



GEORGIA DAIRYFAX

<http://www.ads.uga.edu/extension/newsletters.html>

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,



William M. Graves
Professor & Extension Dairy Scientist
wgraves@uga.edu

County Extension Director or County Agent

Joe W. West
Assistant Dean



Dr. Joe W. West Named Assistant Dean for the Tifton Campus

A national search ended with the announcement that Dr. Joe West will be the assistant dean for the Tifton, Ga., campus of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

West will oversee the college's research and extension operations and academic program on the campus and at its outlying centers in south Georgia. "I'm very pleased that Dr. West has accepted this important position," said CAES dean and director J. Scott Angle. "Our Tifton campus is located in the heart of Georgia's agricultural community. We need someone who can provide seasoned leadership for such a demanding position, but will also be a good listener." Angle said West is "the right person to keep agricultural research, extension and education in Athens connected to vital resources and producers in south Georgia."

A UGA animal and dairy science professor, West has been with the CAES for 22 years. He has spent almost all of that time working on research and extension programs on the Tifton campus. His work focuses mainly on dairy cow nutrition and heat stress management. West holds degrees from Middle Tennessee State University, the University of Tennessee and Texas A&M University. He has served on editorial boards of the Journal of Dairy Science and as an ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of Animal Science and other journals. He's on the planning committee for the Western Dairy Management Conference. We will miss Dr. West in our faculty, but congratulates him and wish him only the best.

Revisiting Grazing of Dairy Cows

John K. Bernard
Dairy Research and Extension

For years the typical family grazed their dairy cows on whatever pasture was available. The milk that wasn't used to meet the family needs was run through a separator so the fat could be sold to help support the family. As the dairy industry developed, grazing was still an important part of the system. Many of us remember some of the challenges we had with these systems including off flavors in the spring from cows consuming onions, swine crest, or some other weed that resulted in an unpleasant flavor that the milk handler was quick to bring to out attention, especially in the spring when they had more milk than needed. After a while we learned how to manage pastures and feeding programs to minimize off flavors. As dairy herds grew in size, grazing tended to be used less often because we learned that we could harvest and store forage so that we could feed a constant diet. These advances plus technology to cool cows during the heat stress allowed producers to achieve higher milk yield to meet market and base building requirements. Grazing was used primarily for replacement dairy heifers.

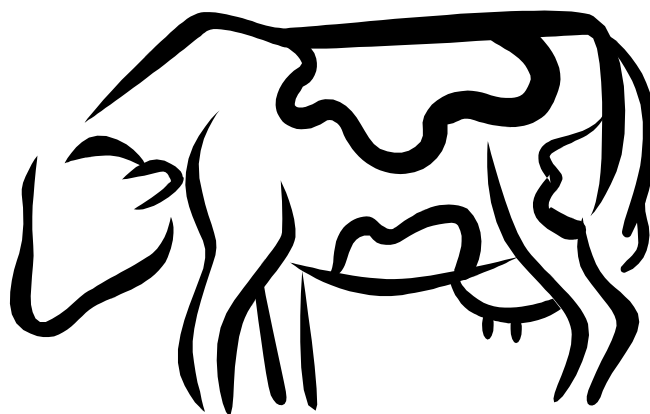
Today there are many improved forage varieties or cultivars that have been developed for grazing that allow the development of systems that will provide forage more most of the year. The advancement in fencing materials provides flexibility in designing grazing system without excessive investment in fencing. Irrigation is frequently used not only to water the grass, but provide cooling for the cows when pivots are fitted with sprinklers. These tools can be used to provide high quality forage throughout the year in many areas of the state. When we look at dairy production around the world, this approach is used in countries that have suitable climates. With the surge in the feed cost, some producers are revisiting the idea of grazing as a means of reducing feed cost for growing heifers or providing forage for their lactating cows. Others look at these systems as an alternative to the dairy systems we now call traditional that are built around confinement housing and stored forage. These systems are not for everyone, but everyone should review their current system periodically to see if there are ways to improve not only economics, but the environment and health of the cow.

For producers who are currently grazing some or all of their animals, there are normally opportunities for improvements in the form of pasture management. Management intensive grazing systems are currently being used by dairy and beef producers throughout the US. These systems typically utilize a large number of pastures or paddocks that are designed to be grazed for a short period of time. The approach encourages the cows to eat all of the grass rather than "picking" through the stand. The forage is removed quickly, so cow traffic damage should be minimal and the forage can start to regrow quickly.

This approach to grazing actually allows the plants to grow more during periods of stress, such as during a drought, compare to less intensive rotational grazing. An introduction to management intensive grazing can be found at the following web site: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/sustainag/grazing/pdf/AnIntroductiontoIntensiveGrazing.pdf>.

When designing a grazing system, producers should look at a combination of forages that will provide grazing throughout the year. There will be times when adequate forage is not available, so provisions for stored forage must be included in the system plan. For areas that have clay rather than sandy types of soil, additional land may be required to minimize problems related to mud when there is excess moisture to keep the cows clean as well as prevent damage to the pasture. Consideration must also be given to all weather lanes for moving cattle to and from the milking parlor and a water supply for all pastures.

Much has been said and written on the economics and the improvements in lifestyle that these systems can provide, but data are limited on these systems in the Southeast. A recent survey of producers in the US with either grazing or confinement systems did not indicate a big difference in satisfaction. There are several good examples of grazing dairies that have been very successful, but not all grazing systems have not been successful. Like any system, the success depends largely on the ability of the manager to make the system work as designed or envisioned and the debt load that the operation must service.



2008 Corn Silage Field Day

John K. Bernard
Dairy Research and Extension

The 2008 Corn Silage Field Day will be held at the Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra, FL on May 29, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. The program provides an opportunity for producers to see the different corn hybrids used for silage production in the variety test plots. Test results from both the University of Georgia and University of Florida will be discussed. Following the tour and discussion of the corn varieties, participants will have the opportunity to attend two educational sessions. The topics covered in each of the sessions are outlined below.

