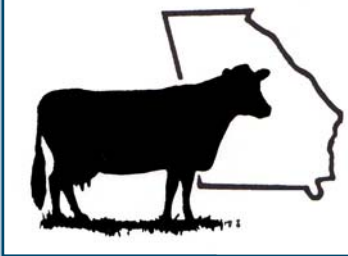


# GEORGIA MILK REVIEW

Volume 9, Issue 1, March 2008



## *USDA ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE FINAL DECISION TO AMEND ORDERS 5, 6 AND 7*

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced February 25, 2008, a tentative final decision that would increase Class I prices and adjust the Class I pricing surface of the Appalachian, Southeast and Florida marketing orders. This decision is based on testimony and evidence given at a public hearing held at Tampa, Fla., May 21-23, 2007.

This decision also amends certain features of the touch-base, diversion limit standards and transportation credit provisions for the Appalachian and Southeast Federal milk marketing orders. USDA will conduct referendums to determine if producers approve the amended orders. If approved, USDA will issue an interim order making the amendments effective.

The tentative final decision will be published in the Feb. 29 Federal Register. Comments must be received by April 29 and can be made using the Federal Rulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

For additional information about the decision contact:

**Florida and Southeast:** Sue L. Mosley  
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs  
P.O. Box 491778, Lawrenceville, GA 30049  
Tel. (770) 682-2501; e-mail: [smosley@fmmatlanta.com](mailto:smosley@fmmatlanta.com)

### *GEORGIA MILK'S THOUGHTS ON THIS PROPOSAL:*

This is but a first step to correct the economic inequities that have plagued the SE's ability to continue local milk production. It is our belief that USDA first needs to implement DCMA's proposal and then use the data and qualified economists at its disposal, becoming pro-active similar to the Federal Reserve Board, as opposed to reactive. After implementation of the DCMA proposal, USDA should also monitor the results. If the goal is to achieve a reversal of the present trends in the Southeast, USDA needs to give serious thought to a partial decoupling of Class I pricing from manufacturing milk prices set primarily by Western over-production, production that controls our fluid milk price but which is physically unrelated to our market. The need for this review is underscored by the current lack of confidence in the veracity of the pricing data provided. Price volatility may be acceptable and understandable in manufacturing prices; volatility in fluid pricing typically robs both the consumer and the dairyman. Georgia and other Southeast dairyman are tired of being robbed.

Given the dismal track history of "reform" inflicted on the SE since 2000, nothing less than a review and readdress by USDA is needed to achieve "true economics". Only then will there be a chance to stop the "cannibalization" of the Southeast.

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## DAIRY CLASSIFIEDS

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## DAIRY BRIEFS

Earlier this month, U.S. District Judge Anthony Alaimo ordered the government to compensate dairy farmer Andy McElmurray of Augusta because 1,730 acres he wanted to plant in corn and cotton to feed his herd was poisoned. The sludge contained levels of arsenic, toxic heavy metals and PCBs two to 2,500 times federal health standards.

Also, data endorsed by Agriculture and EPA officials about toxic heavy metals found in the free sludge provided by Augusta's sewage treatment plant was "unreliable, incomplete, and in some cases, fudged," Alaimo wrote. Read the article at [www.gamilk.org](http://www.gamilk.org) under "GA Dairy News."

## GEORGIA MILK PRODUCERS FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST USDA

On February 19, 2008, Georgia Milk Producers filed a lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) regarding USDA's choice to withhold from public disclosure certain records within its possession and control that pertain to their decision to expand Federal Milk Order 7 in January 2000. USDA chose to withhold the documents claiming they were "draft materials" exempt from production under FOIA.

