

Herd Testing Highlights

Southeast Dairy Herd Improvement Program

July-August 2003

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Board Elections are Coming Up

Nominations are being received for three SE DHIA board seats for 2003. Mark Rodgers (dist 1), Dale Eade (dist 2) and Gary Keyes (dist 3) have been nominated for re-election. Additional nominations can be made before August 29. Ballots will be mailed on September 9.

Meter Calibrations are Complete

Don Shaw calibrated 682 portable meters used in Southeast DHIA. Ninety-one per cent of the meters were within NDHIA tolerance without adjustment. Don also has calibrated 1,007 meters for Louisiana, Alabama and Indiana DHIA's. Additional meters will be calibrated for Mississippi and Tennessee later this fall. Don is available to calibrate and repair meters owned by dairymen, as well.



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Florida High Production Herds Recognized at Gainesville Meeting

Twenty-one DHIA herds received Production Recognition Awards at this year's Florida Dairy Production Conference in April. This year's qualifying level was 19,142 lbs. of milk. This year's high herd was Condale Dairy with 25,763 lbs. of milk on 602 cows.

Farm Name

Condale Dairy

B&D Farms

North Florida Holsteins

Eicher Dairy

M&M Dairy

Univ of Fla DRU

Aurora FI Unit 1

Aurora FI Unit 2

Aurora FI Unit 3

Shenandoah Dairy

J-Lu Farms

Harms Bros Dairy

Suwannee Dairy

Gracewood Farms

Mecklenburg Farm

Haymurph Farm

VanWagner Dairy

T.K Hatten Dairy

T.J. Smith & Son

Wisteria Dairy

ElJim Dairy

City

Anthony

Greenville

Bell

Walnut Hill

Jacksonville

Gainesville

Bell

Branford

Morrison

Live Oak

Live Oak

Century

McAlpin

Okeechobee

Baldwin

Chipley

Sparr

Brooksville

Brooksville

Green Cove Sp

Grandin

PCDART Workshops

Workshops on the new version of PCDART were held in Gainesville, FL, Mayo, FL and Madison, GA during the late spring and summer. Participants saw demonstrations of the new features in PCDART 7.5.

SE DHIA Board Activity

The Board of Directors has met 3 times in 2003. Items receiving attention have included: NDHIA participation, Laboratory operations, use of NuPulse electronic meters for DHIA testing, BlueCross health insurance for employees, and review of DHIA budget and finances. One item which will receive consideration this fall is the herd testing requirements and production level to be used for high herd recognition by SE DHIA.

The board's next scheduled meeting is October 15 in Belleview, Fl.

Production Recognition Requirements

Traditionally, DHIA's have recognized herds with high production. Several years ago, the National program made changes which removed the "official" designation from records. Since that time, it has not been clear what requirements should be used.

Georgia Cream of the Crop awards have been based on herds averaging more than 120% of the state breed average, with an official string or herd average.

One proposal is to establish uniform guidelines for high-herd recognition for use in Southeast DHIA. *That proposal requires a herd to be "supervised" and have a minimum of 10 tests in the last 365 days.*

The board will be considering this at the next meeting. If you have suggestions or an opinion on this matter, feel free to contact any board member of SE DHIA staff member.

PCDART 7.5 is Here

Version 7.5 of PCDART is now available. This revision includes enhanced data entry using Windows technology. Some people like it. Some folks don't. It does provide additional ways to enter data and allows entry of new items. A new version of PocketDairy is provided with improved features.

The interface with automatic milk recording (AMR) systems has been transferred to Windows and requires some modification from the previous DOS version. If you have not received this upgrade, contact Ray West, Don Shaw, Dan Webb or Robyn Brady

Lab Summary

In July, SE DHIA had 164 herds with samples sent to the SMI Lab. A summary of those herds is given below those

No. herds	164
No. cows	66,956
No. samples	56,913
Days to lab	2.82
Days in lab	0.72
Days at DRMS	0.30
Avg plant fat test	3.59
Avg DHIA fat test	3.46

DHIA Technicians Meet

The 2003 Annual Technicians' Conference was held in Tifton on July 31 and August 1. This year's guest speaker was Tammie Cross from the DRMS Raleigh office. Tammie provided training on the latest added features of PCDART 7.5. She also conducted a data-input exercise with PocketDairy.

All SE DHIA Technicians were present and participated in this required training.