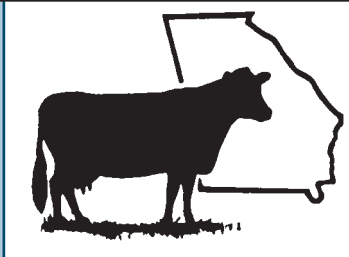


# GEORGIA MILK REVIEW

August 2008



## FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8

With temperatures hitting 100, it is hard to believe that fall is just around the corner and that Georgia Milk Producers and American Dairy Association of Georgia will soon hold their annual fall district meetings in September. During these meetings, the organizations will hold elections and report on upcoming and past year events, budgets and current dairy issues affecting Georgia's dairy industry. Dinner or lunch will be served at each meeting depending on the time it is set to begin. If you have any questions or would like more information please call 800-337-0555.

### DATE

### LOCATION

September 8, Monday	Holiday Inn in Perry at 7 p.m.
September 9, Tuesday	Plaza Restaurant in Thomasville at NOON
September 10, Wednesday	Captain Joe's Seafood in Baxley at NOON
September 11, Thursday	Krystal's Taste of Country in Millen at NOON
September 11, Thursday	Little Dutch House Restaurant in Wrens at 7 p.m.
September 12, Friday	McGill/Woodruff Ag Building at NOON
September 15, Monday	Bonner's Restaurant in Buckhead at 7 p.m.
September 16, Tuesday	Manhattan's Restaurant in Griffin at 7 p.m.
September 18, Thursday	Fire Mountain Restaurant at Gainesville at NOON
September 25, Thursday	BJ's Restaurant in Calhoun at 7 p.m.

### Attend to enter Grand Prize Drawing of \$500

GA Milk Producers will present a \$500 Grand Prize at the conclusion of all meetings to one lucky Georgia dairy farm family that attends their district meeting. Additional door prizes and promotional items will be provided by SUDIA/American Dairy Association of Georgia at each district meeting. For those who preregister, there will also be a special door prize from SUDIA/ADA of GA awarded at the end of each meeting. If you do not receive a preregistration form from SUDIA, please call Eric McClain, your SUDIA/ADA Manager, at 1-800-928-6455

**DON'T FORGET!** Those of you in even-numbered ADA of Georgia Districts will be electing your District Directors for the next two year term. Georgia Milk Producers will be electing district directors in all ten districts for the next two year term.

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## DAIRY BRIEFS

### Stay in touch with your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Many Farm Bill program sign-up periods are underway and expire at the end of September.

Deadlines to sign up for several crop and disaster programs are approaching, including:

#### 2008 Crop and CRP Acreage Reporting, Aug. 15.

#### 2008 Disaster Assistance "Buy-In" Fee, Sept. 16.

#### 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program, Sept. 30.

Limits on FSA loans for farm ownership and operating costs have been raised from \$200,000 to \$300,00. Adopted under the 2008 Farm Bill, the increases are the first since 1984.

## DAIRY CLASSIFIEDS

*Need Bulls? Need Milk! Registered Holstein bulls, service-age and younger. From top sires and multiple generations of Very Good and Excellent dams with 30,000 to 50,000 lbs. of milk! Delivery available. Reliable order buying and private treaty sales. Valspring Holsteins, Les McCracken 423-234-1701.*

## CWT AUDITORS ARE VISITING FARMS THIS MONTH



Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) auditors are visiting farms this month to remove the herds accepted for the latest round of CWT's milk reduction program. Three dairies in Georgia were accepted with the highest bid accepted at \$7.15.

When visiting the farm, inspectors make sure things are "above board" and inspect the herd and recent milk production records against the historical information that was supplied when the bids were first mailed in June. The animals then get tagged and sent to slaughter by a set date. Payment is not made until the slaughter house sends the tags to the CWT office.

A total of 609 bids were submitted from farmers in 41 states. Officials accepted 209 bids, representing 25,474 cows and 440 million pounds of milk. According to Chris Galen with National Milk Producers Federation, the tally is a little less than half of the previous buy out effort, but when compared to the 2005 herd removal, the tally is close and the acceptance rate is in line with historic averages (dairyline.com).

The overriding mantra is to take out the most amount of milk at the most economical cost, Galen said, and "I think we've done that in 2008."

Most of the milk and cows will come out of the West, consistent with previous herd removals, according to Galen, though the largest number of accepted bids came out of the Midwest.

Jim Tillison, the Chief Operating Officer of CWT, noted that the average herd size and average milk output per cow were slightly under the national average for both measures. He said that further bid information, including the average price of accepted bids, won't be released until all the on-farm visits have been completed. The total number of bids initially accepted by this round includes:

Region	Pounds of milk	Farms Accepted	Number of Cows	Bred Heifers
Northeast	56 million	30	2,855	17
Southeast	68 million	38	4,228	172
Midwest	70 million	76	4,124	32
Southwest	84 million	36	5,189	36
West	162 million	29	9,078	101
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>440.3 million</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>25,474</b>	<b>358</b>

**Will this round of herd removal help us out?** Economists are saying that it will only reduce the milk supply by about 0.2 percent, but should keep the milk supply pretty snug over the next four to six weeks.

CWT (Cooperatives Working Together) is a program designed exclusively by America's dairy farmers for the benefit of dairy farmers. It is a multidimensional, voluntary, producer-funded national program developed by National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), to strengthen and stabilize milk prices by balancing supply with demand. For more information go to [www.cwt.coop](http://www.cwt.coop). (Source: Dairyline.com and cwt.coop)

# *DROUGHT CONDITIONS INTENSIFY ACROSS GEORGIA*

*Dr. David Stooksbury, State Climatologist, University of Georgia*



Exceptional drought has returned to northeast Georgia, and continuing dry weather has spread drought conditions to southeast Georgia. Although scattered thunderstorms brought some relief to drought-parched Georgia during July, allowing plants to show some recovery, the relief was localized. The rains were not enough to halt dropping stream flows across most of the state. Many streams are at or near record low flows for late July.

