



November-December 2002  
Volume 16, No. 1

# Herd Testing Highlights

*Southeast Dairy Herd Improvement Program*

## Directors' Notes

Southeast DHIA is governed by a 9-member board representing three geographical regions. Current directors include: *Ed Henderson*, Live Oak, FL; *Mark Rodgers*, Dearing, GA; *Rufus Yoder, Jr*, Montezuma, GA; *David Cagle*, Canton, GA; *Aubrey Moon*, Madison, GA; *Don Bennink*, Bell, FL; *David West, Jr.*, Camilla, GA; *Gary Keyes*, Brooksville, FL. and *Dale Eade*, Marianna, FL.

Southeast DHIA Directors have met four times during 2002. The meeting agenda usually includes minutes from previous meetings, financial report, lab report and review of management activities and personnel.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15 and will include budget discussions for 2003. Board members are elected for 3-year terms. One board seat from each area will be up for election in the spring of 2003. The board has begun development of a strategic plan and finalization of corporate by-laws. These will require more consideration in the coming year.

## New DHIA Technicians

Cathy Weaver and Jay Peters have recently been hired as DHIA Technicians. Cathy will work in central Georgia and Jay in north Florida. Both are currently undergoing training and look forward to full certification soon.

## Operations Manager Resigned

Ron McCuddy, former Operations Manager resigned his position September 1 to move to Raleigh NC. Ron joined Florida DHIA 1990 as Fieldman, and continued as Operations Manager after the merger of the Georgia and Florida DHIA's. Ron is now employed by DRMS as a computer support specialist. Some of our members have already talked to Ron by telephone for help with PCDART.

## Southeast DHIA Management

The management staff for SE DHIA is made up of several persons. Dr. Dan Webb serves a dual role as General Manager and Extension Dairyman. He directs the overall operation, communicates with the board and outside cooperators. Ray West is Area Manager for Georgia. Ray works heavily with technicians servicing herds in Georgia and provides leadership for the program in Georgia. Don Shaw is responsible for meter calibration, repair and maintenance for all of Southeast DHIA. He provides in-barn training for new employees and also does contract meter calibration for other state DHIA organizations. Robyn Brady is the DHIA Field Representative in North Georgia while providing testing service to circuit of herds there. Christina Doré is our Administrative Assistant in the Gainesville FL office. Her responsibilities center around accounting and communication.

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|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Dan W. Webb      | General Manager          |
| Ray West         | Area Manager-Georgia     |
| Don Shaw         | Meter & Training         |
| Christina Dore'  | Administrative Assistant |
| Robyn Brady      | Field Rep-North Georgia  |
| Nicole Reyneveld | Publication Editor       |

## Southeast DHIA Technicians

The Southeast DHIA enjoys a close working relationship with DRMS in Raleigh, Southeast Lab, Tennessee Lab, the University of Georgia and the University of Florida. This alliance provides flexibility in the service provided to the Southeast DHIA members and emphasizes timely, economic and accurate information.

**Skilled Labor Force:** The Southeast DHIA employs 21 lead technicians and four assistant technicians. Each technician is proficient in the use of milk metering equipment, DRMS software and sample collection. The management staff of Southeast DHIA schedules two comprehensive meetings per year to ensure the technicians meet or exceed National DHIA credentials, the dairymen's demands and the Southeast DHIA obligation to its members.

The technicians for Southeast DHIA are as follows:

### Lead Technicians

**Ken Brown**  
Eatonton, GA

**Steve Esh**  
Montezuma, GA

**Greg Gandy**  
Coolidge, GA

**Mary Gerhauser**  
McAlpin, FL

**Steve and Nancy  
Giddens**  
Lake City, FL

**Lloyd Holdenman**  
Wrens, GA

**Brenda Hood**  
Millen, GA

**Dwain Howle**  
Franklin, GA

**Johnny Jones**  
Trenton, FL

**Don and Barbara  
Kicklighter**  
Madison, GA

**Sergio I Madrid**  
Gainesville, FL

**Donna Mashburn**  
Doerun, GA

**Stephanie Middleton**  
Huxford, AL

**Jay Peters**  
Hawthorne, FL

**Thomas Peters**  
Forsyth, GA

**Wayne Racaniello**  
Nokomis, FL

**Farrell Warwick**  
Cleveland, GA

**Victor and Cathy  
Weaver**  
Andersonville, GA

### Assistant Technicians

**Karol Getzlaff**  
Live Oak, FL

**Gregory Howard**  
Opp, AL

**Cindy Jewel**  
Okeechobee, FL

**James Mashburn**  
Doerun, GA

## PCDART Users

### Breeding Trigger

In August, a new feature was added to the breeding screen in PCDART. You can now record a trigger for the breeding and how long after the trigger event the breeding occurred. Possible breeding triggers are: Standing, Mounting, Mucus, Full Kmar, Part Kmar, Ovarian Palm, Chalk/paint, Pedometer, Timed AI, Nervousness, Edema, Ultrasound and User Defined 1 and 2. (Currently you can't change the titles for User Defined 1 and 2.)

There are three possibilities for the breeding time, <2 hours (at observation), 2-12 hours and >12 hours.

Two new database items have been added for breeding time and trigger. Breeding trigger is DBI 221 and time since trigger is 222. These items have also been added as an option to report 106 – Conception Rate Summary.

### Semen Inventory

Foreign bulls that were entered into Semen Inventory using the old program will need to be re-entered after the new May programs are installed and a test day update has taken place. PCDART will not recognize that 046682654 and CAN\*6682654 are the same bull, so you may end up with the same bull in inventory under two (or more) different ID numbers. Report 109 –Semen Inventory, will give a list of bulls currently in inventory.