- A. Fertility Efficiencies and Crop Alternatives for Reduced Fertilizer Needs
 - 1. Using management to reduce fertilizer cost - Dr. David Wright, UFL
 - 2. Getting the most out of your fertilizer dollar - Dr. Glen Harris, UGA
 - 3. Alternative summer annual forage crops - Dr. Dennis Hancock, UGA
 - 4. Improving animal performance with warm season legumes - Dr. Gbloa Adesogan, UFL

- B. Managing for Drought Growing Conditions
 - 1. Feeding drought stressed corn - Dr. Charlie Staples, UFL
 - 2. Economics of sorghums versus corn - Dr. Curt Lacy, UGA
 - 3. Feeding value of sorghum and annual forages - Dr. John Bernard, UGA
 - 4. Feed options when the grass doesn't grow - Dr. Matt Hersom, UFL

With the higher price of fertilizer and the lingering drought, the program will provide timely information for participants. In addition to the education program, several vendors will be present to visit with participants about the products they distribute.

The Plant Science Research and Education Unit is located approximately 7.5 miles east of I-75 off of exit 368 on Florida Highway 318. For additional information on the field day, contact either Dr. John Bernard (229-391-6856 or jbernard@uga.edu) or Jerry Wasdin (352-392-1120 or jwas@ufl.edu). Information on the current and previous corn silage field days can be found at the following web site: <http://www.animal.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/CSFD/index.shtml>

Tifton Dairy Research Center Recognized as Top Herd in Georgia

Dr. John K. Bernard
Dairy Research and Extension

The Tifton Dairy Research Center located on the Tifton Campus of the University of Georgia was recently recognized as the top herd in Georgia for milk and fat production for 2007. The award was presented at the Georgia Dairy Conference in St. Simons and recognized the Holstein herd which averaged 26,285 lbs. milk and 1,026 lbs. fat on the September 2007 DHIA test.

The dairy research herd at the UGA Tifton Campus was established in 1933 to provide answers to issues facing dairy producers and the dairy industry. Results from many research trials have not only been used by Georgia dairy producers and their advisors, but by dairy producers and professionals throughout the world. The diversity of research that has and continues to be conducted at the Tifton Dairy Research Center includes research on improved forages, basic cow and calf nutrition, byproduct feed and feed additive usage, feeding management, nutrient management, heat stress abatement, cow comfort, reproduction, and genetics.

Dr. Joe West worked with producers and commodity groups to gain approval for the construction of a new milking parlor, free stall barn, bunker silos, and lagoon that were completed in 1998. The new facilities incorporated many improvements in design that provided significant improvements in cow comfort as well as a better work environment for employees. This also allowed us to increase the herd from approximately 100 cows to 225 cows plus replacement heifers. In addition to improved research capabilities, the new facilities also allow us to demonstrate the new technology that can be used by producers to improve animal performance and welfare. Dairy producers and industry personnel have looked at the overall design including the cooling systems used to reduce heat stress, various free stall bedding materials and sand retaining devices, and sand and manure separation systems.

Mr. Vic Cornett joined us in 2005 as the manager. Since his arrival, he has worked with the staff to improve milking protocols, feeding management, animal health, and cow comfort as well as making sure the little things get done on a timely basis. He also works with student workers and interns to teach them the basics of dairy production and management. Our farm crew, managed by Mr. Harmon Tawzer, works to produce high quality forage, keep up with our nutrient management program, and help with facility maintenance. All of these activities plus the dedication of the staff have contributed to the improvement in milk production which was recognized by the award. A high performing herd allows us to conduct more timely research that has application to dairy herds throughout Georgia and the world.

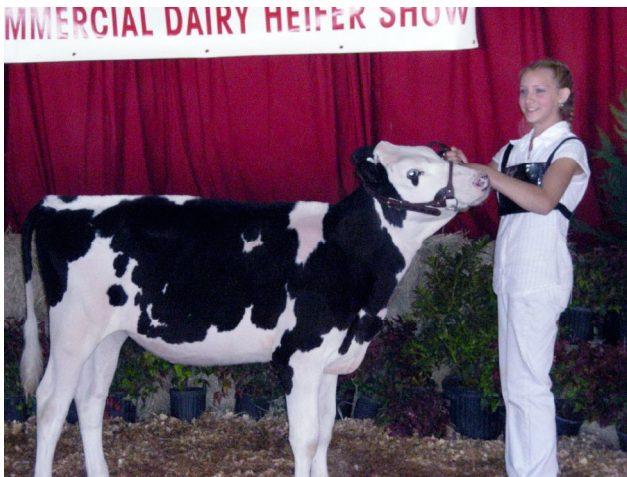
The primary mission of the Tifton Dairy Research Center is to discover new technology that can help dairy producers and to demonstrate how technology can be successfully applied. Faculty who conduct research at the Tifton Dairy Research Center include Dr. John Bernard who serves as the faculty coordinator and conducts dairy nutrition and management research; Dr. Joe West recently accepted the position of Assistant Dean of the Tifton Campus and currently has one graduate student who is working on her Ph.D. thesis research; Dr. Larry Newton has ongoing research in the area of nutrient management; Dr. Ignacy Misztal is examining genetic relationships of heat stress; and Drs. Steve Nickerson and Warren Gilson are researching the effect of prepartum infusion of antibiotics on milk quality at calving. Faculty from other departments also collaborate with faculty from the Department of Animal and Dairy Science on research related to variable rate irrigation, water quality, forage quality, and economics.

We are proud of the work the dairy staff does to make all of this a possibility and want to congratulate them on being the high herd in the state for milk and fat production. If you would like to visit the Tifton Dairy Research Center, please contact Dr. John K. Bernard at 229-386-3366 or jbernard@uga.edu.



Dairy Science Club's 11th Annual UGA Dairy Heifer Show A Success!

