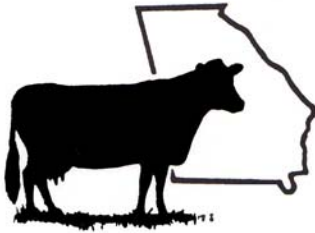


GEORGIA MILK REVIEW

October 2009



HILLCREST FARM TOUR ON OCTOBER 6

by Frank Watson, McDuffie Co. Ext. Coordinator

Hillcrest Farms, owned and operated by the Rodgers Family near Dearing, GA, has recently incorporated a free stall barn into their milking operation. Everything is brand new and state of the art technology designed with supervision from engineers of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Rodgers have graciously agreed to allow other livestock producers to come tour the facilities on a special day.



The field day has been set up for Tuesday, October 6 beginning at 2:00 pm. Certainly other dairy producers would be interested in seeing these facilities but there may be applications which would be of interest to area horse and beef cattle producers as well. On average, the Rodgers milk around 300 but with the incorporation of the free stall barn they hope to get that number where it stays around 350-360 year round.

A complete manure management system for a total confinement dairy operation was designed and installed at Hillcrest Farms. A flush system was designed to wash down the confinement barn with either freshwater or recycled water from the holding ponds.

Sand is used in the total confinement barn in the stalls for bedding the cows. A sand lane was installed to settle out the sand to be recycled and placed back into the confinement barn. If the sand is not removed from the flush water valuable storage volume in the holding pond is lost. The sand lane is cleaned on a daily basis. The sand is then placed on a pad and allowed to dry for approximately 2 weeks before being placed back in the stalls in the confinement barn. Once the flush water leaves the sand lane it enters into a solid separator.

The primary purpose of a solid separator is to retain the flush water long enough to allow the solids to settle out and the water to drain into the holding pond. Again the settling of solids saves valuable storage volume in the holding ponds. The solid separator is designed with two cells so that one cell is filling while the other cell is drying. Generally a cell is designed to store 30 to 40 days of solids. The solid separator has a weep wall made of guardrails to allow water to flow through and solids to be retained in the solid separator.

Several years ago, the Rodgers Family was recognized by the Governor's Award for Environmental Stewardship in the Agriculture Category. As you can see from this brief report, they continue to take every precaution to manage their operation in an environmentally friendly way.

The address is to the farm is 3705 Iron Hill Road, Dearing, GA 30808. Call Frank Watson, McDuffie Co. Extension Coordinator for more information at 706-595-1815.

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SUNBELT EXPO ON OCTOBER 20-22

A diverse array of labor-saving products, cutting edge technology and interactive educational exhibits awaits visitors who attend the 32nd anniversary Sunbelt Ag Expo, October 20-22, 2009, in Moultrie, Georgia. As North America's Premier Farm Show™, the Expo attracts more than 1,200 exhibitors and 100,000 attendees. And in our current climate of economic uncertainty, a trip to this year's Expo is a must for farmers, agribusinessmen, and rural homeowners.

From farm to market, garden to field, classroom to home, the Expo truly has something for everyone. The Expo's permanent home is Spence Field, a former airbase on 1,680 acres. The Expo is located four miles southeast of U.S. Hwy. 319 on Georgia Hwy. 133. Show hours are 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday. Admission is \$10 per person per day, with children ages 6 and under admitted free with a parent.

Georgia Milk Producers and ADA of Georgia will have a booth located in the dairy tent. Nicole Karstedt and the Mobile Dairy Classroom will hold daily milk demonstrations during the expo as well. For more information, check the Expo Web site: www.sunbeltexpo.com

SE DAIRY HERD MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The 2009 Southeast Dairy Herd Management Conference will be held on November 11th and 12th (Wed 1:00 PM -Thu 3:00 PM) at the Georgia Farm Bureau Building in Macon, Georgia. Be sure to mark your calendar to attend and hear the latest research information about the current dairy industry in the Southeast. For more information, contact Dr. Steve Nickerson at 706-542-0658 or scn@uga.edu.

The registration fee of \$80.00 includes admission to both sessions, break refreshments, meals, and one copy of conference proceedings. The registration fee for one session (one day) is \$50.00, which includes break refreshments, dinner or lunch, and one copy of the conference proceedings. **NOTE: Registration is waived for producer members of the GA Milk Producers as well as for GA county agents.**

2009 FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Thank you to all producers and industry officials that attended the 2009 ADA of Georgia and Georgia Milk Producers annual fall district meetings. Ten district meetings were held across the state during September with approximately 275 people attending. If you have any suggestions to improve the meeting in your district please give call Farrah Newberry at 800-337-0555.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DAIRY EXHIBIT AT GA NATIONAL FAIR

Preparations are underway to make this year's dairy exhibit at the Georgia National Fair in Perry a success. Beginning October 8, 2009, tens of thousands of children and adults visit the fair, and many will come by the dairy exhibit to enjoy one the 35,000 half pints of white and chocolate milk given away until October 18, 2009. The milk is funded by Georgia dairymen through the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Milk.

Each year, the Georgia National Fair holds its "Georgia National Schoolhouse" which attracts pre-K through high school students from across Georgia to tour the numerous educational exhibits at the fair. The dairy exhibit features the ACCM Mobile Dairy Classroom and several milk demonstrations will be given daily by Nicole Karstedt, MDC Coordinator. Volunteers are needed to help distribute milk at the dairy exhibit during the fair. If you are interested in volunteering for the exhibit, please give Sharon Dunaway with SUDIA a call at 800-343-4693.



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