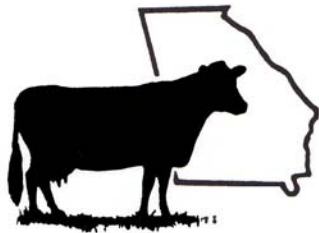


GEORGIA MILK REVIEW

April 2010



GEORGIA MILK REFERENDUM HELD THIS MONTH

During the week of April 15, Georgia dairy producers should receive their ballots to reaffirm Georgia Milk Producers Inc. for the next three years. It has been a very busy three years since our last referendum and with the current dairy crisis, it looks that the next three years will be just as challenging.



speaks for what is best for the state's producers.

Georgia Milk Producers is your producer organization and is the one voice that represents Georgia dairy producers' interests. Our organization analyzes the impacts on Georgia dairy producers of both positive as well as negative issues that continue to confront the Georgia dairy producer's ability to be profitable. Only Georgia Milk Producers

Georgia Milk Producers Inc. is funded through a one-cent per hundredweight assessment on all milk produced in Georgia. A typical Georgia dairy milking 200 cows will contribute \$400 to Georgia Milk Producers on a yearly basis. Here are reasons to keep Georgia Milk in operation for Georgia producers:

- Georgia Milk Producers serves as the only organization that represents the best interests of all Georgia producers. Georgia producers are in the minority in each of the three largest co-ops. Co-ops are democratic organizations that almost always act for the best interest of their majorities, not their minorities.
- Georgia Milk representatives testify on your behalf at Congressional, Federal Order and other state and federal hearings. The most recent testimony was given by President Everett Williams last July during a hearing for the Subcommittee on Livestock and Poultry for the House Agriculture Committee in Washington, D.C.
- Georgia Milk is actively involved with educating both state and federal legislators on beneficial changes for our industry when drafting dairy legislation.
- Georgia milk has hosted producer workshops on immigration, milk futures and state environmental regulations.
- Georgia Milk Producers led the agriculture community by becoming the first to identify dairy water use and ensure that our usage will be included within the Statewide Water Plan.
- Georgia Milk Producers has worked heavily on the formation of Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation and the initial organization of the GDYF Board of Directors and bylaws. We are currently working with Dr. Larry Guthrie to hold the first fundraising event for GDYF this year.
- Georgia Milk representatives serve on various industry committees such as the Southeast Producers Steering Committee, UGA College of Veterinary Advisory Council, Georgia Animal Biosecurity Council, and the Georgia Food Animal Coalition.

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DAIRY BRIEFS

If you would like to be added to our email list in order to receive information and Georgia dairy news quickly, please email our office at georgiamilkprod@bellsouth.net.

The two raw milk bills introduced this year in the Georgia General Assembly failed to make passage out of the House Agriculture Committee by crossover day.

USDA will hold the first public meeting of the newly established Dairy Industry Advisory Committee (Dairy Committee) on April 13-15, in Washington D.C.

The Dairy Committee will review the current state of the dairy industry, discuss current dairy programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Federal dairy policy, hear proposals from the dairy industry, and hear public comments.

The Dairy Committee is responsible for advising the Secretary on these issues. Ricky Williams, a dairy farmer from Baxley, Georgia, is currently serving on the committee.

- Georgia Milk Producers works closely with UGA Extension to organize and sponsor continuing education courses for producers that need to meet state environmental regulations.
- Georgia Milk Producers provides producers with forums to meet with Co-op and industry leaders.
- Georgia Milk Producers promotes our industry at: the Governor's Ag Awareness Kick-off Celebration, Putnam and Macon County Dairy Festivals, the Georgia National Fair and Sunbelt Ag Expo.

Please take the time to mark and send in your ballot. Georgia Milk Producers must be reauthorized every three years by a 2/3 favorable vote of producers that return their ballots in order to continue the organization for the next three years. If you do not receive a ballot or misplace it, please contact the Georgia Milk office immediately to have another ballot sent to your residence.

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR GEORGIA'S DAIRY YOUTH

For decades, producers, extension agents and various industry affiliates have witnessed first hand the importance of dairy shows and related youth activities in the lives of thousands of Georgia's dairy youth. These activities have played a major role in helping youth learn life skills and become self-directed, productive, and contributing adult citizens.



Showing animals can help youth in the maturing process especially by developing responsibility and learning sportsmanship. Later in life, the experience of showing helps youth learn to function as adults in society and to accept responsibilities, gain an ability to communicate, ask questions, solve problems, make decisions, and to work with other people. The experience of being responsible for an animals care, health, growth and then showing them in a competitive environment are tremendous assets in the character- building process.

