risk (or probability) of other diseases including mastitis, acidosis, laminitis/ lameness, and transition diseases (displaced abomasum, ketosis, retained placenta, and metritis). Heat stress directly impacts the cow's physiological function by decreasing dry matter intake (DMI). The decrease in DMI has a direct effect on milk production (as much as 10-40% or more) and plays a role in decreasing her immunity to many other diseases. Generally speaking, high producing dairy cows are more affected by heat stress because they produce more internal heat due to the higher DMI and subsequent metabolism. Recent research published using high producing dairy cows (producing greater than 77 lbs of milk), indicates that a temperature humidity index (THI) of 65°F is the critical threshold in which heat stress begins to affect production (Zimbleman, 2009). In this study, milk losses became significant above a THI of 65°F and milk yield losses per day were 4.8 lbs/cow/day between a THI of 65-73°F. Therefore, it is important to implement heat stress abatement strategies starting around 65°F, versus the traditional benchmark of 72°F, especially in high producing cows.

Cows strive to maintain a constant body temperature of 100.5-102.5°F by releasing heat to the environment and reducing the production of heat from within. Heat stress occurs when the environmental conditions are above the normal thermo-neutral zone. When this occurs, cows increase water intake, decrease feed intake, spend more time standing, and seek shade. The rate and amount of heat which is lost determines the body temperature of the cow. A key point that we must understand is that a cow's thermo-neutral zone is between 35°F and 68°F, and within this range, a cow has to expend very little energy to maintain her core body temperature. However, outside of this range, a cow must expend significantly more energy to maintain core temperature. When a cow is no longer able to maintain her core temperature, meaning that she is producing more heat than she loses to the environment, she experiences the negative consequences of heat stress. Most of the production losses that we see occur because of the redirection or diversion of energy away from milk production to the thermo-regulation process and the overall drop in DMI. In a perfect world, we would be able to set the thermostat and keep cows within the ideal thermo-neutral zone, but we know that this is not the case. Therefore, producers want to provide heat stress abatement strategies that prevent the cows from experiencing obvious clinical signs of heat stress and minimize as much of the subclinical effects as possible.

What are the signs of heat stress? On an individual cow basis, moderate clinical signs of heat stress include rapid, shallow breathing, profuse sweating, decreased activity, standing in the stall, increased water intake, and decreased DMI. More severe signs of heat stress include open-mouth breathing, panting, dehydration, tongue hanging, and those clinical signs previously listed. At the herd level, we primarily see a drop in DMI and decrease in milk production.

Methods of heat stress abatement

There are various methods of heat stress abatement that are not too complicated, but most require regular maintenance and accessibility by all the cows. Therefore, as the heat of summer approaches, we recommend a careful assessment of your farm's current strategies of heat stress abatement and consideration of some new methods of heat stress abatement.

Clean, Fresh Water- One cannot over-emphasize the importance of clean, fresh water at any time of the year, but it is of utmost importance during the summer. As a dairy health professional, this is one of the most over-looked areas that we often see when visiting farms. All cows should have access to a minimum 2-3 ft. of linear water space per 10 cows (about 3 inches per cow), distributed over a minimum of 2 watering locations per pen or group. Ideally, water tanks should never be completely empty. Empty water tanks often mean that the size is too small or that the water flow is

inadequate. Water should also be provided at or near the parlor exit with enough space to allow all cows from one side of the parlor to drink upon exit. Water intake can increase as much as 10-20 gallons per day in times of heat stress. Not only will cows be consuming less feed due to heat stress, but they will also be consuming more water. Therefore, it is extremely critical that we provide access to clean, fresh water in order to encourage an already depressed dry matter intake.

Shade-The provision of adequate shade protects the cow from direct solar radiation. It is very important that all cows have access to shade to decrease heat stress and to decrease the potential for injury and mastitis from bunching cows. An ideal shade structure in a pasture or lot should block at least 90% of solar radiation, provide about 25 ft^2 per cow, and be placed at a height of 12-16 ft in a north to south orientation. Ideally, feedbunks and the shade structures over them should be in an east to west orientation.

Natural Ventilation, Air Flow, and Fans- If facilities are designed correctly, they can significantly decrease heat stress within the herd, and therefore, one should strive to design new facilities that would allow heat stress abatement and/or continual modification of existing facilities to promote abatement. The goal of using natural ventilation and air flow is to maximize the amount of air flow or ventilation around the cow while maximizing the speed at which the air is flowing. Open sidewalls, ridge vents, and high eaves are very basic approaches that can help with air flow and heat stress abatement. Fans are also an excellent means of increasing the airflow around the cow. Fans over feed alleys and free stalls should start running when the temperature reaches 65-68 °F and run continuously to provide air speed of 4-6 mph. Fans should be placed at a height of 8 feet, or as low as possible while ensuring that they are out of the reach of the cows and machinery. Spacing of each individual fan is dependent upon size. Fans 36" in diameter should be spaced at a distance of 20-24', and fans 48" in diameter should be spaced at a distance of 24-36'. The angle of the fan is also important; they should be angled downward at approximately 30°. Finally, fans should be oriented in the direction of the prevailing wind to facilitate air flow.

Sprinklers / Soakers- The concept of wetting the surface of the cow and then evaporating it by using natural air flow or forced air from fans is a very effective method of heat stress abatement. The use of low pressure, large droplet soaker systems has been shown to be the most effective method of cooling cows, when managed properly in combination with air flow. Two primary locations to consider utilizing soakers are the feed line and holding pen. Soakers should completely wet the cow's back (usually requires only about 15-20 seconds of water-on time) and then shut-off to allow the water to evaporate off of the cow. The cycle is repeated every 3 to 15 minutes depending on the environmental conditions. As an alternative, or in combination with soaking cows, some have advocated the use of high pressure misters placed either directly in front of the fans or at a location that will allow the mist to evaporate prior to hitting the cows. This method works primarily by cooling the air versus simply cooling the cow, per se. The low pressure, large droplet soakers appear to be the most efficient in our environment, and they require less maintenance as compared to the high pressure, small droplet misting systems (Bernard, 2010).

