

GEORGIA MILK REVIEW

December 2008



CWT REVIEWING BIDS FROM LATEST RETIREMENT

The bidding period for Cooperatives Working Together (CWT)'s sixth herd retirement round officially closed on Monday, November 24. All bids that were submitted for the herd retirement are currently being analyzed by an independent audit firm. Then the bids will be reviewed and a final election will be made by CWT staff, with farm auditors being sent successful bidder information on December 12. Farm audits will officially begin December 15.

This round offered bidding producers the option of including all their bred heifers, for a flat fee of \$1,225 per animal. Producers had to offer all of their bred heifers at that price. All of the dairy producers who submitted bids to sell their herds had to be members of CWT as of January 2008, either through their membership in a fully participating cooperative, or as an independent member of CWT.

As with the first 2008 herd retirement round, a list of farms that are accepted in this herd retirement will be accessible online early next year. For more information about CWT or the herd retirement, please visit www.cwt.coop. (**source: NMPF**)



FREE WEB SITE LAUNCHED TO HELP IMMIGRANTS LEARN ENGLISH

The U.S. Department of Education launched U.S.A. Learns, a free Web site to help immigrants learn English. The Web site, which is located at www.USALearns.org, provides approximately 11 million adults who have low levels of English proficiency with easily accessible and free English language training.

"America's limited-English adults will now have readily available materials to improve their literacy and help them become more productive workers, better parents, engaged community members and active citizens," said Troy Justesen, assistant secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Launch of the site completes one of the goals in President Bush's Aug. 10, 2007, announcement of 26 immigration reforms that his Administration would pursue within existing law — including the assimilation of new citizens and helping immigrants learn English to expand their opportunities in America. Recognizing that "knowledge of English is the most important component of assimilation" and "an investment in tools to help new Americans learn English will be repaid many times over," the Administration pledged to launch a free, Web-based portal to help immigrants learn English. (**NMPF**)

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DAIRY BRIEFS

U.S. dairy trade has been a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy national economy, reported Dairy Profit Weekly. Dairy saw a record-setting fiscal year for trade.

The value of U.S. dairy exports for fiscal year (FY) 2008, which ran from October 2007-September 2008, set a new record high, topping \$4 billion. That's up 63 percent from fiscal year 2007, when U.S. dairy exports totaled about \$2.5 billion.

An estimated 40,000 people showed up at a Colorado farm on Nov. 22nd to collect free potatoes, carrots and leeks. Thousands of cars arrived early that morning to get free food from the Miller family, who farm only 600 acres 37 miles north of Denver.

Milk production will advance slightly in 2009 on yields as cow numbers decline modestly, according to USDA.

Weakening demand, especially exports, presage lower prices across the board in 2009. Lower feed costs will likely help boost feeding rates, according to USDA, and raise yields. 2009 milk output is expected to grow about 1 percent, reaching 191.5 billion pounds.

HIRED WORKERS DOWN 3 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

According to USDA's recent Farm Labor report, there were 1,117,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 801,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 316,000 workers.

The report says that farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.70 per hour during the October 2008 reference week, up 32 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.05 per hour, up 43 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.19 per hour compared with \$10.02 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.08 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 41.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago. For a complete copy of the report, log on to: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/FarmLabo/FarmLabo-11-21-2008.txt>.

SOUTHERN DAIRY CONFERENCE SLATED FOR JAN. 28-29

The 35th Annual Southern Dairy Conference is scheduled for January 28-29, 2009, at the Westin Atlanta Airport in Atlanta, Georgia. On Wednesday, January 28, invited speakers will discuss dairy policy and farm bill implications, the dairy export market, federal order issues, milk quality and bulk milk transportation. The conference is set to begin at 9:15 a.m.

On Thursday, January 29, the conference will begin at 8:15 a.m. Topics to be discussed include the impact of genomics, animal welfare, the impact of increased input costs, and the freedom to use technologies in dairy production. The conference will end at 10:45 a.m. with Steve Larson, Editor of *Hoard's Dairyman*, giving an overall assessment on the current state of the dairy industry.