On October 19, 2006, Tom Thompson, President of Georgia Milk, wrote USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service seeking certain documents related to their decision to expand Federal Milk Order 7 to include additional geographic locations (southern Missouri). Georgia Milk made the request under the Freedom of Information Act asking USDA for these documents:

- A. Economic analysis and justification for the expansion of Federal Milk Order 7,
- B. All written memos, e-mails, and meeting notes related to the decision to expand Federal Milk Order 7;
- C. Names of individuals and organizations requesting the change;
- D. Names of individuals and their position at USDA authorizing this change; and
- E. Any other information that related to the decision to expand Federal Milk Order 7.

On December 28, 2006, Georgia Milk received 181 pages of material regarding the expansion but USDA withheld seven responsive pages claiming the materials were "draft materials" exempt from production under FOIA.

On February 1, 2007, GMP filed an administrative appeal to USDA and was referred to the USDA Office of General Counsel on February 12, 2007. To date, Georgia Milk has not received a response from USDA regarding their appeal which under the FOIA must be done within twenty working days. On February 19, 2008, the Georgia Milk Producers filed a lawsuit against USDA asking for a response to their appeal letter sent a year ago and access to the papers they withheld from the materials sent previously. We will continue to keep you informed on the progress of this lawsuit and hope that the outcome will provide beneficial information for all Georgia dairy producers.

## HOLDEN ELECTED PRESIDENT, OTHERS ADDED TO BOARD

Bob Holden, dairy farmer from Whigham, Ga., was elected President of Georgia Milk Producers Inc. during the 2008 Georgia Dairy Conference held February 11-12, 2008. Holden has served as Georgia Milk's secretary for six years during 1998-2004 and has served as vice president since February 2004.

Other officers elected during the conference include Everett Williams, Madison, Ga., as vice president, Earnest Turk, Eatonton, Ga., as secretary and Marvin Yoder, Montezuma, Ga., as treasurer.

Newly-elected statewide Board members Pete Wright, Baxley, Ga. and Adam Graft, Americus, Ga. were appointed by those producers attending the conference to serve on the Board for the next two years.

Many in our community know by now that Andrea Branstetter, our Mobile Dairy Classroom Instructor has taken a new job in Kentucky. Andi did a outstanding job as the first MDC instructor and set the bar high for those that will follow. We wish Andi the best in her next chapter of life and we will hate to see her go. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We will miss you!



## 2008 GEORGIA DAIRY CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

The 2008 Georgia Dairy Conference was a success in joining producers and industry officials from across the state and beyond to discuss pertinent issues affecting the Southeast dairy industry. The meeting was held February 11-12, 2008, at the King and Prince Beach Resort at St. Simons Island, Georgia.



A special "Toast and Roast" was held for retiring president of Georgia Milk Producers, Tom Thompson, during the evening banquet on February 11. Speakers telling special stories and jokes honored Thompson for his many years of service as a Director and as President for Georgia Milk Producers. Thompson, a Eatonton dairy producer for 48 years, has served as the voice for Georgia dairy producers at the local, state and national levels. He has served as president for the last ten years.

Also during the evening banquet, Georgia Milk Producers presented this year's Friend of the Dairy Industry Award to Linda Mayfield. Linda Mayfield, secretary to the Dairy Director at the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Dairy Division for the last twenty-two years, retired February 29, 2008. Linda was "that kind voice" that we all have spoke to from time to time in Atlanta and she always knew the answers to the questions we had about Georgia dairy producers and the industry. Her wonderful spirit and caring attitude will be missed greatly. Thank you Linda for your service and dedication. We wish you the best in your next chapter of life.



Georgia Milk would like to take this opportunity to thank all producers, speakers and industry officials for attending the meeting. Also, this year's annual meeting would have not been such a success without the support of our exhibitors and sponsors. If you have any suggestions for next year's meeting, please call our office at 800-337-0555 or email [georgiamilkprod@bellsouth.net](mailto:georgiamilkprod@bellsouth.net).