Over the last twenty years, resources for the dairy youth programs in Georgia have slowly dwindled. Because of the decline in State support, the leadership of the Georgia dairy industry came together with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, Georgia Milk Producers Inc., Ag Science Teachers and individual dairy farm families to create the Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation (GDYF).



It is the desire of the leadership of the Georgia dairy industry and GDYF to increase interest and focus on dairy activities in 4H, FFA and UGA Dairy Student programs. Dairy cattle judging, dairy quiz bowl, dairy youth conferences, dairy heifer projects and shows as well as Collegiate Dairy

Challenge Bowl and Dairy Cattle Judging are some of the opportunities for the youth of Georgia. Funding from outside sources is vital to keep these important youth development programs going in the future. Increasing the funding for these projects



will create more opportunities for participation by Georgia youth who are the ultimate future leaders of the Georgia dairy industry.

The Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation (GDYF) was officially established on May 18, 2009. The foundation has applied for nonprofit 501 C3 status with the U.S. Treasury and is eagerly waiting for approval. The management of the GDYF will be

composed of 24 directors, elected for three year terms. Fifteen directors on the Board shall be Georgia dairy producers or commercial heifer growers. The remaining nine directors can include dairy industry representatives, extension agents, agribusiness representatives and 4H or FFA representatives. Currently Dr. Larry Guthrie serves as the Chairman for GDYF and Everett Williams from Madison, Georgia, serves as Vice Chairman. Adam Graft of Americus and Jeff Smith of Comer are also serving as directors for GDYF.

The Board will soon meet for its first official Board meeting to select the other board members and plan an official kickoff fundraiser event. GDYF is soliciting help, ideas and funds from producers and industry representatives. We hope you will consider joining the efforts of GDYF to build stronger Georgia dairy youth programs.

Dr. Guthrie is currently soliciting interested dairy producers and industry representatives to serve as directors or committee members for GDYF. If you are interested in joining the Foundation as a director or if you would like to serve as a committee member please contact Farrah Newberry at 706-310-0020.

To be sold at the **GA Southern Invitational Sale**

April 17 at 11 a.m.

Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA

All proceeds benefit the GA Dairy Youth Foundation Inc.

CIE Crows Nest Silk Cherwine

Brown Swiss, March Calf

Donated by

Jimmy and Ginny Franks of Crows Nest Dairy, Waynesboro, GA

and

Agri-Fresh Alxndr Jacee

Holstein, September Calf

Donated by

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shenk of Agri-Fresh Dairy, Dublin, GA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2010-2011

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DAIRY MARKET OUTLOOK - ROGER CRYAN, NMPF



Dairy cash markets are up from a month ago but milk futures are down for most months. Demand is lackluster: exports are back up, but to nowhere near the levels of 2008. Milk production was up in February and cow numbers were up for a second month. As a result of these fundamentals, the U.S. market is burdened with large cheese stocks. Total cheese stocks were 100 million pounds above their trend level at the beginning of the year, and remained 45 million above trend in March. To speed this clearance of stocks, Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) has reactivated its export assistance program for cheddar cheese to markets targeted for the double purpose of clearing domestic cheese supplies and developing long-term overseas markets.

Projected Milk Income Loss Contract payment rates average 18¢/cwt. in May and June; payments in out months are projected to be less likely, with lower feed cost projections. Dairy prices are near historical averages, but thanks to the new 'normal' feed prices, milk-feed margins are projected to be the third-lowest of the decade, higher only than 2008 and 2009; and MILC payments will be small, because it only partly accounts for high feed costs. By contrast, MILC payments were substantial in 2001-2004, when margins were higher because both milk and feed costs were low.

U.S. milk production in February was 14.77 billion lbs., **up 0.1%** from a year ago. Milk per cow was up 2.3%, which more than offset the herd reduction of 201,000 cows (2.2%) since a year ago, driven in part by CWT removals. However, the herd grew by another 3,000 cows from this January, the second consecutive monthly increase. USDA now projects milk production to be up the same 0.1% for all of 2010.

Special Note: According to Dairyline.com: Jerry Kozak, president and CEO of National Milk Producers Federation, outlined major dairy policy considerations currently underway in the Federation's committees during the DFA Annual Meeting last month. They included a margin insurance program, with a base insurance plan funded by the government, and a supplemental plan, allowing producers to buy additional coverage through insurance premium payments.

National Milk is also formulating a growth, or supply management plan, with some alterations to proposals already offered by Holstein USA and California's Milk Producers Council, Dairyline.com reported.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**47th Annual
Spring Dairy Show
April 9, 2010
UGA Livestock
Instructional Arena
Athens, Georgia**

**State Judging Show
April 10, 2010
UGA Livestock
Instructional Arena
Athens, Georgia**

**April 16-17, 2010
Southern
Invitational Show,
Georgia National
Fairground, Perry**

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