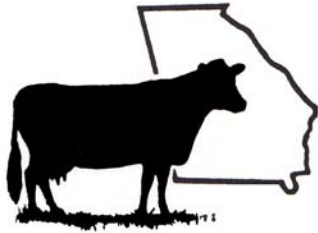


GEORGIA MILK REVIEW

May 2009



CWT TO REMOVE OVER 100,000 COWS IN LARGEST -EVER HERD RETIREMENT

ARLINGTON, VA – Cooperatives Working Together announced May 13 that it has tentatively accepted 388 bids representing 102,898 cows and 2 billion pounds of milk production capacity in the first of a series of herd retirements planned over the next twelve months. The number of cows and pounds of milk represent the largest single herd retirement carried out in the six year history of CWT.

Dairy farmers in 41 states submitted a total of 538 herd retirement bids by the May 1 deadline. The 388 bids tentatively accepted represent 72 percent of the total bids received by CWT. The number of cows now scheduled to be removed account for 64 percent of the total number of cows offered and the 2 billion ponds of milk account for 67 percent of the milk production offered. "The high percentage of bids CWT selected this time around is an indication that producers understood that CWT would only able to accept reasonable bids per hundred pounds of milk in order to adjust the nation's dairy herd and better align supply and demand," said Jerry Kozak, President and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), which administers CWT.



Starting next week, CWT field auditors will begin visiting the 388 farms whose bids were accepted, checking their milk production records, inspecting their herds, and tagging each cow for processing. All farms should be audited by early July and cows should begin moving off dairies by late May. All bidders will be notified no later than June 12, 2009, as to whether their bid was among those accepted.

"The bids selected ranged from farms with fewer than 50 cows to dairies with over 5,000, demonstrating that farms of all sizes in all areas are facing a very difficult year in 2009," Kozak said. "Those that took advantage of CWT's offer to retire their herds will aid others still wanting to farm by reducing the amount of milk coming to market and strengthening prices going forward."

Once CWT's field auditors inspect and accept the herds offered as part of the bidding process, farmers will have 15 days in which to send their animals to a processing plant. CWT will again provide to each farmer the NMPF guidelines for the proper culling and transporting of dairy cattle, Kozak said.

Producers whose bids are accepted in this herd retirement will be paid in two installments: 90% of the amount bid times the producer's 12 months of milk production when it is verified that that all cows have gone to slaughter, and the remaining 10% plus interest at the end of 12 months following the farm audit, if both the producer and his dairy facility – whether owned or leased – do not become involved in the commercial production and marketing of milk during that period. (Source: www.cwt.coop)

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DAIRY BRIEFS

Growth Management

Plan: Georgia Milk Producers would like to hear your thoughts about this supply management plan that is slowly gaining momentum across the nation. For more information on GMP go to www.gamilk.org.

Dairy Prices:

What affect will the collapse in the price of milk have on the dairy industry? If history and other industries are any guide, it will accelerate the trend to larger herds and hurt the small producers the most.

USDA Ag Census shows that in 2002, 25% of the milk came from herds of less than 100 cows, while only 15% of the milk supply came from herds over 2000. In 2008, more than a third of our milk came from the herds larger than 2000, while only 16% of the milk came from herds of less than 100 cows.

1 billion hungry people:

Agriculture will need to produce 100 percent more food by 2050 than it does today. And, it will need technology to do it, according to a new white paper by Jeff Simmons, president of Elanco.

Dairy Herd

DHS ANNOUNCES NEW WORKSITE ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY



On Thursday, April 30, updated worksite enforcement guidance was distributed to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers, which reflects a renewed Department-wide focus targeting criminal aliens and employers who cultivate illegal workplaces by breaking the country's laws and knowingly hiring illegal workers.

Effective immediately, ICE will focus its resources in the worksite enforcement program on the criminal prosecution of employers who knowingly hire illegal workers in order to target the root cause of illegal immigration.

ICE will continue to arrest and process for removal any illegal workers who are found in the course of these worksite enforcement actions in a manner consistent with immigration law and DHS priorities. Furthermore, ICE will use all available civil and administrative tools, including civil fines and debarment, to penalize and deter illegal employment. ICE officers will be held to high investigative standards including:

1. ICE will look for evidence of the mistreatment of workers, along with evidence of trafficking, smuggling, harboring, visa fraud, identification document fraud, money laundering, and other such criminal conduct.
2. ICE offices will obtain indictments, criminal arrest or search warrants, or a commitment from a U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) to prosecute the targeted employer before arresting employees for civil immigration violations at a worksite.

Existing humanitarian guidelines will remain in effect, impacting worksite enforcements involving 25 or more illegal workers. This reflects a change from the previous threshold of 150. DHS asserted its commitment to providing employers with the most up-to-date and effective resources to comply with our nation's laws.

DHS claimed that it will continue to work with partners in the public and private sectors to maintain a legal workforce through training and employee verification tools like E-verify.

Comments regarding to this change: (from www.wimlaw.com)

For employers and managers, the message is clear: the government wants to catch you violating the law. The government will use its resources to gather evidence that employers and managers are knowingly hiring illegal aliens. The evidence will come from improperly completed I-9s, "smoking gun" memos, and testimony of informants who are planted in your workforce, enforcement officers who are planted in your workforce, disgruntled former employees, and illegal aliens who want to stay in the United States.

DHS is issuing employment authorization cards to illegal aliens who have assisted in DHS investigations.