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

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Granger Milk LLC	UGA College of Veterinary Medicine
Maryland-Virginia Milk Producers	Walnut Grove Auction and Realty
Pfizer Animal Health	West Central / Soyplus
Reid Bros. Irrigation	ZINPRO
Southeast DHIA	

### 2008 SOUTHERN INVITATION SALE SET FOR APRIL



The Georgia Holstein Association will hold their Southern Invitational Show on April 17, 2008 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia. The show is set to begin at 9 a.m. On April 18, 2008, the association will host a barbecue and then hold an auction for the Georgia Holstein Juniors. On Saturday, April 19, 2008, the association will hold their annual Southern Invitational Sale. For more information on the events taking place go to [www.gaholstein.com](http://www.gaholstein.com) or call Cassie Whitaker at 478-831-4412.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2007-2008

**Bob Holden, Whigham**

President

229-377-4071

**Everett Williams**

Vice President

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**Earnest Turk, Eatonton**

Secretary

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**Marvin Yoder,**

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**Adam Graft, Americus**

706-485-9848

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**Jeff Smith, Comer**

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**Mark Stovall, Ila**

706-789-2916

**Daniel Weaver, Montezuma**

478-472-6493

**Pete Wright, Baxley**

**Franklin Wright,**

Talking Rock

706-276-3291

# PRICE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS FOR PURCHASED FEED USERS TO BE HELD IN APRIL

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Beginning in the fall of 2006, the price risk for purchased feed has been substantial. The increased demand for corn used in ethanol production has caused prices for corn and other feed grains to rise substantially. Managing the price risk of feed, and feed ingredients can be a challenge for many. Understanding how the futures and options markets operate and how they can be used to manage price risk can be a key to remaining profitable in times of volatile prices.

On April 7-9, 2008, agricultural economists from the University of Georgia and University of Tennessee will hold three Price Risk Management Workshops for Purchased Feed Users at Quitman, Oglethorpe and Madison. These workshops will give those purchasing feed or feed ingredients, lending institutions or anyone involved in the livestock and feed industry an opportunity to learn how the futures and options markets operate. Participants will also learn about the seasonality of feed grain and by-product prices as well as how technical analysis or charting can be used to improve the timing of pricing decisions in both the cash and futures market. In addition, a feed grain outlook session will help participants understand the current market situation and what is expected over the next year.

There is no registration fee for the workshops, but those who plan to attend must preregister with the local extension office in the area the workshop is held. All workshops will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information on these workshops go to [www.gamilk.org](http://www.gamilk.org) or call 800-337-0555.

## DATES AND LOCATIONS:

**Monday, April 7 • Quitman, GA**  
Brooks County Agriculture Building  
400 East Courtland Avenue  
Quitman, GA 31643  
229-263-5607

**Tuesday, April 8 • Oglethorpe, GA**  
Macon County Extension Office  
Courthouse Annex, 100 Sumter St.  
Oglethorpe, GA 31068  
478-472-7588

**Wednesday, April 9 • Madison**  
Old Senior Center  
440 Hancock Street  
Madison, GA 30650  
706-342-2214

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### April 7-9, 2008

Price Risk Management Workshops for Purchased Feed Users at Quitman, Oglethorpe and Madison. No registration fee - call local Extension office to preregister.

### April 17, 2008

GA Holstein Assoc. Southern Invitational at GA National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia.

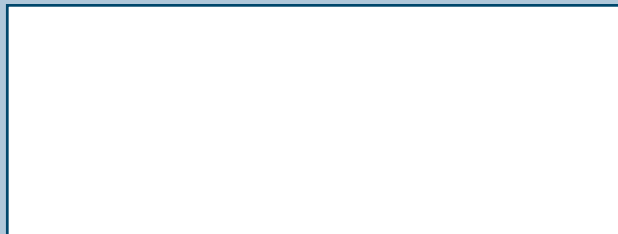
GMP & ADA of Georgia Fall District Meetings will begin on **September 8, 2008.**

### October 2-12, 2008

Georgia National Fair, Perry, Georgia. Come visit us at the dairy exhibit!!

### Feb. 3-4, 2009

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



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