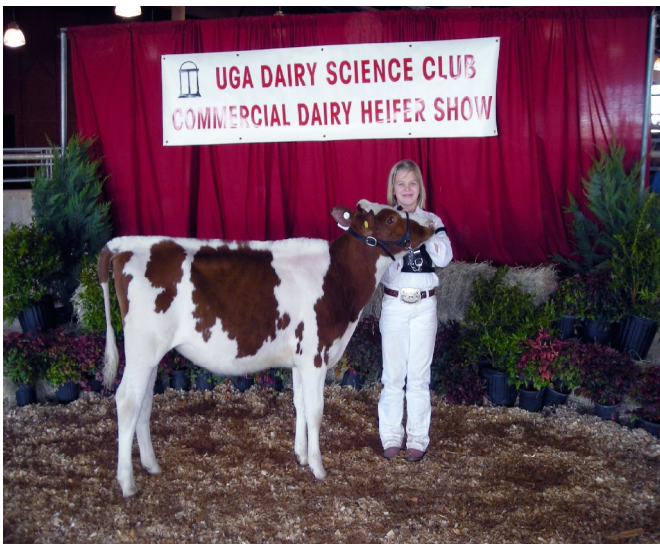
The 11th Annual UGA Dairy Heifer Show was held February 9, 2008, at the ADS Arena on South Milledge. The show is hosted by the Dairy Science Club. There were a total of 241 weight entries and 190 showmanship entries in this year's show. Our judges were Neal Smith from Smith Brothers Dairy in Smyrna, TN and Wesley Blankenship from Blankenship Jerseys in Beech Bluff, TN.



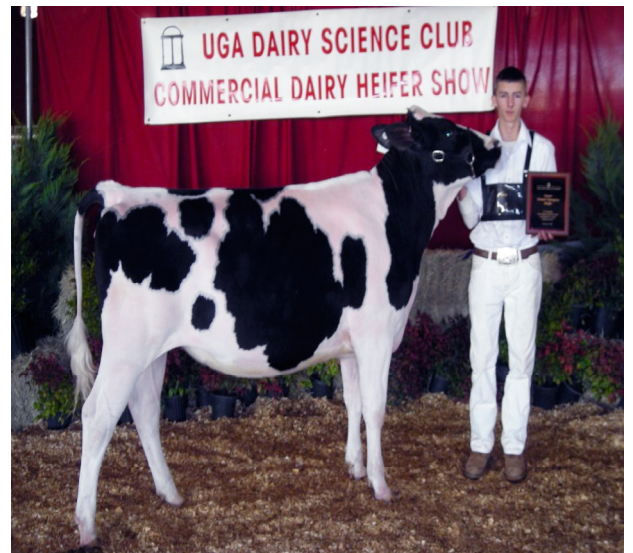
Junior Grand Showmanship Champion was Samantha Porter from Houston Co.



Senior Grand Showmanship Champion was Alana Carter from Houston Co.



Junior Grand Weight Class Champion went to Monica Schaapman from Wilcox Co.



Senior Grand Weight Class Champion went to Jake Jolder from Putnam Co.

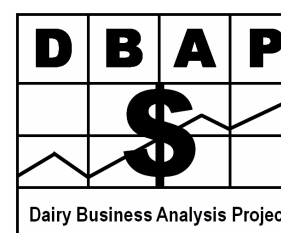
2006 Financial Summary of the Georgia Florida Dairy Business Analysis Project

A. De Vries, R. Giesy, L. Ely, M. Sowerby, B. Broaddus, C. Vann

Introduction

The Dairy Business Analysis Project (DBAP) was initiated in 1996 by the University of Florida in an effort to measure and document the financial performance of Florida dairy farms using standardized accounting measures. The University of Georgia has been a formal collaborator since 1998. The DBAP website is <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu/dbap>.

Financial data for the year 2006 were collected from 22 participating dairy farms and screened for completeness and validity. Each dairy farm then received a benchmark report detailing its financial results compared to the average results for the other participants and the six dairy farms with the highest net farm income per cwt. This benchmark report is discussed with the participants to identify challenges and opportunities for improvement.



Results

Summary results for 2006 are presented in Tables 1.1 to 4.4 and Figures 1 to 5. Revenues and expenses may not add up due to rounding. In brief, 22 dairy farms were included in the summary results. Of these, 17 were located in Florida and 5 in Georgia. The average herd size of the participating dairies was 1163 cows and 684 heifers with 18,599 lbs. milk sold per cow. The average culling rate was 31%. The average milk price was \$16.79. Average total revenues were \$19.36 per cwt. milk sold. Total expenses averaged \$18.56 per cwt. sold. The largest items were purchased feed, \$7.17, and personnel costs, \$3.13 per cwt. sold. Net farm income from operations averaged \$0.81 per cwt. sold. Net farm income per cwt. was \$0.70.

For the Georgia farms, the average herd size was 867 cows with 545 replacements. The dairies sold 21,231 pounds of milk sold per cow. The Georgia culling rate was 25%. The average milk price per cwt was \$16.51 and total revenue was \$18.75 per cwt. Total expenses were 17.38 per cwt for Georgia dairies. Purchased feed at \$5.44 per cwt, labor at \$3.50 per cwt and livestock costs at \$1.86 per cwt were the largest expense items. Net farm income from operations was \$1.38 per cwt and net farm income was \$1.05 per cwt for the Georgia dairies.

Data Collection

Data collection for 2007 data has started. Contact Lane Ely if you are interested in being part of the DBAP project. DBAP is partially funded by the Florida- Georgia Milk Check-off program.

A. De Vries, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Sciences; R. Giesy, Extension Agent IV; L. Ely, Professor, Department of Animal and Dairy Science, University of Georgia; M. Sowerby, Extension Agent III; B. Broaddus, Extension Agent II; C. Vann, Extension Agent II; Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

Table 1.1. DBAP 2006 Summary - Business size and production efficiency by state and overall average, median, and standard deviation.