Priority Groups

With all of the tasks of spring and early summer, one must prioritize the most important aspects of herd management, and therefore, heat stress abatement should be no different. Of course, all cows ideally should have full access to adequate heat stress abatement approaches, but when installing cooling systems, there is a general priority system that should be followed. First, all lactating, close-up dry cows, far-off dry cows, and heifers should have access to clean, fresh water within the guidelines outlined above. Secondly, all animals should have access to adequate shade. Next, holding pens and close-up/maternity pens should be equipped with soakers and fans. Cows should not be crowded, and ideally, group size should be reduced in holding pens to minimize heat stress. If possible, it would be ideal to milk lower-producing cows during the hottest part of the day. Lactating cow should then have evaporative cooling over the feed lines, followed by fans with misters over the freestalls with the highest priority given to the highest producing cows as well as the hospital pen. Finally, late lactation and far dry cows should be provided with fans and soakers.

In summary, heat stress can have a dramatic negative impact on animal productivity and health. Heat stress in dairy cattle leads to a decrease in dry matter intake, decreased milk production, poor reproductive performance, and increased risk of other diseases including mastitis, acidosis, lameness, retained placenta and metritis. Therefore, spending a little time, money, and effort in working to minimize the impact of heat stress is highly justifiable and can represent a significant return on investment to the herd.

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Bikers Visit UGA Teaching Dairy

Lane O. Ely
Professor Emeritus

On a recent Sunday afternoon 40 bikers visited the UGA Teaching Dairy. This was not a motorcycle gang on an outing. It was 40 bicyclists participating in the 2010 Tour de Farm. This was the third year of the bike ride sponsored by PLACE, Inc. and BikeAthens. PLACE, Inc is Promoting Local Agriculture and Cultural Experiences. They have organized the local farmers market in Athens. The Tour de Farms starts Friday morning and ends Sunday evening as the bikers ride over a hundred miles visiting local farms. They camp Friday and Saturday nights and have meals cooked by Athens chefs using many local products. The aim is to increase the knowledge of agriculture especially local products.

The last stop this year was the UGA Dairy. A tour of the facility and animals was conducted with a lively and entertaining discussion of dairying and crop production.

The bikers then climbed on their bikes for the last ten mile ride back to Athens, facing a stiff head wind. It was a fun afternoon for the bikers and the cows.

Dates to Remember

- July 6th- 10th- Southeast Dairy Youth Retreat, Clemson, SC
- June 24th- Animal Waste Management Education Workshop, Greene County Extension office.

Correct Semen Placement

by
W.M. Graves and R.C. Smith
UGA Extension

With summer heat stress here and many looking at gender selected semen, now is a good time to review correct semen placement at AI. After loading the gun, clean the region of the vulva to prevent contaminating the vagina and uterus. If you are not completely sure the animal is in heat, pick up the cervix and uterus and see if you get a clear mucous discharge from the vulva. If the mucus is present, it is a good sign that she is in heat.

Insert the gun into the cow upward at a 30-degree angle to avoid entering the bladder. Remember: Inseminating a cow does not require much force or pressure. Do not force the gun. Try to move the cervix around and bring it to the gun. Take your time, relax and concentrate on technique. If the cervix is over the rim of the pelvis, pull it back toward you and guide the cervix to the gun. If the gun is getting caught in folds of the vagina, try stretching the cervix away from you to free the gun and allow easier passage to the cervix.

Deposit semen in the body of the uterus. This area is less than 1 inch long and is about the size of a dime. It is located immediately in front of the cervix. A common mistake is to deposit the semen several inches into the right uterine horn.

Feel the end of the gun with your finger when you are just outside the cervix. Be sure the gun is passing through the cervix and that you are not just stretching the vagina. When the tip of the insemination gun passes through the front ring of the cervix, it is in the uterine body. Check the location by placing your index finger in front of the cervix. You should just be able to feel the tip of the gun. After you feel the tip of the gun, lift your index finger and slowly deposit the semen over a five-second period. Be sure that your fingers are not misdirecting the flow of semen or blocking a uterine horn. Reposition the gun each time the animal moves.

If the cervical mucus of a previously bred cow feels thick and sticky, the cow may be pregnant. On repeat services, it is best to deposit the semen just past the halfway point of the cervix. Be careful because you can inadvertently cause abortion.

Certain problems can occur. If you find blood on your glove, be gentler. Concentrate on placement. Practice proper sanitation procedures. While some cows are more difficult to inseminate, be patient and don't give up.

Several years ago, researchers at the Pennsylvania State University developed radiography techniques to clearly evaluate insemination accuracy. These techniques overcome some of the limitations of the earlier dye techniques used to evaluate placement. A study was reported in which 20 professional technicians and 20 owner-inseminators were evaluated using the radiography technique. Each person inseminated a total of 20 reproductive tracts. Radiographs were taken to access inseminating gun placement. The data showed that only 39 percent of the gun tip placements were in the uterine body. A total of 25 percent of the gun tip placements were in the cervix. Twenty-three percent were in the right uterine horn, and 13 percent were in the left uterine horn. Sixty percent of the semen was distributed either in the cervix or disproportionately in one uterine horn. Only 40 percent of the semen was located in the uterine body or equally distributed in both uterine horns.

