

GEORGIA MILK REVIEW

December 2009



PLANS UNDERWAY FOR 2010 GA DAIRY CONFERENCE

Georgia Milk Producers will host the 2010 Georgia Dairy Conference on February 1-2, 2010 at the Savannah Riverfront Marriot in Savannah, Georgia. The conference is set to begin at 1 p.m. on Monday, February 1, with our annual business session. Special guest speakers representing Dairy Farmers Working Together will also give an update on the Dairy Price Stabilization Program and later that evening we will host an awards banquet.



On Tuesday morning, February 2, the program will resume at 8:30 a.m. to cover waste management issues, a comparison of conventional and grazing dairies and the transition from a purebred to crossbred herd. The conference will adjourn with a luncheon at 12:15 p.m. For a complete copy of the 2010 Georgia Dairy Conference, go to www.gamilk.org.

Take advantage of special room rates for the 2010 Georgia Dairy Conference by making your reservations today. From Sunday January 31, 2010, until Tuesday, February 2, 2010, the room rates for those attending the 2010 Georgia Dairy Conference will be \$139.00 per room for single and double occupancy rooms. Junior and Executive Suites are available for an additional charge. All rooms are subject to Georgia State and county sales tax. To take advantage of the special room rate, please make your reservation by December 24, 2009.

In addition, Georgia Milk Producers will once again deduct \$100/night for two nights from each producer's hotel bill at check-out. In the case that two producers share a room, only \$100 will be deducted for that room, not \$100 per producer. Individuals are requested to call the hotel at 912-233-7722 or 800-285-0398 for reservations. Please mention that you are with the "Georgia Milk Producers" when making your reservation to ensure that you receive the discounted room rate.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR 2009 FRIEND OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY AWARD

Georgia Milk Producers 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 2009. We would like Georgia dairy producers to send in nominations for this award to our office by January 8, 2010. Our Board of Directors will review your nominations and decide who will receive this award at the 2010 Georgia Dairy Producers' Annual Meeting on February 1-2, 2010. This award is open to any individual who is involved with the dairy industry (Cooperative officials/field representatives, feed/supply companies or salesperson, veterinarian, etc.). Please call our office with your nomination at 800-337-0555 or email it to georgiamilkprod@bellsouth.net

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DAIRY BRIEFS

Farmers are still waiting on USDA for details on the Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment Program (DELAP). Hopefully producers will receive their checks by the end of this month. Check with your local FSA for more information.

Dairy producers now have online access to key components of the new National Dairy FARM Program: Farmers Assuring Responsible Management.

Created by NMPF, with support from Dairy Management Inc., the National Dairy FARM Program is a voluntary, nationwide program designed to bring consistency and uniformity to animal care through education, on-farm evaluations and objective third-party verification.

To participate in the National Dairy FARM Program, producers, coops, processors, and state and regional dairy producer organizations can contact NMPF. On-farm evaluations will begin in 2010; third-party verification will follow in 2011.

SOUTHERN DAIRY CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 26-27, 2010

The 36th Annual Southern Dairy Conference will be held on January 26 & 27, 2010 at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel in Atlanta Georgia. Registration for the conference is currently underway. For attendees attending both days, the preregistration fee is \$200 per person and \$125 per student. Late registration, beginning January 8, 2010, is \$250.00 per person. For more information on registration call, Carla Wood at 706-583-0347.

Reservations for lodging must be made directly with the hotel. Accommodations are available at a specific rate of \$125.00 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 8, 2010. You may call (404) 762-7676 or toll free at 1-888-627-7211 to make reservations. For additional conference information visit www.southerndairyconference.com.

Conference Agenda — Tuesday, January 26, 2010

- 7:30** Continental Breakfast and Registration - *Presiding: Bennet Cassell, Virginia Tech*
- 8:30** **Welcome**
- 8:40** **State of the dairy industry**
Scott Brown, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- 9:30** **Holstein Association USA dairy price stabilization program**
Lucas Sjostrom, Government Relations Specialist and Communications Assistant, Holstein Association, Brattleboro, VT
- 10:00** **Discussion**
- 10:15** **Morning break**
- 10:45** **Foundation for the Future in Milk Pricing**
Jerry Kozak, President and CEO, National Milk Producers Federation
- 11:30** **Impact of dairy price stabilization proposals on manufacturers**
Jerry Slominski, Senior VP for Legislative Affairs, International Dairy Foods Assoc.
- 12:00** **LUNCH**
Presiding: Bruce Jenny, Louisiana State University
- 1:15** **Producing NASS dairy statistics**
Joe Gaynor, Dairy Product Price Statistician, National Agriculture Statistics Service, Washington, DC
- 2:00** **Costs of production may move dairy cows east**
Bill Herndon, Professor and Head, North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University
- 2:30** **Nutritional and health benefits of dairy foods**
Dr. Greg Miller, National Dairy Council, Rosemont, IL