Category	Overall			State Averages		
	Average	Median	Std ¹	Florida	Georgia	
Number of farms	22	22	22	16	6	
Business Size:						
Average number of cows	1,163	637	1,207	1,273	867	
Average number of heifers	684	418	829	736	545	
Milk sold (million lbs)	22.77	12.15	24.32	23.77	20.12	
FTE ² workers	20	12	18	21	18	
Acres of pasture + cultivated land	624	311	762	663	520	
Production Efficiency:						
Milk sold (lbs / cow / year)	18,599	18,485	3,822	17,613	21,231	
Cows / FTE worker	55	53	22	59	45	
Milk sold / FTE worker (million lbs)	1.01	1.00	0.37	1.03	0.95	
Cull rate	31%	31%	8%	33%	25%	

¹ Standard deviation

² Full-time equivalent

Table 1.2. DBAP 2006 Summary - Revenues and expenses by state and overall average, median, and standard deviation (\$/cwt).						
Category	Overall			State Averages		
	Average	Median	Std ¹	Florida	Georgia	
Number of farms	22	22	22	16	6	
Revenues:						
Milk sold	16.79	16.85	0.64	16.90	16.51	
Raised, leased cow sales	0.75	0.76	1.77	0.76	0.73	
Heifer sales	1.00	0.63	0.93	1.20	0.47	
Gain on purchased livestock Sales	(0.33)	(0.00)	2.11	(0.43)	(0.05)	
Other revenues	1.15	0.71	1.21	1.17	1.10	
Total revenues	19.36	19.16	1.87	19.59	18.75	
Expenses:						
Personnel	3.13	2.76	1.43	3.00	3.50	
Purchased feed	7.17	6.97	1.56	7.82	5.44	
Crops	0.33	0.18	0.40	0.33	0.34	
Machinery	1.03	0.91	0.53	1.07	0.93	
Livestock	1.60	1.48	0.69	1.50	1.86	
Milk marketing	1.17	1.18	0.25	1.12	1.32	
Buildings and land	0.45	0.39	0.37	0.41	0.56	
Interest	0.67	0.66	0.40	0.69	0.60	
Depreciation:						
Livestock	0.90	0.55	0.81	0.86	1.00	
Machinery	0.62	0.45	0.57	0.65	0.55	
Buildings	0.46	0.39	0.44	0.52	0.28	
Other expenses	1.02	0.89	0.55	1.02	1.00	
Total expenses	18.56	18.28	2.49	19.00	17.38	
Net farm income from operations	0.81	0.78	2.28	0.59	1.38	
Gain on sale of capital assets	(0.10)	(0.00)	0.28	(0.02)	(0.32)	
Net farm income	0.70	0.78	2.21	0.57	1.05	

¹ Standard deviation

Table 1.3. DBAP 2006 Summary - Financial performance by state and overall average, median, and standard deviation.

Category	Overall			State Averages	
	Average	Median	Std ¹	Florida	Georgia
Number of farms	22	22	22	16	6
Liquidity:					
Current ratio	9.81	0.67	27.95	8.24	13.98
Working capital (\$)	(44,461)	(36,619)	761,162	(275,696)	572,164
Solvency:					
Debt to asset ratio	0.40	0.36	0.23	0.39	0.41
Equity to asset ratio	0.60	0.64	0.23	0.61	0.59
Debt to equity ratio	1.04	0.57	1.13	0.99	1.19
Profitability:					
Rate of return on assets	0.03	0.03	0.08	0.03	0.04
Rate of return on equity	0.03	0.01	0.27	0.05	(0.03)
Operating profit margin ratio	0.03	0.05	0.14	0.02	0.06
Financial efficiency:					
Asset turnover rate	0.70	0.71	0.27	0.69	0.73
Operating expense ratio	0.82	0.86	0.13	0.84	0.80
Depreciation expense ratio	0.10	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.10
Interest expense ratio	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.03
NFIFO ratio ²	0.04	0.04	0.11	0.03	0.07
Repayment capacity:					
Cash flow coverage ratio	7.82	0.56	20.26	5.54	13.87
Term debt coverage ratio ³	2.61	1.59	3.24	2.98	1.62
Capital replacement margin ⁴ (\$)	120,024	56,493	686,901	(40,480)	548,035

¹ Standard deviation

² Net farm income from operations ratio

³ Term debt and capital lease coverage ratio

⁴ Capital replacement and term debt repayment margin

Table 1.4. DBAP 2006 Summary - Balance sheet by state and overall average, median, and standard deviation (\$/cow).

Category	Overall			State Averages		
	Average	Median	Std ¹	Florida	Georgia	
Number of farms	22	22	22	16	6	
Balance sheet (January 1):						
Current assets	418	281	329	361	570	
Total assets	6,214	4,929	4,750	5,251	8,781	
Current liabilities	662	579	533	750	426	
Total liabilities	1,963	1,806	1,104	2,015	1,822	
Equity	4,251	3,391	5,103	3,235	6,959	
Balance sheet (December 31):						
Current assets	427	422	319	362	600	
Total assets	6,218	4,921	3,972	5,546	8,011	
Current liabilities	592	555	535	777	100	
Total liabilities	2,050	1,986	1,116	2,085	1,957	
Equity	4,168	3,576	4,312	3,461	6,054	

¹ Standard deviation

What is the Correct Score Card to Use for Dairy Heifers?

By William M. Graves, UGA Dairy Judging Coordinator

Many people ask what is the correct score card to use for dairy heifers. As you know, The Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA) is responsible for developing the current Dairy Cow Unified Scorecard. The last revision was 1994. Frame is allocated 15%, Dairy Character is 20%, Body Capacity is 10%, Feet and Legs are 15% and Udder is 40%. So the dilemma for many is what to do with udders counting 40% when judging heifers. Because of the lack of a PDCA Scorecard for dairy heifers, many have developed their own scorecard. The scorecard below is the latest version of the one we have developed at UGA. You will notice some terminology not present in the cow score card.