The normal ratio of ovulation or release of eggs is approximately 40 percent from the left ovary and 60 percent from the right ovary. Because migration of embryos is rare, the pregnancy ratio should be the same: 40 percent left uterine horn and 60 percent right uterine horn. This is an easy way to have your veterinarian check on the job you are doing with correct semen placement. Data on 100 or more pregnancies are required for a proper evaluation.

Practice good insemination techniques. You may improve your herd's conception rate. Retraining may be necessary to master the expertise required for proper gun tip placement and insemination. Your cows can't make up for your mistakes in improper semen handling and placement. If using gender selected semen and/or the newer 1/4cc straws, more precise should prove better!

June is Dairy Month!

Dairy Farmers are Committed to Providing Safe Wholesome Milk. According to SUDIA, Americans enjoy one of the safest food supplies in the world- largely due to the efforts of the nation's farmers, ranchers and the federal government. When we enter our local supermarket, we should be confident that items on the shelf, in the produce aisle or in a refrigerated dairy case are safe – regardless of labeling claims. Dairy farmers take great pride in producing safe, wholesome milk for you and your family.

Dairy farmers and processors work closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and state regulatory officials to establish and enforce safety regulations for milk production, hauling, product safety, equipment sanitation, and labeling. Milk and dairy products undergo numerous quality and safety procedures, including pasteurization, making them among the safest and most highly regulated foods available. Today, less than 1 percent of all foodborne illness outbreaks in the United States involve dairy products.

What's more, the U.S. dairy industry conducts more than 3.5 million tests each year to ensure milk safety. Every tanker of milk is tested for various residues, including antibiotics. Milk that tests positive is disposed of immediately, never reaching the public.

On behalf of over 260 dairy farm families and 75,000 cows in Georgia, Have a great "June is Dairy month!"

Source: SUDIA

Animal Waste Management Education for Hispanics Employed in the Dairy Industry

by
Melony Wilson, Animal Waste Specialist

Hispanic employees are a valuable resource to dairy farms in Georgia. However, due to language barriers, these employees are under utilized in some areas of dairy farming, in particular, animal waste management systems. Permitted dairy farms have many inspection, maintenance, and record keeping requirements that are extremely important for proper nutrient management and environmental protection. All of these responsibilities fall to the certified animal waste systems operator at these operations. Although, the responsibility is ultimately the certified individuals', Hispanic employees could assist in many of these tasks if they had access to proper education and tools. The University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Cooperative Extension has developed a training program and materials to assist Hispanic employees learn about environmental concerns and management on dairy farms. Although not a certification program, it is an opportunity for certified animal waste systems operators to have additional educated personnel to be able to properly assist in animal waste system management. Greene County Extension Agent, Jonael Bosques-Mendez, has translated educational materials, presentations, and record keeping forms into Spanish and has taken the lead role in this educational effort. The first training will be held Thursday, June 24 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Greene County Extension Office. In conjunction with the Spanish training session, a record keeping workshop in English will also be held. Two hours of continuing education credits will be provided for certified operators. Georgia Milk producers will provide lunch for attendees.

How can you not "got milk?"

by
Dr. William Graves

Of course you can enjoy a tall, cold glass of milk three or more times a day, but there are a variety of other somewhat medicinal uses for milk as well: To ease sun-reddened skin, fill a quart jar with equal parts milk and ice and two tablespoonfuls of salt. Soak a washcloth in the mixture and apply to the affected area for 15 minutes, three or four times a day.

For sunburn on the fact, you can apply a mask of sour cream or yogurt for 20 minutes. This soothes the burn and, as a bonus to some, can make your pores appear smaller.The itch from poison ivy or poison oak can be lessened quickly, if medication is not immediately available, by soaking the area in milk or covering with a cloth dunked in milk.

Some have been indulging themselves with milk and honey baths for centuries. Mix 1/2 cup liquid honey, 3 cups powdered milk and perhaps something added for fragrance. Combine the ingredients and scoop out a luxurious amount and dissolve in a warm bath.

Milk is an excellent medium to store a broken or uprooted tooth on the way to the dentist.

Warm milk actually does help you fall asleep because it contains tryptophan, an amino acid that increases the amount of the neurotransmitter serotonin in the brain. Research has also shown that obese adults who ate a high-dairy diet lost significantly more weight and fat than those who ate a low-dairy diet containing the same number of calories.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children with lactose intolerance consume dairy foods to get enough calcium, vitamin D, protein, and other nutrients important to good bone health.

June is Dairy Month! We are fortunate to work with a product that is so nutritional and healthy, as well as enjoyable and tasty. How can you not "got milk?"

The UGA Teaching Dairy Update

by
Lane O. Ely
Professor Emeritus

Silage

The wheat silage is harvested and in the pit. Yield was average but after the last couple of years that is good. The harvest was done in 11 days even with some equipment breakdowns. Surprisingly, excess rain caused some delays. This year we lined our pit with plastic for the first time. There have been some research reports showing an improved fermentation and dry matter recovery. Also our concrete walls have deteriorated from age and water building up behind the walls this winter. We will see how the plastic lining on the walls works.

Also this year we used a bulldozer and tractor to pack the silo. Normally we dump over the side and pack with one tractor with a blade to level. Because of the plastic on the sides, we dumped on the silo floor and used the dozer to move the silage and the tractor to pack. It looked better going in and hopefully the fermentation results will be positive.

Parlor

The renovation of the parlor is nearly complete. The electronics have to be hooked up for the take-offs, milk weights, ID and milk temperatures. The software has to be installed on our computer. It has been a very interesting time getting the renovation done. Everyone likes the new parlor.

