

Herd Testing Highlights

Southeast Dairy Herd Improvement Program

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Receive Herd Testing Highlights by Email

This newsletter is published bi-monthly and can be received by email. If you would like to receive a copy by email, send a request to webb@animal.ufl.edu. Please identify yourself with name and name of farm or business affiliation. (dww 2-10-03)

Dale Eade to receive Award from National DHIA

Dale Eade has been selected to receive the Victor Joachim Distinguished Leadership Award from National DHIA. Dale was a member of NDHIA's board of directors for ten years and served as NDHIA president for four. The award will be presented at NDHIA's annual convention in Reno, Nevada on March 15. Congratulations and thanks to Dale Eade!



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Georgia High Production Herds Recognized at Perry Meeting

Twenty-five DHIA herds received Cream of the Crop Production Awards at this year's Annual Meeting of the Georgia Milk Producers' Association. This year's qualifying level was 21,794 lbs. of milk and/or 780 lbs. of fat.

This year's high herd was Irvin R. Yoder with 25,791 lbs. of milk and 913 lbs. of fat on 120 cows.

Farm Name

<u>Farm Name</u>	<u>City</u>
Anthony's Dairy	Americus
Briarpatch Holsteins	Eatonton
Cecil Dueck	Stapleton
Daniel Weaver	Montezuma
Dave Clark	Madison
Donald Schmidt	Stapleton
Double C Dairy	Lula
Earnest R. Turk	Eatonton
Gene Bowen	Blackshear
Greene Brothers Dairy	Gray
Irvin R. Yoder	Montezuma
Krulic Dairy Farm, Inc.	Rocky Ford
Mark D. Brenneman & Sons	Montezuma
Mark E. Yoder	Montezuma
Martin Dairy, L.L.P.	Bowersville
Marvin Yoder	Montezuma
Moody's Dairy	Waycross
Pete Miller	Elko
Rogers' Hillcrest Farms Inc.	Dearing
Rufus Yoder, Jr.	Montezuma
University of Georgia	Athens
Vista Farm	Louisville
Williams Dairy	Crawfordville
Everett Williams Dairy	Madison
Wright, Whitty & Davis Dairy	Mershon

PDF files are coming to DHIA

PDF is the acronym for *portable data format*. These files are “read only” and can be used to provide information in a form that will remain in tact while being printed and viewed by others.

PDF files are the proprietary product of Adobe©, a software company that specializes in graphics and document editing. One of their products, Adobe Acrobat Reader© is required to view or print PDF files. This reader is readily available on numerous web sites and is distributed with PCDART-7 for windows.

One of the primary advantages of PDF files is their “portability” in that they view and print nicely on any Microsoft Windows© system where video and printer hardware are properly installed. DHIA uses pdf files as follows:

1. DRMS will soon be providing DHIA forms in PDF via email.
2. PCDART version 7.5 will allow reports to be saved as PDF's.
3. Southeast DHIA will be distributing forms, newsletters and other stuff via PDF files.

We hope that this discussion of PDF will allow you to become familiar with this technology to assist with your DHIA applications.

DHIA Reports By Email

Web Reports is an option that will enable producers and consultants to access DHIA reports via the web. Traditional herd report files will be converted to PDF files. You will be notified via email when reports are available. The most recent 2 years of the Herd Summary (202) and the most recent 3 months of all other reports chosen will be accessible. Mail turn-around is eliminated and PDFs can be printed on most standard printers. To preview this option, try the DRMS web site at www.DRMS.org. Direct your questions to the Southeast DHIA office (352-392-5592) or email webb@animal.ufl.edu.

PCDART 7.5 on the Horizon

Version 7.5 of PCDART will be available later this spring! This new release will include a number of enhancements and some new features. Enhancements will include improved speed of report retrieval, better compatibility with Windows XP, additional flexibility for data input and more efficient synchronization with Palm computers. One important new feature will be the expanded protocol for using various timed AI programs. Another advancement will provide a new interface with various automated milk recording systems. While all DOS functions will continue to be available, DRMS's Director of Program Development, Phil Dukas says that most users will prefer the Windows apps. Field-testing is under way. You can get an early look at version 7.5 at a special session in Reno on March 14. (email to Perri.Holt@ncsu.edu for reservations and information.)

What is Standardized 150-day Milk?

Standardized 150-day milk is the expected production per day at 150 days in milk. It removes the variation in test day production due to stage of lactation and it allows production on one test day to be compared to production on another test day. Thirty-six standard lactation curves based upon six seasons, three ages and two breed groups are used to either project forward or backward to 150 days in milk. In order to allow one to compare the production at 150 days for different cows, the values are also adjusted for age and breed. The standard curves were established for:

1. Six seasons: Jan-Feb, Mar-Jun, Jul-Aug, Sep-Oct and Nov-Dec
2. Three ages: first lactation, second lactation and third or more lactations
3. Two breed groups: Ayrshire-Brown Swiss-Holstein and Guernsey-Jersey

Standardized 150-day milk is the best single number to compare your herd's production from month to month.