DAIRY HEIFER SCORE CARD

FRAME & FORM

35

Back- *straight and strong; loin broad, strong and level with chine or rump.*

Rump- *long, wide with pin bones slightly lower than hip bones: tail head refined, blending smoothly with the rump; thurls set high and wide.*

Stature- *tall and upstanding in consideration of age. Height at withers and hips should be similar.*

Front End- *indicating strong constitution with dairy refinement. Shoulder blades set smoothly and tightly with the neck and body. Chest deep, wide and strong.*

Style and Balance- *Blending of parts, proportionate height, length and depth, smooth.*

Breed Characteristics- *see PDCA Unified Dairy Cow Scorecard.*

DAIRY CHARACTER

25

Emphasizing angularity, sharpness, openness, and cleanness with strength and freedom of coarseness. Allow heifers more condition as they approach calving.

Withers- *sharp, with vertebrae and chine defined.*

Ribs- *wide apart, flat and long.*

Thighs- *flat and free of excess flesh, well apart providing ample space for udder development.*

Neck- *long and lean with throat and dewlap free of excess flesh*

Skin- *thin, loose & pliable*

FEET AND LEGS

20

Emphasizing ease of mobility through correctness in leg structure with strength of pasterns and soundness of feet.

Feet- *steep angle and deep heel with short, well-rounded, closed toes.*

Rear Legs; Rear View- *straight, wide apart with feet squarely placed.*

Side View- *a moderate set (angle) to the hock.*

Hocks- *cleanly molded, free from coarseness and puffiness with adequate flexibility.*

Pasterns- *short and strong with some flexibility. Slightly more emphasis placed on feet than when evaluating this breakdown*

Bone- *Flat, clean & substance*

BODY CAPACITY & SIZE

20

Corresponding size to scale of animal, providing adequate capacity for large intakes of forage. Consideration given to period of gestation.

Stature- *height at withers, length of leg bones*

Barrel- *long, deep and wide with depth and spring of rib increasing toward the rear. Flanks, deep.*

Chest- *strong with wide floor and well spuing fore ribs. Crops full.*

MAMMARY DEVELOPMENT

0

The heifer should have four teats that hang plumb (extra teats removed). It should also have adequate folds of skin to show promise of udder development with due consideration given to stage of gestation if bred.

A slight to serious discrimination should be made when a teat or teats is too long, strut widely, or are poorly spaced. An enlarged quarter or udder that is fat and over developed is also objectionable and should be discriminated against.

How Many is Too Many?

Warren D. Gilson

Phillip Crosby, who was one of the leaders in the modern quality movement, stated that the quality goal should be “Zero Defects”. Many in the field dismissed this as unrealistic because they felt it is impossible to achieve. One is inclined to agree with the masses on this point until the goal is examined more closely.

What is a realistic goal for defects, errors or whatever you use to measure quality? Each person would likely have a different idea as to what is realistic and achievable, depending upon his or her previous experience and level of comfort in dealing with problems.

Let’s start with the premise that one error in a million is acceptable. I think everyone would agree that achieving this goal would result in pretty good quality. OK. If one in a million is acceptable, what about two in a million. That’s only one more error, what harm could that be. Now if two in a million is acceptable what about three in a million or four in a million? After all, it’s only a couple of more errors. However, it is no longer one in a million but one in 250,000. That is quite a difference.

I think you can see where this is going. When do you say “Enough is enough.” and draw the proverbial line in the sand? As you can see, that becomes a difficult task because each time, you only accepted one or two more errors as being acceptable. The further you get from the original goal, the more difficult it becomes to draw the line.

You might be thinking, “What does this have to do with managing dairy cows?” The answer is “Plenty”. The same principle can be applied to almost everything we do in the managing of cows. Did we miss a cow or heifer when we were synchronizing the last group? How many cases of mastitis, ketosis, milk fever (you supply the area of concern) did we have in the past month or year. Anywhere there is a potential problem we can apply this principle and strive to correct the situation.

Does this mean we should panic whenever a problem occurs? No. We are working with living animals and environmental conditions over which we only have so much control. However, this does not relieve us of the responsibility to look at each error and see what might have been done differently to eliminate the error in the future.

I hope you now look at each error in a different way. We obviously will not be able to eliminate all problems. But if we accept one, it is all too easy to accept the next one and then the next one until the situation is overwhelming.



Florida Dairy Production Conference
 Tuesday April 29, 2008
 9:45 AM – 5:00 PM
 Hilton UF Conference Center
 Gainesville, Florida

Dairy Research Unit Open House
 Wednesday April 30, 2008
 9:00 AM – Noon
 13200 NW 59th Drive
 Gainesville, Florida



Registration Form
 2008 Florida Dairy Production Conference

Complete this form or register on-line at <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu>

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ \$65 Early registration per person
 (postmarked on or before April 20,
 2008)

_____ \$80 Regular registration per person
 (postmarked after April 20, 2008)

\$ _____ Total amount enclosed

Payment options

Check enclosed payable to: University of Florida

Charge my: Master card
 VISA

Card number _____

Expiration Date: _____ Amount: _____

Name of Card holder _____

Signature _____

Please mail or fax to: Fax (352) 392-7652

Program

Florida Dairy Production Conference
 Tuesday, April 29, 2008
 Hilton, Century Ballroom

9:00 AM Registration

Presiding – **Jose Santos**, University of Florida

9:45 **Welcome – Geoff Dahl**, University of Florida

10:00 **Feed Efficiency Opportunities with 2008 Feed – Michael Hutjens**, University of Illinois

10:50 **A.I. Technology is Changing Rapidly! (Molecular Genetics and Sexed Semen) – David Thorbahn**, Select Sires, Inc.

11:45 *Summary:*
Southeast Milk, Inc Check-off Dairy Youth Program Update – Brent Broadtus, University of Florida

12:00 PM Luncheon

Presiding – **Peter Hansen**, University of Florida

1:00 **UF/IFAS Dairy Update – Geoff Dahl**, University of Florida

1.10 **Feeding Management to Reduce the Environmental Impact of Dairy Farms – Robert James**, Virginia Tech

2:00 *Southeast Milk, Inc Check-off Summaries:*

Development of a High Fertility Timed Insemination Program for Dairy Heifers – William W. Thatcher, University of Florida

Is testing cows for disease resistance a practical tool for managing health in dairy cows? – Art Donovan, University of Florida

Effect of Rust Infestation on Silage Quality – Adesola Adesogan, University of Florida

2:45 Refreshment Break

3:15 **Direct Comparison of Natural Service vs. TAI: Reproductive Efficiency and Economics – Carlos Risco**, University of Florida

3:45 **Sexed Semen Economics – Albert De Vries**, University of Florida

4:15 **Sire Selection and Use of Gender-Biased Semen**
 Producer Panel – Participants: TBA. Moderator: **Peter Hansen**

5:00 **Reception** – Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar are available for your enjoyment.

