

**FLORIDA 4-H  
DAIRY YOUTH  
PROGRAM  
UPDATE**

# The Scoop



VOLUME 1, ISSUE III

JULY 2008

**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.**

For information about the Dairy Youth Program please contact:

Brent Broaddus  
University of Florida  
Department of Animal Science  
5339 County Road 579  
Seffner, FL 33584  
813-744-5519 Office  
813-744-5776 Fax  
broaddus@ufl.edu



## **Dairy Projects: Don't Take a Vacation!**

It is no secret that the summer months are filled busy families, vacations, and lazy days enjoying the Florida sunshine but, there may be something you are forgetting...your dairy project. While summer is filled with several opportunities for dairy youth including dairy judging, quiz bowl, and retreats just to name a few, a part of a youth's projects often get neglected during the hectic summer months.

Summer is a time when the core of dairy project, the cattle themselves, seem to get pushed to the way side and left with out the attention they receive during the show season. It is easy to get wrapped up in summer fun and forget about the cattle, whom, while it is summer still need attention in order to be ready for the next show season. The excitement of show season serves a motivator to youth to work with their cattle, paying extra attention to feeding, washing and overall care of their project. However as the shows come and go and the heat of summer creeps upon us we take less time to monitor the growth of our heifers, we go back to treating our projects just like an animal out pasture, not like the stars we treated them only a few months prior. I challenge you this summer to make an effort to treat your project like everyday is the day before the big show. Do more than just dumping feed into a trough, ensure that you are monitoring there nutrition and growth, rinsing your heifers to make them more comfortable in the scorching heat all while getting a head start on a nice, healthy project animal. So take the same pride and care of your project during the summer, just as you do as before you enter the show ring. If you don't take a vacation from your dairy project this summer you will surely see the results for years to come.



### **Dairy Youth Highlight... Kelly Buchanan, Okeechobee, Florida**

This issues Youth Highlight features a young lady who has been involved in all aspects of the Florida Dairy Youth Program; from the excitement of the show ring to the nervousness of a contest room, Kelly Buchanan is always there with a smile on her face. Kelly, a member of the Udder Bunch 4-H Club in Okeechobee has developed her dairy project into a small herd of quality Jersey cattle and has taken of the responsibility of milking her own cattle. Kelly, a recent recipient of the K&J Dairy Scholarship has an impressive list of accomplishments in her dairy project including numerous national judging and quiz bowl contests. Kelly takes an active part in her 4-H Club having served as President, Vice President and Secretary of her 4-H Club in addition to participating in a variety of community service projects. Kelly recently graduated from Okeechobee High School and will attend Indian River Community College with plans of transferring to the University of Florida to obtain a degree in Veterinarian Medicine. Kelly hopes to one day own her own herd of Jersey cattle.



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## Buzzer Talk... Dairy Quiz Bowl Program Highlight



The Florida 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl program encourages youth to develop a more complete knowledge of the dairy industry, dairy animals and related subjects. This program provides an educational dairy experience for all 4-H members - including those who may not own a dairy animal - via workshops, summer camps, and out of state trips. The Florida Dairy Quiz Bowl program provides a way to help youth develop their communication skills, decision-making skills, mental alertness, self-confidence, and teaches youth to work together as part of a team. The Dairy Quiz Bowl Study Guide is on a CD-Rom and is available to

anyone interested.

The Florida 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl program is open to all 4-H'ers regardless of their age or experience level. If you are interested in the Florida 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl program or have any questions, please contact your local 4-H agent or myself.



## The Teams were...

### 2008 National Holstein Dairy Quiz Bowl

Senior Team: Kelly Buchanan, Shane Gearhart, Austin Pluskot, Katlyn Watts

Junior Team: Kalya Burlingame, Fallon Curren, William Curren, Philip Watts

### 2008 National Holstein Jeopardy - Junior Division Courtney Watts

### 2008 National Guernsey Dairy Quiz Bowl

Senior Team: Fallon Curren, Kaci Duggan, Tiffany Padot, Krystina Thompson

Junior Team: Kaley Brooks, Lauren Poley, Raychel Rabon, Brianna Smith



## And the Results Are...

The 2008 Holstein Junior Quiz Bowl Team finished 5th out of 18 teams. The Seniors team finished 7th out of 18 teams.

The 2008 Guernsey Junior Team finished 3rd out of 7 teams. The Senior team finished 5th out of 10 teams.

## What the youth had to say...

Quiz Bowl this year has been a lot of fun. Last month we went to Wisconsin, I competed in Dairy Jeopardy for my first time. It was also my first trip to Wisconsin. My favorite part about the Holstein Convention was the Dairy Bar. The Dairy Bar was three tables of different sorts of cheese. They also had all the milk and ice cream you could eat. My favorite part about the entire trip was the Wild Thing Jet Boat Ride. On the Wild Thing Jet Boat ride we went in the Wisconsin River and got SOAKED! I would like to give a big thanks to everyone who put on Holstein Convention and to Mr. Brent, Mrs. Spann, and to my mom for helping me study and all the other wonderful things they do!