### Import Classification Scores into

#### PCDART

Classification information is available to import into PCDART from Holstein USA (ask for the Scoreboard data file) and American Jersey Cattle Association. To receive the file, contact your breed association or your classifier at the time of classification. To import data:

1. From the PCDART 6 Main Menu, go to the Auxiliary Menu.
2. Select option I-Import Classification, SER. Sire Recommendations.

3. Choose option C-Classification Scores.

4. You will be prompted for the file name. If the file is on a disk, type in A:filename.ext.

5. You will receive a statement of the number of records that were added, new and updated.

Classification information can be viewed on the cow page by pressing ALT-F4 for the Breed Assn. Page. Classification information can be displayed in reports using the following database items:

323 – Type BAA

324 – Type final score (sort)

325 – Type classification date (sort)

326 – Type composition scores

### Peak Milk

Use PCDART to evaluate whether cows are peaking early or late. Two new database items are now available in PCDART:

147 – Peak days in milk

148 – Peak days in milk deviation

The deviation in days in milk for peak is “observed” minus “standard.” The standard DIM is determined based on the cow's breed, lactation number and season of calving. When determining peak milk and days-in-milk-at-peak:

- Cow must be 100 or more DIM before the first peaks are determined for this lactation (i.e. peaks will be zero until the first test day after 100 DIM).
- All test days (from 7 to 150 DIM) will be used to determine peaks.

### Heifer Health Codes

All cow health codes are now available for heifers. Previously there were only 10 codes allowed for heifers. The same 10 heifer codes are available, but the addition of the cow health codes allows greater flexibility in reporting health events for heifers.

### Lab Hot Sheets

One significant option that is available from the SMI Lab is the "Hot Sheet". This option provides immediate SCC information for herds with aggressive udder health programs. For \$5.00, the lab will fax (or mail) a listing of all cows with SCC results as soon as samples clear the lab. Even better, the Hot Sheet includes a listing of the top 20 cows in contribution of SCC to the bulk tank. This is possible by collation of daily milk production with the SCC results. Use of this information can be a life-saver for herds needing to reduce their bulk tank somatic cell count. **Herds wanting this option should request it from their DHIA Technician.**

### PocketDairy

Version 3.0 of PocketDairy is scheduled for release in early 2003. This new enhanced program will offer several significant upgrade features. Herds can easily back up data to a small chip to prevent loss of information that means less frequent synchronization with the desktop computer. Further, this new version will allow use of PocketDairy by herds without a desktop computer. Additionally, updates of information in the Palm computer will be "live" so that the Palm can become a full service information manager for breeding, health and dry-offs. Keep a lookout for this new service!

### DHIA Quality Certification

DHIA records are used by outside persons and firms in many different ways. Genetic evaluation of bulls and cows is primary, but there are many others where the world is expecting DHIA data to be correct. Certification of data collected by DHIA is accomplished by a program of evaluation and audit conducted by QCS, Inc. and overseen by the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding. Under this program, DHIA service organizations are required to use standard equipment and procedures that have been approved by rigorous evaluation. Each year, Southeast DHIA is audited for compliance with all aspects of herd testing which range from training of new technicians, to proper use and calibration of meters and proper oversight of barn procedures. Milk testing labs and computing centers must pass initial evaluation and yearly audits to offer certified DHIA

service. Southeast DHIA expects the audit for 2003 to be conducted in late February.

### DHIA Calendar

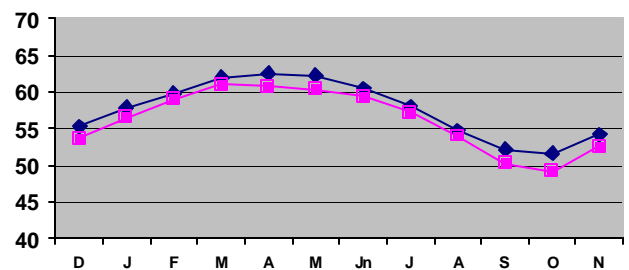
|              |                                     |                   |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Jan 28, 2003 | GA Milk Producers Annual Conference | (Perry, GA)       |
| Jan 30, 2003 | Winter DHIA Technicians Meeting     | (Perry, GA)       |
| Jan 31, 2003 | Winter DHIA Technicians Meeting     | (Lake City, FL)   |
| Mar 15, 2003 | National DHIA Meeting               | (Reno, NV)        |
| Apr 30, 2003 | Florida Production Conference       | (Gainesville, FL) |
| May 13, 2003 | DRMS Spring Workshop                | (Raleigh, NC)     |

|   | Georgia | Florida |
|---|---------|---------|
| Average No. Cows/Herd                   | 246     | 644     |
| % Cows in Milk                          | 80.9    | 80.6    |
| Rolling Herd Average                    | 17,870  | 17,276  |
| Milk Lbs/Day (Milking Cows Only)        | 54.2    | 52.5    |
| Average Lactation Stage (DIM)           | 189     | 188     |
| Standardized 150-Day Milk               | 61.0    | 59.3    |
| Feed Cost/Cow \$                        | 3.23    | 3.43    |
| Ave. Milk Price Reported(\$/CWT)        | 14.78   | 15.13   |
| Feed Cost per CWT Milk \$               | 5.99    | 6.30    |
| Test Day/Bulk Tank Deviation            | 1.13    | 1.72    |
| % Heats Observed                        | 34.1    | 41.5    |
| Average Days to 1 <sup>st</sup> Service | 104     | 106     |
| Average SCC Score                       | 3.83    | 3.98    |
| % Herds Below SCCS of 6                 | 77      | 75      |

### Southeast DHIA

#### Daily Milk Production By State

December 2001 – November 2002



◆ Georgia    ■ Florida