Wednesday, April 30, 2008
Open House
UF Dairy Research Unit

9:00 AM **DRU Overview – Jay Lemmermen**, DRU Manager

DeLaval Parlor and Afikim Milk lab – Eric Diepersloot, Herd Manager

Calf Unit – Sherry Hay, Calf Unit Manager

Comparisons of Sand Free Stalls and Dual Chamber Waterbeds – David Bray and Ray Bucklin, Departments of Animal Sciences and Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Using Enzymes to Improve Milk Production by Dairy Cows – Adeghola Adesogan, Department of Animal Sciences

Digester – Ann Wilkie, Department of Soil and Water Science

Heat Stress Abatement for Dry Cows: Does Cooling Improve the Transition to Lactation? – Geoff Dahl, Department of Animal Sciences

Dairy Business Analysis Program – Russ Giesy and Mary Sowerby, UF Dairy Extension

12:00 **Adjourn**

Program Committee

The Florida Dairy Production Conference is organized by the dairy extension specialists and dairy agents at the University of Florida / IFAS.

Additional Information

Albert De Vries, Department of Animal Sciences, phone: (352) 392-5594, fax: (352) 392-5595, e-mail: devries@ufl.edu



Participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting Albert De Vries at least 10 days prior to the conference. He can be reached by phone at (352) 392-5594, or by fax at (352) 392-5595.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability or national origin



For **early registration** for the Florida Dairy Production Conference on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, please visit: <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu> or register at the door at the regular price

INVITATION

Please join us for the 45th Annual Florida Dairy Production Conference and DRU Open House on April 29 and 30, 2008. The 2008 program contains the annual **Dairy Production Conference** on Tuesday April 29. The focus of the program is on nutrition and reproductive management. A producer panel of leading Florida dairy producers will discuss the sire selection and gender biased semen on their farms. New this year is the **Open House at the UF/IFAS Dairy Research Unit** on Wednesday April 30. Staff and researchers will be present to show and tell you what projects are currently conducted at the DRU. Come see the latest construction and parlor updates.

Registration

Registration for the **Dairy Production Conference** on Tuesday April 29, 2008 includes the program, one copy of the proceedings, refreshment breaks, and the luncheon. The early registration fee is \$65 for fees postmarked on or before April 20, 2008. The regular registration fee is \$80 for fees postmarked after April 20, 2008, or at the door. To register on-line, please visit <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu>. Or you may mail in the registration form. Requests for registration refunds will be honored if a written notice of cancellation is received by April 18, 2008. A \$55 processing fee will be deducted from all refunds. **The conference is approved for 9 ARPAS credits.** Attending the DRU Open House is free.

Conference Location & Hotel Accommodation

The 45th Florida Dairy Production Conference will be held at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, located at 1714 SW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL 32607 (<http://www.uflhilton.com>). A block of rooms is being held at the Hilton for participants. The group rate is \$139 per night plus 9.25% tax. To reserve a room, visit <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu> and look for Dairy Production Conference information. You can directly book a room through the website. Or call the Hilton at (352) 371-3600 and be sure to mention that you are attending the Beef Cattle Short Course / Dairy Production Conference to receive the group rate. After **March 30, 2008**, the discounted group rate and guestroom availability are no longer guaranteed. The 57th Beef Cattle Short Course is held at the same location on April 30 - May 2, 2008.

Directions to the Hilton: From I-75, take Exit 384 (Archer Road). Go east on Archer Road and proceed one mile to the intersection of Archer Road and SW 34th Street. Take a left onto 34th Street and the hotel will be three blocks down on the left-hand side.

Dairy Research Unit Location

The UF/IFAS Dairy Research Unit is a modern dairy farm with crops, young stock and lactating and dry cows. The 450 lactating cows are housed in free stalls. The DRU is located on 13200 NW 59th Drive Gainesville, FL 32653. Phone (386) 462-1016.

Directions to the DRU: From I-75, Exit 399, go south on US 441, approximately miles to CR 237 (Hague), left on CR 237, go 0.9 mile. Dairy Research Unit entrance is on right. From Gainesville, go north on US 441 (13th street), approximately 8 miles (Hague), right on CR 237, go 0.9 mile. Dairy Research Unit entrance is on right.

Sponsors

Sponsors have the choice of 2 sponsorship packages. Package 1 is \$250 and includes sponsorship of the Dairy Production Conference on Tuesday April 29. In addition to free registration for the Dairy Production Conference, sponsors may submit educational and product information for inclusion in a packet for all registrants. Package 2 is \$500 and includes Package 1 and the option to set up a booth up during the DRU Open House on Wednesday April 30. For more information regarding sponsorship, please contact David Bray at (352) 392-5594 or e-mail dbray@ufl.edu.