A Surprise Cow

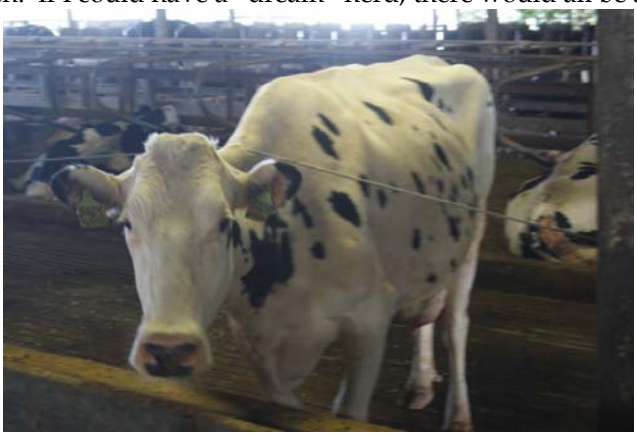
Over the years working with cows, everyone develops favorite cows or cows that are remembered long after they have left the herd (both good and bad cows.) Sometimes a cow becomes a "surprise cow". This is a cow that jumps out of the norm and surprises everyone.

Cow 3024 or Charisma of the UGA Teaching Dairy is a surprise cow. She was born on 3/15/2003. She calved for the first time on 9/21/2005 at 30 months of age. This was partly due to our seasonal breeding and calving schedule. For lactation l she produced 22,025 pounds of 4% fat milk in 357 days with a peak of 71 pounds.

She was dry 50 days and calved 11/2/2006. Her lactation 2 was 22,713 pounds of 4% fat milk in 342 days with a peak of 84 pounds. For lactation 3 she was dry 39 days and calved on 11/18/2007. Production for lactation 3 was 28,153 pounds of 3.9% fat milk in 353 days with a peak of 110 pounds. Lactation 4 started with her calving on 1/13/2009 after a 69 day dry period. Production for lactation 4 was 36,078 pounds of 3.9% fat milk on 336 days with a peak of 131 pounds. In lactation 2, 3 and 4 her peak occurred in the first or second test.

For lactation 5, she calved on 1/23/2010 after a 39 day dry period. Her first test day was 18 DIM and she produced 118.3 pounds of 4.3% fat milk. Test 2 was 48 DIM and she produced 125.2 pounds of 3.7% fat milk. Test 3 was 82 DIM and she produced 160.6 pounds of 3.0% fat milk. This is when she became a "surprise" cow. Was this a real value? Then Test 4 was on 110 DIM and she produced 177.2 pounds of 3.1% fat milk. She was definitely real.

Does she receive special treatment? Not really. She is in the herd and eats the herd TMR. The only special treatment she receives is several people have wanted to look at her and she is pointed out in the crowd. It is nice to have a "surprise" cow every now and then. If I could have a "dream" herd, there would all be a lot of cows like Charisma, 3024.



2010 State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest

by
Heather Shultz and W.M. Graves
GA 4-H Program

The 2010 State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest was held on Saturday, April 12th at the University of Georgia, Animal and Dairy Science Department Arena in Athens.

There were 11 participants and 3 complete teams that competed in the Senior Competition.

The first place Senior Team from Coweta County has the opportunity to represent Georgia in Madison, WI. The Coweta County Team members are: Emilee Brinton, Tori Butcher, Oasis Davis and Luc Boulet. Morgan County placed second and has the opportunity to represent Georgia in Pennsylvania, Texas or Kentucky. Morgan County Team members are: Sarah Wibell, Katelin Benkoski and Bryce Kiepper. Gordon County received third place honors.

Ms. Sarah Wibell from Morgan County was recognized as the High Individual in the Senior Contest receiving 346 points.

There were 27 participants and 6 complete teams that competed in the Junior Competition.

The first place Junior Team was from Morgan County, Team #1. Team members from Morgan County are: Jay Moon, Hunter Moon, Claire Woodard and Victoria Cagle. Gordon County placed second and Oconee County placed third.

Mr. Jay Moon from Morgan County was recognized as the High Individual from the Junior Contest receiving 270 points.

PDHGA National Leadership Program

Roseland NJ, March 30, 2010 - Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health is partnering with the Dairy Calf & Heifer Association (DCHA) to educate dairy leaders through the 2010 Leadership Program. Developed in 2009, the program provides education and leadership-development training for leaders in the dairy calf and heifer business.

"We are pleased to be the official sponsor of the DCHA Leaders Program," says Rick Cozzitorto, U.S. dairy marketing manager for Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health. "The challenges facing today´s dairy and calf producers are many. As an ally of dairy calf and heifer growers, we are committed to supporting our customers as they face economic, environmental and public relations challenges. We believe that by providing educational, professional development and networking opportunities, we can help industry leaders effectively navigate the challenges they face."

The 2010 Leadership Class attended the DCHA Conference held in Lexington, Ky., in March, and participated in training programs with the DCHA board of directors. Participants also will attend the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis., and serve on a DCHA committee this year.

Leadership programs address a range of topics, ranging from presentation training and how to work with the media to time management and conflict resolution. The Lexington leadership training focused on conflict resolution and was led by Lisa Morgan, a trainer and consultant based in the host city.

"The leadership program plays a vital role in the continued growth and success of the organization and development of future leaders," says Bob Patrick, D.V.M., DCHA first vice president from Eatonton, Ga. "Participants in the program are

exposed to the workings of DCHA and learn valuable skills that should bode well for future involvement with the organization at the committee and board levels."