- Courtney Watts

Wow Holstein Convention this year was a blast! This was my first year getting to compete on the Holstein senior team and boy was it a step up from other contest in the past. Not only was it the convention that made things fun but it was also the people on the trip. No matter if was Austin loosing everything, Mrs. Spann going down a one way street, or most importantly Philam and Willip singing, we were always constantly laughing. It was defiantly a trip of a lifetime that I will never forget. You got to meet so many people from new places and renew relationships from the past. If you haven't ever been on a dairy quiz bowl trip I would highly recommend trying out for one of the breed teams this year! Thank you to Mr. Brent, Mrs. Spann, Mrs. Debbie, and all the parents who make these trips possible!

- Katlyn Watts



## What the youth still had to say...



Hi I'm Bri Smith and I'm Kaley Brooks, we would like to tell you a little bit about our Dairy Quiz Bowl trip to Wisconsin. Dairy Quiz Bowl is a National competition between states to test your knowledge on Dairy Cows and the Dairy Industry. This year we were members of the Guernsey Junior Team with, Raychel Rabon and Lauren Poley. We placed third out of seven teams. Some of the things we did were go to Hoards Dairy, Guernsey Meadows Dairy and we also took a tour of Nasco. It was amazing to see such beautiful Guernsey cows at Guernsey Meadows Farm. It was also interesting to see such high-tech machinery used at Hoards Dairy. At Nasco we were able to learn more about how their company functions and how much more stuff they import other than just farm supplies.



However on Dairy Quiz Bowl trips you don't just go to dairies and have to be serious all the time. We had a lot of fun goofing off at our hotel with the senior team, as well as our coaches, Mr. Brent and Mrs. Spann. For example doing things from playing cards to breaking out a game of Twister which was mostly just us kids. The coaches didn't participate in Twister. This year we had so much fun and learned a lot of new things on our trip. We encourage kids to participate in Dairy Quiz Bowl, so that they too can experience the fun that we had.

- Brianna Smith and Kaley Brooks

The quiz bowl trip this year was great! Everything from the Wild Boat Ride to being ready at 7 to study questions. It was really nice staying at the Kalahari Resort because it had an indoor and an outdoor water park. I am really excited about the trip next year, so I'm going to study really hard to make the team.

- Philip Watts

## A special message from the junior Guernsey team...



## Moo.....! it's a Cow Parade! By Brianna Smith and Kaley Brooks

Hey it's Bri Smith and Kaley Brooks along with Erin and Brandon Carey. We would like to tell you about our experience in a Cow parade. This parade was for Cow Appreciation Day sponsored by Chick-Fil-A in Orlando.

**“This is just one of the rewards you can be involved in when showing Dairy cows.”**

We joined up with Chick-Fil-A, Dairy Farmers Inc., and HC Dairy to show our appreciation for cows in downtown Orlando. We took four Holstein heifers to Orlando and walked them 6/10th of a mile. As we walked the cow's downtown, Chick-Fil-A workers passed out free chicken sandwiches to people on the sidewalk and people in cars as they passed by us.

Some minor incidences happened such as, one of the cows led by Erin Cary decided it wanted to go for a ride in the back of a red pickup truck causing the driver to slightly freak-out however; it gave everyone a chance to get a good laugh, especially us. Another that gave us a good laugh was when

we came into downtown Orlando, we couldn't find the street we were supposed to be on so we were escorted by police to the correct place. This of course was after Mrs. Carey backed the trailer down several streets because there was nowhere to turn around. Wow, she can really drive a trailer. This is just one of the rewards you can be involved in when showing Dairy cows.





## Upcoming Dairy Youth Events...

- 7/14-18/08 - Southeast Dairy Youth Retreat - Madison, GA
- 8/5/08 - State Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest - Seffner, FL
- 9/20/08 - Florida State Fair Dairy Seminar - Tampa, FL

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



**Maintain credibility with consumers** - Television ads that portray "happy" cows cavorting on bright green pasture may be entertaining and visually appealing, but they may also be creating a credibility gap with the public. Rather than presenting fantasy, messages to the public should reflect reality, suggests University of Florida research fellow Wes Jamison. Perception and reality need to be lined up or else a discrepancy or gap exists that could be exploited by those who would undermine animal agriculture, according to a paper of his that was presented Wednesday at the American Dairy Science Association annual meeting. And, basing perception on reality can be a good self-improvement exercise. For instance, Jamison suggests applying the "Mrs. Johnson's third-grade class test"; that is, if you were to invite a class of third-graders to your farm, is there anything you wouldn't want those third-graders to report back to their parents? (DA-7/11/08)

**DCAD may need to be higher for early lactation** - Much of the research into dietary cation-anion difference (DCAD) has been done on mid-lactation cows. At this week's joint ADSA-ASAS meeting, the first-ever study done exclusively on early-lactation cows was presented by Rebecca White, a Ph.D graduate student at Washington State University. "Potassium carbonate can be used to effectively increase DCAD in early-lactation cows," leading to increased milk production, milk fat percent and feed efficiency, she said. Fifteen early-lactation cows were fed a treatment diet with a DCAD of +42, and they yielded an extra 3.3 pounds of milk per day (and 8.58 pounds of 3.5 percent fat-corrected milk) than 15 cows given a control diet with a DCAD of approximately +25. Early-lactation cows may need a higher DCAD than mid-lactation cows, points out Joe Harrison, dairy scientist at Washington State University, because they have relatively high milk production in relation to feed intake, and there are a lot of things going on in these cows metabolically. A relatively high DCAD helps neutralize the acid that can build up in the blood of these animals. An analogy might be made athletes "hit the wall" and don't perform effectively when too much lactic acid builds up in their blood. Same can be said for Cows (DA7/11/08)