

FLORIDA 4-H  
DAIRY YOUTH  
PROGRAM  
UPDATE

# The Scoop



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SPECIAL  
THANKS TO:

- Southeast Milk, Inc. Dairy Check-Off, without Dairy Check-Off the Florida Dairy Youth Program would not be possible.
- To the dairymen who donate their time and animals to allow the dairy judging youth to practice at their farms.
- The parents and countless volunteers who graciously donate their time to help the youth in this program.

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## Tell Your Story...

### The Florida Dairy Youth Ambassador Program

I want to announce the beginning of a new program that is going to be offered for senior level 4-H members and graduates that have a desire to continue to hone their leadership, communication, public speaking skills and, more importantly share their passion and love for the dairy project and industry. This program's goal will be to take a group of highly motivated young people that have a desire to spread the message about the dairy project and industry, whenever a situation presents itself, to educate the public on what the dairy project and industry is all about and why it means so much to all of us. The young people that desire to join this group will have a series of workshops and trainings that will enhance their leadership skills, media abilities and agriculture advocacy. This program will also help them to think "outside of the box" to harness their natural passion for the dairy project and industry to educate their fellow youth and public.



If this adventure sounds interesting to you then please send me a letter of interest and tell me what the dairy program and/or industry means or has done for you. Please, do not think you have to come from a dairy farm to join in this program. If you have a passion for the dairy project and a desire to learn how to tell your story to those that want to hear it, then I highly encourage you to send me a letter of interest. I would like to have all interested young people contact me with your letters by May 19, 2008, so we can start the workshops this summer.

### Dairy Youth Highlight... Chanse Huggins, Plant City, Florida

In this issue we highlight a young man who has true passion for the dairy industry. You can find him at any show, every judging practice and traveling across the country for quiz bowl contests. Chanse Huggins' involvement in the Florida 4-H Dairy Youth Program began at the age of eight and since then he has accomplished a great deal from showmanship titles, dairy judging and quiz bowl contests and has established an impressive herd of Brown Swiss and Holstein animals. Chanse, most recently, was a member of the team that represented Florida at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest at the World Dairy Expo. It is easy to see that Chanse truly has a love for the show ring, whether he is competing in a showmanship contest or helping a younger 4-H member. One of the achievements Chanse is most proud of is placing 5<sup>th</sup> in the All-American Jr. Show Showmanship contest in Harrisburg, PA, where he competed against over 100 other senior members from across the country. As Chanse graduates in May, he looks forward to staying involved in the program by helping youth interested dairy judging. Congratulations and good luck in your future endeavors Chanse!



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## A Whirlwind of Dairy Shows...

This year February was a blur. Just ask any parent or youth that showed at The South Florida Fair, the State 4-H Dairy Show and the Florida State Fair. All three dairy shows were back to back for three weeks. It was a month filled with youth exhibiting their dairy projects, competing in dairy judging, quiz bowl contests, spending time with their friends from across the state and having a lot of fun. When it was all over and the cow trailers got to rest for more than a day or two, I looked back at the month and just had to smile and think, this is the best time of the year. As I said February was a blur, but it was a great blur and I can't wait until next year when the whirlwind will start all over again.



## And the Results Are...

### The South Florida Fair

**Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest:** Junior Division - 1st Place Alex Pluskot, 2nd Place Raychel Rabon, 3rd Place Kalya Burlingame. Senior Division - 1st Place Austin Pluskot, 2nd Place Chanse Huggins, 3rd Place Shane Gearhart.

**Dairy Judging Contest:** Junior Division - 1st Place Alex Pluskot, 2nd Place Kelsey Ahern, 3rd Place John McGehee. Senior Division - 1st Place Ty Kosack, 2nd Place Samath Fryer, 3rd Place Andrew Hunt.