Leadership Class Members
The participants represent several regions of the country and include:

Katie Carpenter manages Plato Brook Farms, in Arcade, N.Y., where she raises more than 800 calves and heifers and manages the transition program for a 1,500-cow dairy. Katie received a degree in animal science with a dairy concentration from Cornell University in 2004. She serves as a delegate for Genex Cooperative and with her husband, Josh, participates in the Cornell Young Farmer Profit Group and is active in 4-H and church activities.

Jeff Cornwell owns and operates Clover Ridge Dairy in Lawndale, N.C. He milks 110 Holsteins, raises 85 calves and heifers and farms 200 acres of corn silage, small grains silage and hay. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 2003 with a major in ag business management and minor in animal science. He also received a master´s degree in reproductive physiology from Virginia Tech in 2005.He is a board member of the North Carolina Dairy Producers Association.

Matthew London, Cleveland, Ga., farms with his father and grandfather on London Farms. They raise 1,200 calves and heifers for dairy producers in Georgia and Florida. Matt serves as the herdsman and focuses on record-keeping and reproduction. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in dairy science from the University of Georgia in 2008 and is pursuing a master´s degree in dairy science. As an undergraduate, Matt served as president of the Dairy Science Club and coaches the dairy judging team with Dr. Bill Graves. He also participates in the Georgia Farm Bureau Young Farmer Program.

Amy Shiplett owns and operates Bon-Home Livestock in Chilton, Wis., with her mother and husband, where they custom-raise 1,000 calves and heifers for local dairy farms. They farm 550 acres of corn, alfalfa and winter wheat. Amy is involved in all aspects of the operation, with her main focus on the calves. Amy was born and raised on a dairy farm and worked for 13 years off the farm as a quality supervisor for a grains malting company. In high school, she was involved in the Wisconsin Junior Dairymen´s Association and the FFA. She continues to pursue her education through short courses and seminars.

Roy Williams, Midland, Texas, is a 20-year veteran calf raiser. He had his own calf ranch for 15 years, and for the past five years has managed calf operations for up to 2,000 calves and heifers. He is pursuing a master´s degree in biology from the University of Texas and plans to apply his degree to research in calf health, specifically calf scours and diseases. In addition to DCHA, he has been a member of the American Dairy Science Association for many years.

The Dairy Calf & Heifer Association is an organization of calf and heifer growers partnered with allied industry and academia who are dedicated to growing high-quality dairy calves and replacement heifers. DCHA's objectives include: providing educational programs and professional development opportunities for producers and allied industry; developing a communication network for dairy calf and heifer growers, dairy producers and allied industry; establishing business and ethical standards for the industry; and enhancing the profitability of member growers and the dairy industry they serve.

Source: Professional Dairy Heifers Growers Assn.

Are you ready for International Trade?

by:
Warren Gilson

The European Union (EU) recently changed the requirements for milk which is exported milk to the EU. Previously, processors could meet the 400,000 somatic cell count (SCC) level on comingled milk. This meant that the milk from a herd slightly over 400,000 SCC could be mixed with lower cell count milk to meet the requirements. Now the milk from all herd's must be certified to be below 400,000 SCC.

You might be asking. "What does that have to do with me? My milk goes to X processor. They only sell milk in domestic stores. I meet their requirements and they've never complained."

That might be true; but what happens when there is more milk than they can handle, such as holidays and the flush time of the year? What would happen if they had an emergency and couldn't process any milk for a period of time? Or the worst case, where they went out of business completely. Where would your milk go then?

Realize that these scenarios may have a small chance of happening for many producers but they can occur. Situations such as these have occurred throughout the county the past few years due to hurricanes, floods, snow storms and a myriad of other factors. What's to say they won't happen to you next?

The only way to keep all of your options open is to meet the requirement which allows your milk to be shipped to any processing plant in the U.S. This means that you will need to meet the requirements of the E.U. Meeting the EU requirements is not an impossible feat. There are numerous examples of producers meeting these requirements every day. They may even be your next door neighbor.

We know what is necessary to achieve this goal. The consistent implementation of the recommendations is where we often falterThe NMC has developed a list of procedures and practices which they recommend for the control of mastitis.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. Establish goals for milk quality
2. Maintain a clean, comfortable environment
3. Use proper milking procedures
4. Properly maintain and use milking equipment
5. Keep records of infections and treatments
6. Treat clinical cows during lactation
7. Carefully manage the dry cows
8. Maintain biosecurity and market chronically infected cows
9. Regularly monitor udder health
10. Periodically review the control program

Evaluate your program. How well do you measure up? It is against human nature to let others dictate the rules as the EU seems to be doing, but as the "consumer", they can set the rules however they want them. Take steps now to comply with their rules. By meeting their standards you open up the maximum number of markets for your milk. You may not need any of those processors who participate in the export market. But then again you might.