Speakers Dairy Production Conference

Jose Santos, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Geoffrey Dahl, Professor and Chair, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Michael Hutjens, Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

David Thorbahn, General Manager and Executive Vice President, Select Sires, Inc., Plain City, OH

Brent Broadus, Extension Agent II, IFAS Dairy Youth Program, University of Florida, Seffner, FL

Robert James, Professor, Department of Dairy Science, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

William Thatcher, Professor Emeritus, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Art Donovan, Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Adegbola Adesogan, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Carlos Risco, Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Albert De Vries, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Peter Hansen, Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

TOP 20 DHIA HERDS BY TEST DAY MILK PRODUCTION - OCTOBER

Yearly Average

Test Day Average

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	% Days in Milk	Milk	% Fat	Lbs. Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	10	209	90	75.3*	3.6	2.18	26275	1026
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	10	737	89	74*	3.7	2.3	25750	948
D & T Dairy	Wilkes	X	10	114	84	73.9			23728	
Scott Glover	White	H	10	85	87	71.9	3.6	2.3	24782	901
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	10	826	89	71*	3.2	1.8	25808	915
Bud Butcher	Coweta	H	10	316	89	68			22070	
Danny Bell	Morgan	H	10	254	88	67.7*			21399	
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	10	143	88	67	3.5	1.91	23399	863
R & D Dairy	Laurens	H	10	124	87	66.9	3.6	1.98	21415	733
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	10	163	90	66.7	3.7	1.83	25499	948
Anthony Brothers	Sumter	H	9	1133	88	66.5*	3.8	2.08	25908	910
Agri-Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	10	227	89	65.8*	3.6	1.94	24100	820
Vista Farm	Jefferson	H	10	93	92	65.4	3.5	1.87	25032	846
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms, Inc.	McDuffie	H	10	376	87	64.4	3.1	1.52	21455	757
Univ of GA Dairy Faim	Clarke	H	10	108	89	63.8	3.8	1.94	21208	801
Troy Yoder	Macon	H	10	142	90	63.5	3.6	1.82	22984	876
Martin Dairy, L.L.P.	Hart	H	9	299	90	63.3	3.8	2.02	23129	859
Eatonton Dairy Farms, L.L. P.	Putnam	H	9	766	89	63.1*			23044	
Earnest R. Turk	Putnam	H	10	394	93	62.7	3.9	1.99	22156	833
Marvin Yoder	Macon	H	10	171	86	62.3	3.8	1.77	21721	824

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 MILK PRODUCTION - NOVEMBER

Yearly Average

Test Day Average

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	Test Day Average				Yearly Average		
					% Days in Milk	Milk	% Fat	Lbs. Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat	
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	11	756	89	82.2*	3.8	2.77	25743	950	
D & T Dairy	Wilkes	X	11	117	85	80.4			24136		
Scott Glover	White	H	11	93	87	76.3	4	2.32	24610	893	
Costal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	11	220	90	75.3*	3.8	2.45	26186	1018	
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	11	812	89	74.1*	3.5	2.11	25708	904	
Costal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	11	237	90	73.9*	3.9	2.46	25767	1019	
Krulic Dairy Farm, Inc.	Screven	H	11	92	89	74.1	3.5	2.11	26186	876	
Vista Farm	Jefferson	H	11	93	91	72.7	3.5	2	24746	840	
Krulic Dairy Farm, Inc.	Screven	X	11	35	88	71.2	4	2.33	22864	905	
Invin R. Yoder	Macon	H	11	179	89	71.1	3.7	2.09	25146	935	
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	11	139	88	71	3.5	2.07	23314	850	
Marvin Yoder	Macon	H	11	173	86	70.8	3.6	1.93	21692	818	
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms, Inc.	McDuffie	H	11	385	87	70.6	3.8	2.14	21532	755	
Agri-Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	11	214	89	69.4*	3.1	1.69	23941	809	
David L Moss	Morgan	H	11	113	86	69.4	4.2	2.23	20848	809	
R & D Dairy	Laurens	H	11	119	86	68.8	3.9	2.28	21315	732	
Terry Embry	Putnam	H	11	523	85	68.4*	3.3	1.61	21439	730	
Martin Dairy L.L.P.	Hart	H	11	297	90	67.7	3.4	1.97	22958	855	
Danny Bell	Morgan	H	10	254	88	67.7*			21399		
Anthony Brothers	Sumter	H	11	1123	89	67.2*	3.5	1.93	25591	903	

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TOP 20 DHIA HERDS BY TEST DAY FAT PRODUCTION - DECEMBER

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	Test Day Average				Yearly Average		
					% Days in Milk	Milk	% Fat	Lbs. Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat	Milk
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	12	767	89	82.8*	3.7	2.74	25822	954	
Franks Farm	Burke	H	12	35	90	70.4	3.9	2.67	20691	713	
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	12	216	89	83.5*	3.5	2.61	26077	1002	
Scott Glover	White	H	12	95	87	77.3	3.8	2.52	24350	882	
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	12	141	88	73.2	3.5	2.4	23200	833	
Vista Farm	Jefferson	H	12	92	91	74.6	3.5	2.3	24287	831	
Earnest R. Turk	Putnam	H	11	385	93	66.8	4	2.3	22011	827	
David L. Moss	Morgan	H	11	113	86	69.4	4.2	2.23	20848	809	
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	12	815	89	75.5*	3.5	2.18	25465	893	
Williams Dairy	Taliaferro	H	11	125	89	64.7	4.2	2.18	22505	792	
Troy Yoder	Macon	H	11	155	90	68.7	3.8	2.16	22822	866	
Anthony Brothers	Sumter	H	12	1133	89	72*	3.3	2.14	25265	895	
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms, Inc.	McDuffie	H	11	385	87	70.6	3.8	2.14	21532	755	
Krulic Dairy Farm, Inc.	Screven	X	12	36	88	69.1	3.4	2.14	22748	891	
Stovall Dairy Inc.	Madison	H	12	165	89	64.2	3.7	2.13	20774	776	
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	12	186	89	72.9	3.8	2.11	24947	928	
R & D Dairy	Laurens	H	12	122	86	72.7	3.5	2.11	21316	734	
Eatonton Dairy Farms L.L.P.	Putnam	H	12	743	89	65.5*	4	2.11	22920		
Larry L. Holdeman	Jefferson	H	12	88	95	59.9	3.8	2.11	22275	817	
Twin Oaks Farm	Jefferson	H	12	86	92	70.2	3.6	2.09	22241	731	