NDHIA Code of Ethics

Several years ago, DHIA in the U.S. changed its concept from that of official rules to one of standard procedures. At the same time, the Code of Ethics was formulated to provide guidance about certain aspects of conduct in producing milk production records for the dairy industry. NDHIA's Uniform Operating Procedures define the methods used in DHIA and the Code of Ethics defines appropriate conduct of persons involved. The following is taken directly from the NDHIA document.

<i>I. PURPOSE</i>
<i>This Code of Ethics provides guidelines for appropriate conduct in the production, collection, and distribution of DHIA information for all persons involved with these records.</i>
<i>II. UNETHICAL PRACTICES</i>
<i>A. Impairing the reliability of DHIA information.</i>
<i>B. Not cooperating fully or interfering in use of the uniform data collection procedures to record DHIA information.</i>
<i>C. Intentionally providing inaccurate information to, or withholding necessary information, from DHIA.</i>
<i>D. Engaging in management practices with the intent of misrepresenting the performance of individual animals or the herd. Among these practices is the questionable movement of animals between herds, influencing the relative performance of herd mates, and selective use of management techniques in an effort to bias the DHIA record. Management practices on test day should be representative of typical practices used on other days.</i>
<i>E. Permitting the collection of supervised data by a technician with a direct financial or family interest in the herd being tested.</i>
<i>F. Any fraudulent or unethical practice defined by the Board of Directors of National DHIA.</i>
<i>G. Incomplete release of production data resulting in misrepresentation of DHIA information.</i>

The tone of this document is clear. Any action by herd owners/managers or DHIA personnel, which serves to misrepresent or overstate the performance of a cow or herd, is unethical.

Lab Hot Sheets by Email

Herds receiving DHIA somatic cell counts (SCC) can receive a "hot sheet", direct from the lab immediately after lab work is completed. This list shows SCC and lab results for all milking cows and a list of the 20 cows contributing most to the herd's average cell count. In the past, this document has been available only by mail or fax. Now you can receive it by email. Just tell your DHIA Technician and provide your email address on the paperwork that goes to the lab. The lab will need your DHIA herdcode number and email address. (dww 2-10-03)

Meter Calibrations Required

One of the most important aspects of DHIA service is accuracy of meters. Without some assurance that the milk weights are accurate, we don't have much. DHIA operating procedures call for annual calibration checks of all meters and scales providing data for DHIA. Meters provided by Southeast DHIA, Inc. are carefully calibrated annually and at any additional time as requested by the technician or when any major repairs are made. Meters owned and provided by dairymen are subject to annual calibration checks. Don Shaw, the SOUTHEAST DHIA meter-man, can calibrate portable meters such as TruTest or Waikato. SE DHIA has an approved meter calibration facility and Don is a certified meter technician. Dairymen with portable meters are encouraged to contact Don to arrange for calibration of their meters. Dairymen using electronic meters should contact their milking equipment service for official calibration.

In either case, SEDHIA is asked to report the calibration status of all meters used in DHIA. We do this annually as a part of the Quality Certification process.

DHIA Calendar

Mar 15, 2003	National DHIA Meeting	(Reno, NV)
Apr 5, 2003	Training Conference for Assistant Technicians	(Gainesville, FL)
Apr 29, 2003	Florida Production Conference	(Gainesville, FL)
May 14, 2003	DRMS Spring Workshop	(Raleigh, NC)
July 31, 2003	Summer Technician Conference	(Tifton, GA)

Monthly Summary for January 2003

	Georgia	Florida
Average No. Cows/Herd	249	670
% Cows in Milk	84.9	86.1
Rolling Herd Average	17,765	17,265
Milk Lbs/Day (Milking Cows Only)	59.0	58.2
Average Lactation Stage (DIM)	180	178
Standardized 150-Day Milk	62.9	62.4
Feed Cost/Cow \$	3.28	3.40
Ave. Milk Price Reported(\$/CWT)	14.82	14.88
Feed Cost per CWT Milk \$	5.46	5.65
Test Day/Bulk Tank Deviation	1.50	1.25
% Heats Observed	38.5	43.4
Average Days to 1 st Service	105	109
Average SCC Score	3.73	3.84
% Herds Below SCCS of 6	79	76

Southeast DHIA

Daily Milk Production By State

February 2002 – January 2003