To register for the conference online, or to view a complete agenda go to : www.ereg.caes.uga.edu. To find out more information on the meeting call Carla Wood with the University of Georgia at 706-583-0347 or email at carlam@uga.edu. Reservation for lodging must be made directly with the hotel. Accommodations are available at a specific rate of \$135.00 for single or double per night. When making reservations, identify yourself as a participant in the Southern Dairy Conference. Reservations must be made by January 5, 2009. You may call (404) 762-7676 or toll free at 1-888-627-7211 to make reservations.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MILC ESTIMATES,
ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES, AND DAIRY CLASSIFIEDS!**

www.gamilk.org

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!!

Take advantage of special room rates now by making your reservations early for the 2009 Georgia Dairy Conference. The convention is scheduled for February 2-3, 2009, at The King and Prince Beach Resort at St. Simons Island, Georgia.

The King and Prince Beach Resort has extended a special group rate for our organization. From Saturday, January 31, 2009, until Monday, February 2, 2009, the room rates will be as followed for those attending the conference:

Ocean Front Rooms will be \$151/night, Ocean View Rooms will be \$140/night, Resort View Rooms will be \$126/night and Standard Guest Rooms will be \$103/night. All rooms are subject to Georgia State sales tax which is currently 5% and Glynn County rooms tax which is currently 5% and a local tax which is currently 2%; a total of 12%.

In addition, Georgia Milk Producers will once again deduct \$100 from each producer's hotel bill at check-out for two nights (a total of \$200). In the case that two producers share a room, only \$100 will be deducted for that room, not \$100 per producer.

To make a reservation online go to www.kingandprince.com and click on reservations, then click on group reservations. The password for our meeting is georgiamilk. If you need to call the hotel to make a reservation call 800-342-0212, remember to mention that you are with Georgia Milk Producers.

A room must be guaranteed by means of a major credit card or with a deposit equal to the first night's room rate. A one-night charge will result for failure to show up for a confirmed reservation or for cancellation within 14 days prior to arrival. Room reservations received on or before January 1, 2009, will be confirmed at the group rate. Reservations received after January 1, 2009, will be provided on a space available basis.



NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR WORLD DAIRY EXPO'S ANNUAL AWARDS

Outstanding leaders from across the international dairy industry are being sought for World Dairy Expo's annual recognition awards. "We're encouraging people to nominate someone who has demonstrated exceptional leadership," says general manager, Mark Clarke. "Recognizing these individuals during World Dairy Expo showcases the leadership present in the dairy industry and adds to the excitement of Expo."

Nominations will be accepted through February 1, 2009 in the four following categories: Industry Person of the Year, Dairyman of the Year, Dairy Woman of the Year and International Person of the Year

Individuals will be honored at the *Dinner with the Stars* during World Dairy Expo, September 29 – October 3, 2009, in Madison, Wisconsin. **Nominations are due Monday, February 2, 2009.** Official applications are available online at www.worlddairyexpo.com.

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CURRENTLY ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR FRIEND OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY AWARD

Georgia Milk will be awarding the "Friend of the Dairy Industry Award" to an individual or company that worked as a strong advocate for Georgia's dairy industry in 2008. We would like Georgia dairy producers to send in nominations for this award to our office by January 9, 2009. Our Board of Directors will review your nominations and the winner will receive the award at our 2009 Georgia Dairy Conference on February 2, 2009. The award is open to any individual who is involved with the dairy industry, for example, cooperative officials/field representatives, feed/supply companies or salesperson, veterinarians, extension agents, etc.).

Please list your nomination for the "Friend of the Dairy Industry Award" below and include a brief explanation of why you believe this person deserves this award. Also, please include an address or telephone number that the nominee can be reached at (if known). You can fax this information to the Georgia Milk office at 706-310-0025 or mail it to 1641 New High Shoals Road, Suite 5, Watkinsville, GA 30677.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 28 -29, 2009
Southern Dairy Conference at Westin Atlanta Airport, Atlanta, GA

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

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