Exceptional drought conditions now are occurring north and east of a line from Wilkes to Oglethorpe to Clarke to Jackson to Hall to Lumpkin to Union counties, inclusive. This includes 16 counties in northeast Georgia.

Exceptional is the worse drought category. During exceptional drought, many of the drought indicators are at levels seen only once in 50 to 100 years. Extreme drought conditions remain in 13 counties of north Georgia: Fannin, Gilmer, Dawson, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Barrow, Walton, Oconee, Morgan, Greene, Taliaferro, Wilkes and Lincoln.

Severe drought conditions exist north and west of a line from Echols to Lanier to Berrien to Irwin to Ben Hill to Wilcox to Pulaski to Bleckley to Twiggs to Wilkinson to Washington to Jefferson to Burke counties, inclusive. This includes 96 of the 159 counties in Georgia.

In southeast Georgia, moderate drought conditions are occurring in 16 counties: Clinch, Ware, Atkinson, Coffee, Bacon, Jeff Davis, Telfair, Wheeler, Montgomery, Dodge, Laurens, Treutlen, Johnson, Emanuel, Jenkins and Screven. The 12 counties experiencing mild drought conditions are Charlton, Brantley, Pierce, Appling, Wayne, Toombs, Tattnall, Long, Evans, Candler, Bulloch and Effingham.

Across northeast and southwest Georgia, almost all streams are at or near record low flows for late July. Many streams are below the 7Q10 level of flow. The seven refers to the seven-day stream flow, the "Q" is quantity and the 10 refers to 10 years. Thus, the current 7Q10 level is the lowest consecutive seven-day stream flow expected to occur once in 10 years.

When stream flows fall below the 7Q10 value, there are concerns about environmental quality and a stream's health. It is very common that stream withdrawal and discharge permits are based on 7Q10.

Farm ponds, especially ones not fed by springs, are showing the lack of rain. Many ponds didn't receive adequate recharge during the winter and entered the summer low. Beef and dairy farmers are now rotating cattle from pasture to pasture not only to protect pastures but also manage their cattle drinking water supply.

Through October, Georgia's best chance for widespread drought relief will be tropical disturbances. The heart of tropical storm season is still a few weeks away.

Visit [www.georgiadrought.org](http://www.georgiadrought.org) for more drought information, [www.georgiaweather.net](http://www.georgiaweather.net) for automated weather data across Georgia, [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org) for daily rainfall from CoCoRaHS, [ga.water.usgs.gov](http://ga.water.usgs.gov) for USGS data and [www.conservewatergeorgia.net](http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net) for water conservation information.

## *BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009*

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# SUDIA OFFERS TRAINING TO DAIRY FARMERS

To help today's dairy farmers face questions from their communities that can be difficult to answer, SUDIA is developing a community outreach program for producers. Part of the program will include training sessions across the SUDIA region that will cover how to use letters to the editor, how to conduct forums and presentations, create taglines, craft mission statements and other communications opportunities.

The program will also provide dairy farmers with tools for community outreach that will include how to navigate community meetings, make successful presentations to civic groups or even improve their farm tours. If you are interested, contact Amanda Trice, SUDIA's organizer of the community outreach program at 800-343-4693 or atrice@sudiainc.com.

# NMPF ASKS USDA TO CLOSE CANADIAN BORDERS



National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) has sent a letter to U.S. Ag Secretary Ed Schafer asking for USDA to reconsider last year's decision to open the Canadian border for imported animals. In the August 4 issue of *Dairy Profit Weekly*, NMPF President, Jerry Kozak, says the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) situation in Canada means imported animals could introduce or disseminate BSE in the United States.

Seven of nine animals infected with BSE were born after March, 1999, a point when USDA determined Canada achieved compliance with international standards to prevent the spread of BSE.

The NMPF letter asks USDA to consider closing the border to animals to be used for breeding purposes, which would include dairy heifers. USDA reports approximately 45,000 Canadian dairy animals have been sent to the U.S. since the border was reopened in November 2007.

For the week ending July 19, USDA reports that 726 dairy replacement heifers were imported from Canada. The total year-to-date total is 35,382.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

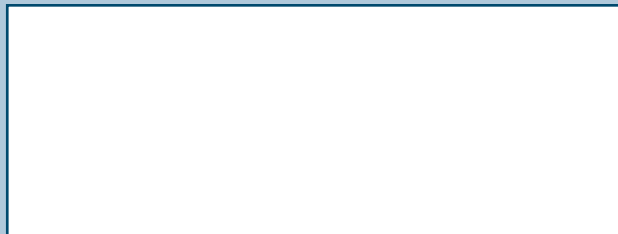
GMP & ADA of Georgia Fall District Meetings will begin on **September 8, 2008.**

**October 2-12, 2008**  
Georgia National Fair, Perry, Georgia. Come visit us at the dairy exhibit!!

**October 14-16, 2008**  
Sunbelt AG Expo, Moultrie, Georgia

**November 13-14, 2008**  
SE Dairy Herd Management Conference at GA Farm Bureau Bldg. in Macon, GA

**Feb. 2-3, 2009**  
2009 Georgia Dairy Conference at King and Prince Beach Resort at St. Simons Island, GA.



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