Top 20 DHIA By Test Day Milk Production- March 2010

					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	**County**	**Br.**	**Mo.**	**Cows**	**% Days in Milk**	**Milk**	**% Fat**	**TD Fat**	**Milk**	**Lbs. Fat**
D & T Dairy	Wilkes	H	3	56	87	92.9			26149	
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	3	417	86	90.1	3.5	2.68	26628	975
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	3	931	88	86.2	3.6	2.69	26572	961
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms Inc.	McDuffie	H	3	376	89	84.1	3.4	2.75	24778	897
Rufus Yoder Jr.	Macon	H	3	141	86	82	2.8	2.03	22141	751
R & D Dairy	Lee	H	3	115	87	80.7	3.4	2.64	23021	834
Agri- Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	3	200	84	79.8	3.4	2.4	22227	781
Scott Glover	White	H	3	83	85	79.6	3.6	2.69	24045	953
Kent Walker	Greene	H	3	109	88	79.3	3.5	2.63	20901	741
Vista Farms	Jefferson	H	3	87	88	78.8	3.1	2.45	23118	696
Southern Rose Holsteins	Lee	H	3	120	86	78.5	3.7	2.48	22537	812
Doug Chambers	Jones	H	3	352	88	78	3.6	2.46	22540	800
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	3	174	87	77.2	3.5	2.38	23546	868
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	3	143	87	77.1	3.6	2.67	22732	808
Bill Dodson	Putnam	H	3	226	87	76.3	3.7	2.63	22174	786
Floyd Yoder	Macon	H	3	103	85	75.9	3.4	1.94	19506	683
Phil Harvey #2	Putnam	H	2	658	89	75.8			22854	
Univ. of GA Dairy Farm	Clarke	H	3	110	86	75.3	3.4	2.27	22702	844
Bud Butcher	Coweta	H	3	365	88	75.1	3.3	2.23	20647	
Cecil Dueck	Jefferson	H	3	65	90	74.7	3.9	2.23	22308	790
Troy Yoder	Macon	H	3	183	88	74.7	3.5	2.26	20707	750

1Minimum herd or permanent string 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 By Test Day Fat Production- March 2010

					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	**County**	**Br.**	**Mo.**	**Cows**	**% Days in Milk**	**Milk**	**% Fat**	**TD Fat**	**Milk**	**Lbs. Fat**
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	3	260	87	73	4.6	3.16	23445	1063
Cecil Dueck	Jefferson	H	3	65	90	74.7	3.9	2.86	22308	790
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms, Inc.	McDuffie	H	3	376	89	84.1	3.4	2.75	24778	897
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	3	931	88	86.2	3.6	2.69	26572	961
Scott Glover	White	H	3	83	85	79.6	3.6	2.69	24045	953
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	3	417	86	90.1	3.5	2.68	26628	975
Earnest R. Turk	Putnam	H	3	366	91	69.9	3.9	2.68	20786	800
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	3	143	87	77.1	3.6	2.67	22732	808
Danny Bell	Morgan	H	3	257	87	72.7	4.1	2.65	21103	816
R & D Dairy	Lee	H	3	115	87	80.7	3.4	2.64	23021	834
Kent Walker	Greene	H	3	109	88	79.3	3.5	2.63	20901	741
Bill Dodson	Putnam	H	3	226	87	76.3	3.7	2.63	22174	786
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	X	3	539	90	70.5	4	2.6	21934	919
Krulic Dairy Farm, Inc.	Screven	X	3	41	88	69	4	2.58	21679	904
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	X	3	24		68.8	3.7	2.55		
Twin Oaks Farm	Jefferson	H	2	82	90	73.5	3.7	2.52	20239	760
A & J Dairy	Wilkes	H	3	311	85	71.4	3.9	2.51	19765	751
Southern Rose Holsteins	Lee	H	3	120	86	78.5	3.7	2.48	22537	812
Dairy Production Systems- GA	Mitchell	H	3	3516	86	74.5	3.7	2.47	22811	806
Doug Chambers	Jones	H	3	352	88	78	3.6	2.46	22540	800

1Minimum herd or permanent string 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 By Test Day Milk Production- April 2010

					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	**County**	**Br.**	**Mo.**	**Cows**	**% Days in Milk**	**Milk**	**% Fat**	**TD Fat**	**Milk**	**Lbs. Fat**
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	4	405	85	92.4	3.5	2.8	26472	971
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms, Inc.	McDuffie	H	4	378	89	87.6	3.6	2.98	25068	900
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	3	931	88	86.2	3.6	2.69	26572	961
D & T Dairy	Wilkes	H	4	62	87	84.5			25767	
Bill Dodson	Putnam	H	4	222	87	82.4	3.2	2.53	22303	788
Phil Harvey #2	Putnam	H	4	679	89	81.9			22321	
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	4	176	87	81	3.3	2.31	23517	858
Floyd Yoder	Macon	H	4	99	83	80.1	3.2	2.14	19218	673
Colin & Niamh Matthews	Jenkins	H	3	223	91	79.7	2.9	2.25	22699	
Scott Glover	White	H	3	83	85	79.6	3.6	2.69	24045	953
Kent Walker	Greene	H	3	111	88	79.3	3.4	2.55	21157	753
Rufus Yoder Jr.	Macon	H	4	136	86	78.7	3.1	2.21	22205	740
Doug Chambers	Jones	H	3	352	88	78	3.6	2.46	22540	800
Cecil Dueck	Jefferson	H	4	66	90	77.5	3.1	2.19	22112	784
Southern Rose Holsteins	Lee	H	4	118	85	77.5	3.6	2.54	22555	818
Lee Whitaker	McDuffie	H	4	265	86	77.5	3	2.08	20561	733
Agri- Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	4	210	84	77.2	3.2	2.3	22272	782
Vista Farm	Jefferson	H	4	85	88	76.9	2.8	2.14	22730	692
Marvin Yoder	Macon	H	4	166	84	76.7	3.2	2.23	20095	737
David Addis	Whitfield	H	4	64	71	76.7	3.2	1.89	16173	545

1Minimum herd or permanent string 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 By Test Day Fat Production- April 2010