DHS informants and investigators will use all kinds of tricks to obtain harmful statements from managers and supervisors. For example, it is not uncommon for a manager to say that he knows the workers are illegal, even though the manager has no actual knowledge other than the "looks and language" of the workers. It is much better for a manager or supervisor to respond:

"We believe that all the workers are legal because they have completed the I-9 process and we have no knowledge that any of the workers are

illegal. It is against company policy to hire and to employ people who are not authorized to work in the United States. It is against company policy to discriminate against an employee or applicant based on the way they look or speak.”

Employers and managers should make immigration law compliance a top priority. Employers should make sure that all I-9s are completed timely and properly, that managers and supervisors and HR staff are trained in immigration compliance procedures, and that HR clerks responsible for I-9 completion do their jobs with perfection. In fact, it may be appropriate for employers to test their immigration law compliance procedures by using “plants” who attempt to obtain employment by presenting fake documents or by failing to complete Form I-9 properly, and who attempt to trick managers and supervisors into making harmful statements. If the “plants” beat your system, employee discipline and/or more training are in order.

This information has been provided by Wimberly, Lawson, Steckel, Schneider & Stine, P.C., Attorneys At Law. Their website is located at www.wimlaw.com.

CORN SILAGE AND FORAGE FIELD DAY SET FOR JUNE 18TH

Officials from the University of Georgia and University of Florida will hold a Corn Silage and Forages Field Day on June 18, 2009, at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus in Tifton Georgia. This field day has been approved for continuing education credits for Georgia certified operators and CCA. For more information call Dr. John Bernard at 229-391-6856. Pre-registration is requested to help plan for meals and transportation. There are no registration fees. A copy of the registration form can be found at the calendar section at www.gamilk.org. or call the GA Milk office at 800-337-0555.



- 7:30 Registration
- 8:00 Introduction: Dr. Joe West, Assistant Dean, UGA Tifton Campus
Dr John Bernard, Dept. of Animal and Dairy Science, UGA
Dr. Geoffrey Dahl, Chairman, Dept. of Animal Sciences, UFL
- 8:10 Overview of corn breeding programs in Georgia
- 8:20 Tour variety test plots
- 9:15 First Rotation
 - A. Agronomic Issues
 - Herbicide resistant weeds in corn and forage sorghum*
 - Management approaches to control fertilizer cost*
 - Production of narrow row corn silage*
 - B. Forage Preservation
 - Utilizing Round Bale Silage to Compliment Hay Production”*
 - Role of silage inoculates*
 - Using plastic on the silo walls to reduce nutrient losses*
 - C. Feeding Forage
 - Production cost versus feeding value of forages*
 - Defoliation management and its effect on Tifton 85 bermudagrass quality*
 - Effect of rust and other pathogens on forage quality*
- 10:15 Break and travel to next rotation
- 10:30 Second Rotation of Tours
- 11:30 Visit Exhibitors
- 12:20 Lunch
- 1:00 Field Demonstrations - *Variable rate irrigation systems for dairies*

Directions: Exit 64 on I-75, north on Hwy 41 to RDC Drive, turn west and park at the UGA - Tifton Campus Conference Center. Shuttles will transport everyone to registration and exhibit area.

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MAJOR DEVELOPMENT FOR THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN -

(By Rob Vandenneuvel, Milk Producers Council)

During the last week of April, the Holstein Association USA, which boasts 30,000 members nationwide, unveiled the "Dairy Price Stabilization Program." This program is virtually identical to the Growth Management Plan (GMP), *(for those that haven't heard about this plan, I would encourage you to check out http://www.milkproducerscouncil.org/q&a_gmp.htm).*

Like the GMP, the "Dairy Price Stabilization Program" would create a tangible financial incentive for dairies to manage the amount of milk they produce, thereby keeping a better balance of supply and demand. MPC is extremely excited about this development, and supports the work of the Holstein Association. The opportunity to make positive changes to our national dairy industry is upon us, and folks throughout the country are recognizing that.

MPC has been meeting with producer groups from all over the U.S. and there is increasing momentum for implementing a program like what MPC and the Holstein Association are promoting.

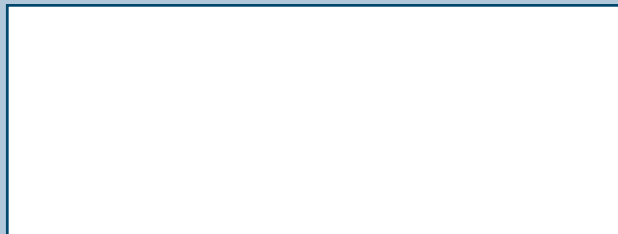
An industry task force that MPC President SypVander Dussen serves on is meeting next Monday (May 4th), and I would urge the task force members to move quickly and come up with industry recommendations. **We have a window of opportunity for rallying the dairy industry around positive change** and we just don't know how long it will last. We have all seen the short memories this industry tends to have.

So whether our industry leaders support the Growth Management Plan or not, it is time to take a position. **Because one thing is abundantly clear: if we do nothing, we are guaranteeing ourselves that at some point in the near future, we'll be right back on the losing end of this extremely volatile milk price.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18, 2009 UGA/UFL Corn Silage and Forage Field Day at University of Georgia Tifton Campus in Tifton, GA. Parking will be at the UGA Tifton Conference Center.

July 8-10, 2009 Missouri Dairy Grazing Conference will be held in Joplin, Missouri. It is open to all dairy producers and industry professionals interested in learning more about dairy grazing.



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