

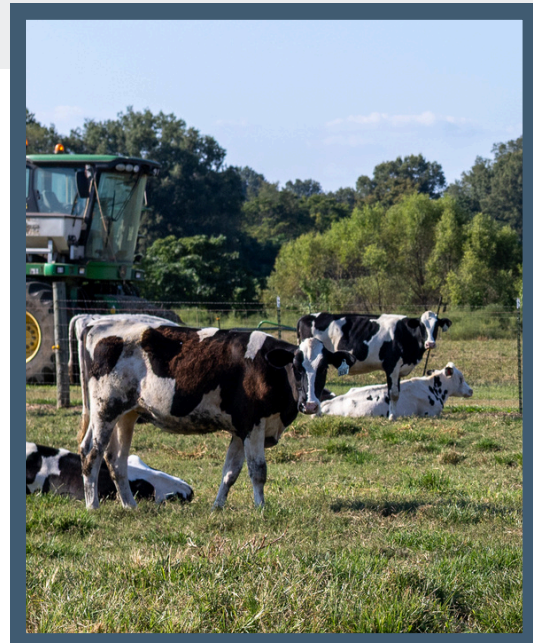
GA MILK REVIEW

MARCH 2026



HEADLINES:

- Hurricane Helene Block Grant Program
- GMP Dairy Management Webinar Series: OSHA Compliance on the Farm
- Steak Biscuit Day at the Capitol Recap
- Farmer Bridge Assistance Program
- UGA Dairy Good Dawgs Podcast
- Secretary Rollins Visits GA State Capitol
- Farmer Spotlight: The Yoders



HURRICANE HELENE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM



HBG will be open for six weeks from March 16th, 2026 to April 27th, 2026.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture will begin taking applications for its Hurricane Helene Block Grant Program (HBG) on March 16, 2026. Producers with losses in the following categories will be eligible to apply for assistance: dairy cattle, milk loss, dairy feed loss, infrastructure damage/loss (including irrigation), timber, poultry, beef cattle, pecans, blueberries, citrus, nursery, plasticulture and bare ground specialty crop production.

The application period will last six weeks and close on April 27, 2026. Producers must supply basic information about their farming operations and losses including deeds, 2024 tax assessments, lease contracts, veterinarian records, milk production records, repair bills, reconstruction invoices, and photographs documenting damage/loss. Producers will also be encouraged to supply additional information relevant to their loss claims that may assist the GDA staff in processing their application. Payments will follow the application period.

Payments for dairy-related losses will cover damaged or lost on-farm physical structures needed for agricultural production (including animal housing and commodity storage), damaged/lost irrigation infrastructure, losses resulting from increased cases of mastitis, losses related to decreased conception rates after the storm, decreased milk production after the storm, and lost or damaged feed. To learn more about the program, visit www.farmrecovery.com.

GMP DAIRY MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES: OSHA COMPLIANCE ON THE FARM

Dairy farmers must follow government rules and regulations regarding livestock movement, food safety, manure handling, and more. On top of all the specific rules for dairy farms, all employers of a certain size must follow the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations around employee safety and well-being. AgriTrust of Georgia and Georgia Milk Producers will provide GMP members with an overview of the OSHA regulations farms must follow to prevent and report accidents and best management practices for reducing accidents and risk to employers on the farm.

Wednesday, April 8

11:00 AM

Zoom Webinar

Register for the Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ekFoha3JRMKkeCMD0Qx36w>

About AgriTrust of Georgia: AgriTrust of Georgia is a self-insured workers' compensation insurance program that serves agribusinesses across the state in a variety of industries. In addition to workers' compensation insurance coverage, AgriTrust offers policy, claims, and loss control services, plus a number of benefits and educational resources for its members.

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STEAK BISCUIT DAY AT THE CAPITOL



March 12th was Steak Biscuit Day at the Georgia State Capitol. The annual event organized by the Georgia Cattlemen's Association is considered one of the most popular days during the legislative session. Georgia Milk Producers partners with GCA and provides milk from Mountain Fresh Creamery as part of the breakfast. Despite inclement weather for much of the morning, the event continued indoors with great attendance from legislators and staff. The mobile dairy classroom also braved the rainy weather and capitol-goers got the opportunity to meet Elsie and Daisy.



FARMER BRIDGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Farmers can now apply for one-time assistance as part of USDA's \$11 billion Farmer Bridge Assistance program. Eligible row-crop commodities include corn, sorghum, and other feed crops in addition to cotton, peanuts, and others. Dairy farmers can apply online or at their local FSA office for feed eligible crops grown in 2025, but they must submit the application in order to receive a payment.

