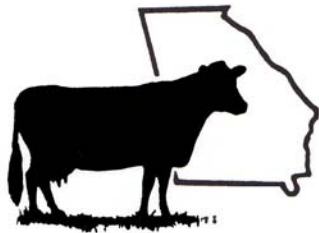


GEORGIA MILK REVIEW

May 2010



GEORGIA MILK BOARD MEETING JUNE 1ST

The Georgia Milk Producers' Board of Directors will hold its summer board meeting on Tuesday, June 1, at the Country Inn and Suites in Valdosta, Georgia, at 7 p.m. This meeting is open to all Georgia dairy producers and our Board welcomes your participation.

On the next morning, June 2, the Board will tour Westbrook Dairy, a new dairy owned by Doyle Weltzbarker and Calvin Moody near Quitman, Georgia. Following the tour of the dairy, the group will travel to Camillia to tour the U.S. Ethanol Plant. Georgia dairy producers interested in joining our Board on June 2, please call our office at 706-310-0020 for more information.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Country Inn and Suites at Valdosta, Georgia. Call the hotel at 229-245-1700 to make your reservation and mention that you are with the Georgia Milk Producers. The hotel room rate is \$89/night plus tax. The hotel is located at exit 18 off of I-75 south.

MILK QUALITY AND MASTITIS CONTROL WORKSHOP ON MAY 19TH

On Wednesday, May 19th, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, the Greene County Cooperative Extension Office will conduct a Milk Quality and Mastitis Control Workshop at Stewart Brothers Dairy located at 5571 Hwy. 15 South, Greensboro, GA 30642. The workshop will cover these topics: Mastitis and Quality Milk Standards, How Does Mastitis Develop?, Mastitis Detection and Control of Mastitis. This training is designed for both English and Spanish speaking producers and producers are encouraged to bring their Hispanic employees.



The program will be conducted by Dr. Stephen Nickerson, UGA Dairy Specialist and Mr. Jonael H. Bosques-Méndez, Greene County Extension Coordinator. Lunch will be provided by Shamrock Animal Health Services, Inc. There is a registration fee of \$20 per person that will cover the cost of the textbook given to each participant attending the workshop. The textbook, *"Winning the Fight Against Mastitis"*, is available in English and Spanish. For more information and registration call the Greene County Extension office at 706-453-2083.

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DAIRY BRIEFS

If you would like to be added to our email list in order to receive information and Georgia dairy news quickly, please email our office at georgiamilkprod@bellsouth.net.

USDA has announced that they are currently accepting applications from dairies in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Virginia to conduct on-farm energy audit evaluations.

Two million dollars has been earmarked through the EQIP program to conduct the energy audits. The audits will cover milk cooling, irrigation pumping, cooling of livestock facilities and more.

Producers approved will receive these audits and assistance with implementation of energy conservation and efficiency measures from NRCS. For detailed information, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/cap.htm.

UGA CONDUCTING HISPANIC WORKER SURVEY



The University of Georgia and Cooperative Extension are requesting assistance from Georgia's dairy producers in regards to training for Hispanic dairy workers. Hispanic workers are currently an integral part of dairy operation and Extension wishes to determine where the most need is for training these workers on dairy and environmental issues.

Extension personnel have already begun translation of record-keeping material and presentations on nutrient management and application for Hispanic workers that are active in those areas of management. This work is being funded through a USDA NRCS grant. We ask that you please fill out this information located in this newsletter so we may continue to serve the dairy community in Georgia as best as possible.

FINAL SESSION REPORT FOR GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Written by Jeffery Harvey, GA Farm Bureau



Difficult economic times have forced state government to tighten its belt. This session was one of the longest in history because legislators had to make tough decisions that required careful thought and research. While budget matters overshadowed the legislative session, the General Assembly also passed water legislation, a landmark transportation funding bill, legislation to evaluate Georgia's tax structure, and other important legislation.

This year's budget was especially difficult for legislators because of mid-year revisions in revenue estimates that were even lower than original estimates, and Georgia is constitutionally mandated to develop a balanced budget. Georgia's revenue has shrunk from \$22 billion a couple years ago to this year's \$17.8 billion. Therefore, lawmakers had to choose between the ugly choices of tax increases and cuts in services. The final budget passed in the evening hours of Day 40.