					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	**County**	**Br.**	**Mo.**	**Cows**	**% Days in Milk**	**Milk**	**% Fat**	**TD Fat**	**Milk**	**Lbs. Fat**
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms Inc.	McDuffie	H	4	378	89	87.6	3.6	2.98	25068	900
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	X	4	26		68.6	4.3	2.97		
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	X	4	548	89	71	4.3	2.83	22007	925
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	4	405	85	92.4	3.5	2.8	26472	971
Danny Bell	Morgan	H	3	251	88	75.4	4	2.79	21281	832
Coastal Plain Exp. Station	Tift	H	4	248	87	70.7	4.2	2.7	23354	1063
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	3	931	88	86.2	3.6	2.69	26572	961
Scott Glover	White	H	3	83	85	79.6	3.6	2.69	24045	953
Troy Yoder	Macon	H	4	180	88	76.3	3.8	2.61	20672	752
Kent Walker	Greene	H	3	111	88	79.3	3.4	2.55	21157	753
Southern Rose Holsteins	Lee	H	4	118	85	77.5	3.6	2.54	22555	818
Bill Dodson	Putnam	H	4	222	87	82.4	3.2	2.53	22303	788
R & D Dairy	Lee	H	4	117	87	76.2	3.5	2.52	22965	832
Twin Oaks Farm	Jefferson	H	3	79	90	73.9	3.5	2.5	20283	759
Franks Farm	Burke	H	4	29	91	72.5	3.7	2.47	21169	748
Doug Chambers	Jones	H	3	352	88	78	3.6	2.46	22540	800
Earnest R. Turk	Putnam	H	4	362	91	70.4	3.5	2.41	20978	801
W. T. Meriwether	Morgan	H	4	113	86	60.8	4	2.39	19446	759
Dairy Production Systems-GA	Mitchell	H	4	3509	86	76	3.4	2.37	22712	806
Fuller- Dairy- Inc.	Putnam	H	4	226	90	66.1	3.7	2.37	20626	

1Minimum herd or permanent string 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 By Test Day Milk Production- May 2010

					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	**County**	**Br.**	**Mo.**	**Cows**	**% Days in Milk**	**Milk**	**% Fat**	**TD Fat**	**Milk**	**Lbs. Fat**
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	5	390	85	94.1	3.4	2.86	26509	970
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	5	921	88	88.1	3.5	2.84	26508	960
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms Inc.	McDuffie	H	5	382	89	84.8	3.4	2.67	25357	903
D & T Dairy	Wilkes	H	5	66	86	84			25394	
Phil Harvey #2	Putnam	H	4	679	89	81.9			23321	
Doug Chambers	Jones	H	4	352	87	80.6	3.6	2.47	22434	804
Floyd Yoder	Macon	H	4	99	83	80.1	3.2	2.14	19218	673
Colin & Niamh Matthews	Jenkins	H	3	233	91	79.7	2.9	2.25	22699	
W. N. Peters	Monroe	H	4	68	87	79.7	3	2.05	20403	615
Scott Glover	White	H	4	77	86	78.9	3.3	2.33	24074	945
R & D Dairy	Lee	H	5	112	87	78.1	3.1	2.31	22940	829
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	5	184	87	78.1	3.4	2.35	23465	846
Bill Dodson	Putnam	H	5	220	88	77.4	3.3	2.45	22475	792
David Addis	Whitfield	H	4	64	71	76.7	3.2	1.89	16173	545
Kent Walker	Greene	H	5	111	88	75.8	3.2	2.36	21507	766
Univ. of GA Dairy Farm	Clarke	H	5	113	86	75.5	3.5	2.49	22507	825
W.N. Peters	Monroe	X	4	38	87	74.7	3.4	2.39	19452	673
Dairy production Systems- GA	Mitchell	H	5	3535	86	74.4	3.4	2.31	22657	805
Rufus Yoder Jr.	Macon	H	5	134	86	74.3	3	2.06	22222	733
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	X	5	561	89	73.9	4.1	2.62	22135	932

1Minimum herd or permanent string 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 By Test Day Fat Production- May 2010

					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	**County**	**Br.**	**Mo.**	**Cows**	**% Days in Milk**	**Milk**	**% Fat**	**TD Fat**	**Milk**	**Lbs. Fat**
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	5	390	85	94.1	3.4	2.86	26509	970
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	5	921	88	88.1	3.5	2.84	26508	960
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms, Inc.	McDuffie	H	5	382	89	84.8	3.4	2.67	25357	903
Danny Bell	Morgan	H	5	248	88	71.5	4	2.64	21529	853
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	X	5	561	89	73.9	4.1	2.62	22135	932
J. Everett Willaims	Morgan	X	5	38		67.4	4	2.59		
Twin Oaks Farm	Jefferson	H	4	78	90	67	3.7	2.5	20305	758
Univ. of GA Dairy Farm	Clarke	H	5	113	86	75.5	3.5	2.49	22507	825
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	5	248	87	68.8	4	2.48	23219	1053
Doug Chambers	Jones	H	4	352	87	80.6	3.6	2.47	22434	804
Bill Dodson	Putnam	H	5	220	88	77.4	3.3	2.45	22475	792
Agri-Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	5	224	85	72.4	3.5	2.44	22291	783
Krulic Dairy Farm, Inc.	Screven	X	5	46	89	67.7	3.9	2.43	22014	918
W.N. Peters	Monroe	X	4	38	87	74.7	3.4	2.39	19452	673
Kent Walker	Greene	H	5	111	88	75.8	3.2	2.36	21507	766
Southern Rose Holsteins	Lee	H	5	119	86	72.4	3.5	2.36	22598	824
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	5	184	87	78.1	3.4	2.35	23465	846
Scott Glover	White	H	4	77	86	78.9	3.3	2.33	24074	945
Fuller-Dairy-Inc.	Putnam	H	5	211	90	65	3.7	2.33	20524	
Earnest R. Turk	Putnam	H	5	380	92	66.6	3.6	2.32	21165	803
W.N. Peters	Monroe	J	4	49	84	64.2	3.8	2.32	15667	646