Payments will be based on 2025 planted acres. Crop insurance linkage is not required to receive a payment. To learn more about Farmer Bridge Assistance and to apply online, visit fsa.usda.gov.



LISTEN TO THE UGA DAIRY GOOD DAWGS PODCAST

The UGA Dairy Science program now has an official podcast called the Dairy Good Dawgs. The show covers a variety of topics covering all aspects of the dairy industry. Whether you're a dairy farmer, student, educator, or industry professional, this podcast keeps you connected to the latest in dairy science, innovation, and on-farm practices shaping Georgia and the Southeast. Listen on any platform you get your Podcasts.

SECRETARY ROLLINS VISITS GA STATE CAPITOL

On Tuesday, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins joined Georgia leaders for a roundtable discussion and press conference on discussing the major issues facing Georgia farmers. In the roundtable discussion also featuring Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, First Lady Marty Kemp, Commissioner of Agriculture Tyler Harper, Small Business Administration Administrator Kelly Loeffler, and members of the Georgia House and Senate Agriculture Committees, Secretary Rollins discussed the ongoing market challenges experienced by the timber industry, USDA initiatives to streamline services offered by the Farm Service Agency, challenges in finding secure labor sources, and disaster relief.

At the press conference following the roundtable, Governor Kemp and Commissioner Harper discussed Georgia's response to Hurricane Helene and their appreciation to USDA for working to provide a comprehensive block grant to assist producers impacted by Helene. Secretary Rollins answered questions on rising fuel prices, trade issues, and input costs.

Our appreciation to Commissioner Harper and the Georgia Department of Agriculture for helping to arrange the roundtable discussion and coordinate the visit with the Governor's office and USDA.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 25 - Crop and Livestock Field Day
Cusseta, AL

March 26 - Fields of Opportunity: Exploring Careers in Agriculture
Virtual

March 27 - GDYF Golf Tournament
Hard Labor Creek State Park, Social Circle, GA

April 8 - GMP Dairy Management Webinar Series: OSHA Compliance on the Farm
Zoom Webinar: Register ahead of time by using the link in the E-Newsletter

May 16 - Big Sandy Creek Farm Dairy Dash 5k
Madison, GA

FARMER SPOTLIGHT: THE YODERS

Troy Yoder has grown up around agriculture all of his life. For 25 years, he has owned and operated Tramildia Holsteins in Montezuma, Georgia. He was originally born in Vienna, but in 1978, his dad, Irvin Yoder, started a farm across the road from the current dairy. Troy's grandpa was a dairyman and milked cows for his whole career. As third generation, it comes at no surprise that Troy also decided to pursue dairy farming for his career.



The dairy was built around 1978, but Troy officially bought the dairy in 2001 and established Tramilda Holsteins. The farm name came from both Troy's and his wife, Matilda's names. Prior to owning his own dairy, he helped manage his dad's operation and worked for his Uncle, Marvin Yoder, on his dairy as well. He started the operation 25 years ago with 100 cows and has since tripled the size.

He and his wife, Matilda, married in 1994 and have raised their seven children on the farm. They're thankful for the lifestyle they've had, where the farm has become more than just a workplace. It's a way of a life and an avenue that's granted lifelong family memories. "God has blessed us so richly as a family here," said Troy.

All of the children have played an irreplaceable role in the dairy. Being able to work together as a family is something that holds special and of great value to them.

"When it's silage chopping time, we all help," said Troy. "Those are the kinds of moments you remember forever."

Growing up, Troy had role models who taught him how to manage the dairy, but also allowed him to learn the decision-making side of the operation from a young age. "I had a great dad who was a great teacher," said Troy. "At 10 years old, he bought me my first registered heifer. He was an auctioneer, and marketing became something I loved."

That early exposure sparked a passion for buying and selling cattle for Troy. He continues to hone in on the marketing side of the operation. Not only does it yield positive results, but it also leads to meaningful friendships and a strong reputation in the dairy world. One aspect of marketing he prioritizes is embryo transfer work.

Troy didn't grow up showing cows, but his children have taken this and ran with it. Austin, his oldest son, really started marketing through the show world. He buys, sells, and shows cattle at prestigious shows such as World Dairy Expo. The other children also show on the state and national level.

Troy understands the value of honesty, and makes that his primary goal in his business. "I try to be a man of integrity," said Troy. "If you build a reputation for good cattle and good ethics that you do business with, it's just amazing how people will take to that."

One big lesson Troy has learned is the value of being open-minded. He enjoys interacting with other people and getting ideas. He understands you can't box yourself in and there's always something new to learn.

Troy is on the board for the Mid-Ga Farm Services Cooperative and serves as a District Director on the Georgia Milk Producers Board of Directors. He and his family are actively involved in the Montezuma Mennonite Church and he serves on the church finance board.