Overall, agriculture fared well considering the budgetary situation. A few points from the final budget include:

- 10% cut to Cooperative Extension & 4-H
- 10% cut to Experiment Stations
- 9% cut to the Vocational Ag Education and Career Tech Education
- Elimination of funding for the *Farmer's and Consumer's Market Bulletin*.
(However, legislation was adopted allowing for subscription fees, donations, or other funds from the Department of Agriculture to be used to continue its publication if deemed appropriate.)
- Full funding for the Vidalia Onion Research Project

- \$10.5 million in funding for Forest Land Protection Grants. This constitutionally mandated funding helps to offset the loss in local revenue as a result of Forest Land Protection Act covenants.

Georgia Tax Study

Trying economic times sparked interest from legislators across the state to study and evaluate Georgia's tax code. In response, House and Senate leadership authored **HB 1405**, a measure that creates a special council of qualified citizens who will evaluate sales tax exemptions and make recommendations to a newly-created committee of House and Senate leaders. The bill creates a "Council on Tax Reform and Fairness" and a "Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure." If deemed appropriate, the "Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure" will bring legislation to the floor of the House and then the Senate for an up or down vote without opportunity for amendment.

HB 1405 could have far-reaching consequences. Key leaders have made it plain that all issues are under consideration with respect to revenue generation and structure. Georgia Farm Bureau members must be ready to offer legislative input to their elected officials in the coming months as this process continues. **It is vital to communicate the importance of farm input sales tax exemptions to legislators.** For many farmers, the difference between farming and selling out could be the sales tax exemptions on feed, seed, chemicals, fertilizer, equipment, and other inputs.

NEW "SMALL DAIRY RESOURCE BOOK" AVAILABLE

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Outreach announces the release of its newly updated "The Small Dairy Resource Book", a thorough collection of resources for farm families interested in capitalizing on value-added dairy products. The publication is available online only at <http://www.sare.org/publications/dairyresource.htm>.

In it, Vicki H. Dunaway, of the Hometown Creamery Revival, evaluates the pros and cons of more than 150 resources, from the most current information in print and online to obscure, out-of-print publications that are useful for their timeless knowledge. Resource formats include books, periodicals, videos, Web sites and others on a wide range of topics related to farmstead dairy processing.

Resources are broken into the following categories:



- Cheesemaking
- Ice cream
- Dairy processing
- Dairy animals
- Business and marketing
- Butter
- Other dairy foods
- Food safety
- Feeds and grazing

Originally published in 2000, "The Small Dairy Resource Book" was updated in 2010 with new entries, and revised contact and price information for listed resources.

Source: eXtension.org

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2010-2011

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DEMOCRATS UNVEIL OUTLINE FOR AMNESTY: IMMIGRATION REFORM ON HORIZON



On April 29 2010, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and several of his colleagues, Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), released a proposal for sweeping amnesty legislation they hope to introduce this year. At the press conference surrounding the release, Senator Reid said Republicans and Democrats agreed that

the existing immigration system is broken. He said the proposal he was unveiling amounted to an invitation for Republicans to work with his party on immigration reform.

The proposal, which the Senators dubbed the REPAIR (Real Enforcement with Practical Answers for Immigration Reform) plan, did not come in the form of a bill, but a 26-page narrative describing what would be the main components of so-called "comprehensive immigration reform." The plan contains many of the provisions that made up the 2007 Bush-Kennedy amnesty bill (S.1639). It contains a mass amnesty program (called a "broad-based registration program"); a guest worker program with a path to citizenship; AgJOBS; the DREAM Act; an employment verification proposal based on a biometric social security card; and massive increases in legal immigration. For a complete summary of the proposal go to www.fairus.org and click on Legislative Updates. (Source: [fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org))

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1 - GA Board of Director's Meeting at Country Inn and Suites in Valdosta, GA

May 19 - Milk Quality and Mastitis Control Workshop at Stewart Bros. Dairy in Greensboro, GA. For more information call 706-453-2083

May 27 - UF/UGA Corn Silage and Forage Field Day at 8 am. Will discuss Corn and Sorghum varieties, production of forages, For information go to <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/CSFD/CSFD/index.shtml>, or contact Dr. Jose Santos, 352-392-1958 ext 251, jepsantos@ufl.edu

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