### State 4-H Dairy Show

**Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest:** Junior Division - 1st Place Alex Pluskot, 2nd Place Dakota Harsing, 3rd Place Caitlyn Albers. Intermediate Division - 1st Place Chandler Ash, 2nd Place Kaley Brooks, 3rd Place Kalya Burlingame. Senior Division - 1st Place Tineke Swart, 2nd Place Austin Pluskot, 3rd Place Shane Gearhart.

**4-H Record Book Contest:** Junior Division - 1st Place Leeanna Shelton, 2nd Place Alex Pluskot, 3rd Place Caitlyn Albers. Intermediate Division - 1st Place Raychel Rabon, 2nd Place Amanda Goggens, 3rd Place Christian Keen. Senior Division - 1st Place Lindsey Rucks, 2nd Place Jamie Burnham, 3rd Place Mariah Shelton.

**Dairy Showmanship:** Junior Master Showman - Kacee Langford. Intermediate Master Showman - Kalya Chandler. Senior Master Showman - Kelly Buchanan. Challenger Class Master Showman - Sarah Bishop.

**Dairy Herdsmanship Awards:** Large County Division - 1st Place Marion County, 2nd Place Okeechobee County, 3rd Place Manatee County. Small County Division - 1st Place Gilchrist County, 2nd Place Suwannee County, 3rd Place Madison County.

**Dairy Judging Contest:** Junior Division - 1st Place Caitlyn Albers, 2nd Place Kacee Langford, 3rd Place Ross Lasky. High junior Reason - Kacee Langford. Intermediate Division - 1st Place Shiloh Anuez, 2nd Place Christian Keen, 3rd Place Zach Quattlebaum. High Intermediate Reasons - Shiloh Anuez. Senior Division - 1st Place Kelly Buchanan, 2nd Place Fallon Curren, 3rd Place Lindsey Rucks. High Senior Reasons - Kelly Buchanan.

**K&J 4-H Dairy Scholarship Winners:** Kelly Buchanan and Lindsey Rucks

**Barney Harris Jr., Outstanding Dairy Youth Award Winner:** Kelly Buchanan

### Florida State Fair

**Dairy Showmanship:** Junior Master Showman - Leeanna Shelton. Intermediate Master Showman - Cameron Salter. Senior Master Showman - Chanse Huggins.

**Dairy Pride Award:** 1st Place Manatee County, 2nd Place Okeechobee County.

**Dairy Judging Contest:** Junior Division - 1st Place Kacee Langford, 2nd Place Leeanne Shelton, 3rd Place Cady McGehee. High junior Reason - Kacee Langford. Intermediate Division - 1st Place Christian Keen, 2nd Place Kalya Burlingame, 3rd Place Cassidy Delong. High Intermediate Reasons - Kalya Burlingame. Senior Division - 1st Place Lindsey Rucks, 2nd Place Brittany Watts, 3rd Place Kaitlyn Watts. High Senior Reasons - Lindsey Rucks.

**Bill Carey Sportsmanship Award Winner:** Sarah Luther

**Dairy Champion of Champions Winners:** Junior - Alex Pluskot, Intermediate - Jeffrey Reale, Senior - 1st place Kelsey Burnham, 2nd place Kelley Jorgensen, 3rd Place Sarah Luther, 4th Place Joy Burnham.

**Overall Champion of Champions:** Sarah Luther tied for 3rd Place



## Cryptosporidium - Wow, What a Big Word!... By Kaley Brooks



I love animals and I am very involved in raising youth dairy calves for 4-H. I would like to tell you a little bit about my experience with the importance of cleanliness and washing your hands when around animals.

You know how you hear about kids, or adults for that matter, getting really sick from animals, and you just blow it off as if to say “Oh, that would never happen to me”. Well, here’s the thing, it can happen to you. This past September, I got sick and when I say sick, I don’t just mean sick like one day you have a stomach ache and the next day you’re fine. No, I mean sick as in very sick for WEEKS.