- 3:00 Afternoon break**
- 3:30 SUDIA update**
Cheryl Hayn, SUDIA
- 4:00 Issues regarding the production and consumption of raw milk**
Michael Payne, Program Director, California Dairy Quality Assurance Program, Davis, CA
- 4:30 Outbreaks due to unpasteurized dairy products**
Dr. Casey Barton Behravesh, Veterinary Epidemiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA
- 5:00 Adjourn for the evening**

Conference Agenda — Wednesday, January 27, 2010

- 7:00 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
- 8:30 New faces, new ideas in dairy at Mississippi State**
Dr. Stephanie Hill and Dr. Jamie Larson, Mississippi State University
- 9:00 Why I am excited about pasture based dairying**
Ronald St. John, Managing Partner, Alliance Dairies, Trenton, FL
- 9:45 A producer organization's efforts to sustain the Kentucky dairy industry**
Maury Cox, Executive Director, Kentucky Dairy Development Council
- 10:15 Break**
- 10:45 Carbon footprint of the green dairy industry – another view**
Dr. Roger Cady, Senior Technical Consultant, Elanco Animal Health
- 11:30 Concluding Observations & Conference Evaluation**
Jeffrey Bewley, University of Kentucky
- Noon Adjourn**

NATIONAL MILK ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO CWT PROGRAM

Last month National Milk announced that a special CWT Subcommittee, appointed as part of the National Milk Producers strategic planning effort, Foundation for the Future, would evaluate new programs that CWT could utilize to achieve its goal of maintaining producer milk prices at a level that will provide positive profit margins.

The CWT Committee approved replacing the Herd Retirement Program with a Whole/Partial Herd Retirement. This will allow producers to send a part of their herd to slaughter as long as they maintain the milk production reduction agreed to for twelve months.

The Bred Heifer program will continue to be an option in the Whole/Partial Herd Retirement Program. CWT will continue to analyze the various benchmarks it uses in determining the optimum time to implement possible future whole/partial herd retirements. For more information go to www.cwt.coop.

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2009-2010

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IMMIGRATION REFORM STILL ON HOLD

SOURCE: WESTERN UNITED DAIRYMEN



Another year has passed without comprehensive immigration reform, and immigration remains a challenge for all employers, especially in agriculture. The linchpin of immigration compliance remains proper completion of I-9 forms. The Obama administration has promised more focus on immigration enforcement against employers, and inspections and prosecutions of employers increased in 2009. Of

note, the administration recently called for 2,000 additional employer audits, and the first round of those audits included dairies in the Northeast. While enforcement has not yet focused on California, it could happen and dairies must be prepared. All dairies should review their I-9s and make sure their paperwork is in order for an audit.

The so-called "safe harbor" regulation that would have required employers to fire employees who could not resolve mismatched names and social security numbers has been withdrawn by the Obama administration. Accordingly, dairies should not fire any employee merely because a notice has been received that there is a mismatch. Employers should make sure that they have not made a clerical error leading to the mismatch, and should direct employees to resolve the issue with the Social Security administration. It remains to be seen whether the Obama administration can deliver on its promise of immigration reform, but until something happens, the I-9 remains the most important element of immigration compliance.

The goal of this article is to provide employers with current labor and employment law information. The contents should not be interpreted or construed as legal advice or opinion. For individual responses to questions or concerns regarding any given situation, the reader should consult with an attorney (Source: Anthony Raimondo at McCormick Barstow at (559) 433-1300).

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 26-27, 2010

Southern Dairy Conference

Atlanta, GA
706-583-0347 for more information.

February 1-2, 2010

GA Dairy Conference

Savannah Riverfront
Marriott, Savannah, GA

March 10-11, 2010

SUDIA Annual Meeting

at Renaissance
Concourse Hotel
Atlanta Airport
Atlanta, GA
404-209-9999

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