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Top 20 Lows Herds for SCC Score- March 2010

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	Milk-Rolling	SCC-TD-Average Score	SCC-TD-Weight Average	SCC- Average Score
David Addis	Whitfield	H	2	69	15121	1.6	122	1.8
Scott Glover	White	H	3	83	24045	1.7	103	2.2
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	3	931	26572	1.9	116	2.2
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	X	3	980	24368	2.1	204	2.1
Al Wehner	Brooks	X	3	1446		2.2	217	
Doug Chambers	Jones	H	3	352	22540	2.2	219	2.9
R & D Dairy	Lee	H	3	115	23021	2.2	180	2.8
Phil Harvey #2	Putnam	H	2	658	22854	2.2	188	
Dan Durham	Greene	X	3	114	15505	2.3	122	2.4
Marvin Yoder	Macon	H	3	151	20033	2.3	256	2.6
Southern Rose Holsteins	Lee	H	3	120	22537	2.4	205	2.6
Eugene King	Macon	H	3	136	18889	2.4	181	2.8
Danny Bell	Morgan	H	3	257	21103	2.4	213	2.3
Agri – Frish Dairy	Laurens	H	3	200	22227	2.5	228	2.7
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms, Inc.	McDuffie	H	3	376	24778	2.5	288	3.2
Lee Whitaker	McDuffie	H	2	244	20700	2.5	177	2.7
Dairy Productions Systems- GA	Mitchell	H	3	3516	22811	2.5	200	2.6
W. T. Meriwether	Morgan	H	3	113	19482	2.5	289	2.7
Curtis Strange	Morgan	X	3	334	15572	2.5	197	3.2
Russ Gilbert	Morgan	H	3	168	17780	2.5	192	2.7

Top 20 Lows Herds for SCC Score- April 2010

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	Milk-Rolling	SCC-TD-Average Score	SCC-TD-Weight Average	SCC- Average Score
David Addis	Whitfield	H	4	64	16173	0.90	39	1.7
Scott Glover	White	H	3	83	24045	1.70	103	2.2
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	3	931	26572	1.90	116	2.2
Bill Dodson	Putnam	H	4	222	22303	1.90	123	2.2
R & D Dairy	Lee	H	4	117	22965	2.20	142	2.8
Marvin Yoder	Macon	H	4	166	20095	2.20	197	2.6
Al Wehner	Brooks	X	3	1446		2.20	217	
Doug Chambers	Jones	H	3	352	22540	2.20	219	2.9
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	X	3	979	24256	2.20	224	2.2
Dan Durham	Greene	X	3	114	15505	2.30	122	2.4
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	4	176	23517	2.30	238	2.5
Eugene King	Macon	H	4	137	18803	2.30	240	2.8
DannyBell	Morgan	H	3	251	21281	2.30	241	2.4
Dairy Productions Systems- GA	Mitchell	H	4	3509	22712	2.40	168	2.6
Lee Whitaker	McDuffie	H	4	265	20561	2.40	214	2.7
Bud Butcher	Coweta	H	4	372	20925	2.40	287	2.6
Curtis Strange	Morgan	X	3	334	15572	2.50	197	3.2
Horst Crest Farms	Burke	H	4	145	19666	2.50	236	3.2
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms, Inc.	McDuffie	H	4	378	25068	2.50	247	3.1
W.T. Meriwether	Morgan	H	4	113	19446	2.60	222	2.7
A & J Dairy	Wilkes	H	4	322	19920	2.60	224	3.2
Larry L. Holdeman	Jefferson	H	4	118	20012	2.60	234	3
Agri- Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	4	210	22272	2.60	277	2.7
Russ Gilbert	Morgan	H	3	170	18043	2.60	282	2.7
Troy Yoder	Macon	H	4	180	20672	2.60	284	3
Thomas Bell	Morgan	H	3	149	17068	2.60	287	3.2
Ivan Peters	Jefferson	H	3	102	20541	2.60	322	3.3

Top 20 Lows Herds for SCC Score- May 2010

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	Milk-Rolling	SCC-TD-Average Score	SCC-TD-Weight Average	SCC- Average Score
David Addis	Whitfield	H	4	64	16173	0.9	39	1.7
Danny Bell	Morgan	H	5	248	21529	1.7	179	2.4
Russ Gilbert	Morgan	H	5	165	18113	1.7	103	2.7
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	5	921	26508	1.7	96	2.1
R & D Dairy	Lee	H	5	112	22940	1.8	191	2.7
Scott Glover	White	H	4	77	24074	1.8	86	2.2
Dan Durham	Greene	X	4	112	15524	1.9	101	2.4
Agri- Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	5	224	22291	1.9	213	2.7
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	5	184	23465	2	117	2.5
Bud Butcher	Coweta	H	5	363	21160	2.1	233	2.4
Ivan Peters	Jefferson	H	5	106	20105	2.2	189	3
Doug Chambers	Jones	H	4	352	22434	2.2	219	2.9
Curtis Strange	Morgan	X	4	358	15434	2.2	165	2.1
Williams Dairy	Taliaferro	H	4	119	22963	2.2	195	2.9
Eugene King	Macon	H	5	136	18882	2.3	218	2.8
Marvin Yoder	Macon	H	5	164	20160	2.3	258	2.6
Louis Yoder	Macon	H	4	136	20648	2.3	316	3.2
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	X	5	989	24261	2.3	220	2.2
Troy Yoder	Macon	H	5	162	20793	2.4	204	2.9
Dairy Production Systems- GA	Mitchell	H	5	3535	22657	2.4	176	2.6
Thomas Bell	Morgan	H	4	151	17241	2.4	170	3.1

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