*I got Cryptosporidium probably by being out in my calf pen petting one of them and then coming in to eat dinner without washing my hands, which obviously isn’t a smart thing to do*

It started with just a stomach ache and of course my mom said “Oh you’re fine, just take some Pepto-Bismol”. Now, I can’t really blame my mom for thinking I was just fine, I am one of those kids who never get sick, however, I wasn’t fine and after about 2 weeks of laying around saying my stomach hurts and other things, I won’t go into detail about, but if you have any kind of imagination at all, I think you’ll know what I mean, she finally took me to the doctor.

The doctor did various tests but we had to wait about a week to get the results. Finally, after three more doctor visits and one trip to the hospital for I-V fluids, the doctor found out what was wrong. He told me I had Cryptosporidium. When the doctor told my mom and me this, I thought “Oh, geeze, I’m gonna die.” Believe it or not Crypto is actually a parasite that is passed by the stool of the infected animal or human. It can be spread by touching infected animals and then putting your hands in your mouth or accidentally swallowing something that has come into contact with the stool of an infected human or animal. It can also be spread by swimming in the same pool, lake, hot tub, river, etc., that has been contaminated with the parasite. However, there is a very simple way of preventing this awful infection from happening to you. All you need to do is wash your hands thoroughly and frequently when coming into contact with animals.

I got Cryptosporidium probably by being out in my calf pen petting one of them and then coming in to eat dinner without washing my hands, which obviously isn’t a smart thing to do. I had done it a thousand times and always thought nothing was going to happen. Wow, did I find out or what! I am much more cautious about eating and being around cattle now, much more than ever. I also wash my hands quite frequently when I am around the animals. So, here is the lesson for all you kids out there who come in from feeding or just being outside at the barn with your animals: You should listen to your parents when they tell you to wash your hands before eating. Otherwise, you might just be spending the next few weeks in bed and very, very sick.



## Reflections from the State Fair... by Sarah Luther

Another year has passed and I had a lot of fun this year. Even though I had to wake up way too early every day, State Fair was a blast!! I did fairly well with my cows and left with a newly painted wheelbarrow! I was excited to receive the Bill Carey Sportsman Award and the Champion of Champion’s contest was definitely an experience worth having. I had a lot of fun going from station to station with the dairy team and I think that our team cheer before every station helped. Even though all four seniors would have rather had Alex’s cool junior trophy, he wouldn’t trade for anything. I ended up tying for third and hope to compete again next year.

**“Even though I had to wake up way too early every day, State Fair was a blast!!”**



## Upcoming Dairy Youth Events...

- 4/12/08 - Dairy Quiz Bowl Breed Tryouts - Hillsborough Extension Office Seffner, FL
- 4/19/08 - Dairy Judging Workout - UF- DRU Gainesville, FL
- 5/17/08 - Dairy Judging Summer Tryouts - Okeechobee, FL
- 6/16-18/08 - Florida Dairy Camp - Gainesville, FL
- 7/14-18/08 - Southeast Dairy Youth Retreat - Madison, GA

## Beyond the Project... A Dairy Industry Update



Wal-Mart has requested that milk sold under the private label of Great Value, will be from cows that have not been treated with rBST hormone. The Great Value label is sold in Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores. Wal-Mart said it has asked suppliers not to use rBST in response to consumer demand. Wal-Mart has not stated whether the milk will be labeled as rBST free or not.

### **USDA's NASS Milk Production Report for February 2008.**

50 State report: milk production is up 5.5%, with an increase of 112,000 more cows and milk per cow up 67 lbs per cow. After adjusting for the extra day in leap year, milk production is up 1.9% and milk per cow is up only 11 lbs per day.

SMI milk production is down 1.1% from year ago. After adjusting for the extra day in leap year, milk production is down 4.5%.

After making the adjustments for leap year, milk production is still not as strong as what it had been. Cow numbers continue to grow and get larger, but the milk per cow growth is slowing down. Two contributing factors occurring are restricted Posilac use across larger sections of the country and very high feed prices.