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TOP 20 DHIA HERDS BY TEST DAY MILK PRODUCTION - DECEMBER

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	Test Day Average				Yearly Average				
					% Days in Milk	Milk	% Fat	Lbs. Fat	Milk	% Fat	Lbs. Fat	Milk	
D & T Dairy	Wilkes	X	12	119	86	83.9*				24428			
Costal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	12	216	89	83.5*	3.5	2.61		26077		1002	
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	12	767	89	82.8	3.7	2.74		25822		954	
Scott Glover	White	H	12	95	87	77.3	3.8	2.52		24350		882	
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	12	815	89	75.5*	3.5	2.18		25465		893	
Vista Farm	Jefferson	H	12	92	91	74.6	3.5	2.3		24287		831	
Fuller-Dairy Inc.	Putnam	H	12	209	90	73.6				21062			
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	12	141	88	73.2	3.5	2.4		23200		833	
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	12	186	89	72.9	3.8	2.11		24947		928	
R & D Dairy	Laurens	H	12	122	86	72.7	3.5	2.11		21316		734	
Kent Walker	Greene	H	12	106	88	72.1	3.3	1.96		21747		782	
Anthony Brothers	Sumter	H	12	1133	89	72*	3.3	2.14		25265		895	
Marvin Yoder	Macon	H	12	180	86	71.5	3.6	1.93		21701		814	
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms Inc.	McDuffie	H	11	385	87	70.6	3.8	2.14		21532		755	
Franks Farm	Burke	H	12	35	90	70.4	3.9	2.67		20691		713	
Agri-Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	12	207	88	70.3	3.8	2.07		23519		790	
Twin Oaks Farm	Jefferson	H	12	86	92	70.2	3.6	2.09		22241		731	
Krulic Dairy Farm Inc.	Screven	H	12	94	90	69.7	3.4	2.09		24633		868	
David L. Moss	Morgan	H	11	113	86	69.4	4.2	2.23		20848		809	
Krulic Dairy Farm Inc.	Screven	X	12	36	88	69.1	3.4	2.14		22748		891	

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TOP 20 DHIA HERDS BY TEST DAY FAT PRODUCTION JANUARY 2008

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	% Days in Milk	Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
						Milk	% Fat	Lbs. Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat	
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	1	767	89	83	3.8	2.83	25850	956	
Twin Oaks Farm	Jefferson	H	1	83	92	75.4	4.1	2.83	22312	744	
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	1	226	89	81.8	3.7	2.78	26004	990	
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	1	145	89	73.6	3.9	2.77	23087	819	
Vista Farm	Jefferson	H	1	89	90	77.9	3.8	2.69	24051	824	
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	1	850	89	78.5	4	2.68	25113	882	
Scott Glover	White	H	1	94	87	81.8	3.9	2.66	24309	878	
Earnest R Turk	Putnam	H	1	383	93	71.2	4.1	2.65	21842	825	
Ralph Kotal	Hart	H	1	58	91	76.9	3.8	2.53	20493	783	
Martin Dairy L.L.P.	Hart	H	1	300	89	73.6	3.9	2.49	22462	836	
Bill Dodson	Putnam	H	1	203	90	69.4	3.8	2.49	20600	780	
Lee Whitaker	McDuffie	H	1	238	90	64.9	4.1	2.48	21356	762	
R & D Dairy	Laurens	H	1	113	86	73.4	3.8	2.44	21298	733	
Rodgers' Hillcrest Farms Inc.	McDuffie	H	1	398	87	68.5	4	2.42	21573	762	
Anthony Brothers	Sumter	H	1	1144	89	76.3	3.5	2.34	24949	884	
Irvin R. Yoder	Macon	H	1	188	89	75.2	3.9	2.34	24718	188	
Williams Dairy	Taliaferro	H	1	128	90	69.5	3.7	2.34	22744	807	
Cecil Dueck	Jefferson	H	1	71	92	70.8	3.9	2.31	22610	798	
David L Moss	Morgan	H	1	116	85	71.8	3.8	2.26	20705	801	
Agri-Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	1	210	87	73.4	3.8	2.24	23175	785	

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TOP 20 DHIA HERDS BY TEST DAY MILK PRODUCTION- JANUARY 2008

Herd	County	Br.	Mo.	Cows	Test Day Average					Yearly Average		
					% Days in Milk	Milk	% Fat	Lbs. Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat	Milk	
D & T Dairy	Wilkes	X	1	124	85	86.1				24390		
J. Everett Williams	Morgan	H	1	767	89	83	3.8	2.83		25850	956	
Coastal Plain Exp Station	Tift	H	1	226	89	81.8	3.7	2.78		26004	990	
Scott Glover	White	H	1	94	87	81.8	3.9	2.66		24309	878	
Dave Clark	Morgan	H	1	850	89	78.5	4	2.68		25113	882	
Vista Farm	Jefferson	H	1	89	90	77.9	3.8	2.69		24051	824	
Marvin Yoder	Macon	H	1	179	86	77.4	3.5	2.14		21667	809	
Kent Walker	Greene	H	1	107	88	77.3	3.2	2.1		21964	769	
Ralph Kotal	Hart	H	1	58	91	76.9	3.8	2.53		20493	783	
Anthony Brothers	Sumter	H	1	1144	89	76.3	3.5	2.34		24949	884	
Twin Oaks Farm	Jefferson	H	1	83	92	75.4	4.1	2.83		22312	744	
Irvin R Yoder	Macon	H	12	188	89	75.2	3.9	2.34		24718	921	
Fuller-Dairy-Inc.	Putnam	H	1	207	91	73.9				21233		
Ray Ward Dairy	Putnam	H	1	145	89	73.6	3.9	2.77		23087	819	
Martin Dairy L.L.P.	Hart	H	1	300	89	73.6	3.9	2.49		22462	836	
Horst Crest Farms	Burke	H	1	156	85	73.6	3.3	1.98		20392	724	
Agri-Fresh Dairy	Laurens	H	1	210	87	73.4	3.8	2.24		23175	785	
R & D Dairy	Laurens	H	1	113	86	73.4	3.8	2.44		21298	733	
David L. Moss	Morgan	H	1	116	85	71.8	3.8	2.26		20705	801	
Earnest R. Turk	Putnam	H	1	383	93	71.2	4.1	2.65		21842	825	

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