

Herd Testing Highlights

Southeast Dairy Herd Improvement Program

September 2003

Volume 17, No. 3

Cow Identification is Becoming an Issue

The 2002 Farm Bill contains language requiring trace-back information to guarantee the country of origin. This has been referred to as COOL (*country of origin labeling*). Provisions will apply to the retail sale of covered commodities beginning September 30, 2004. Animal products will be labeled PRODUCT OF USA only if it was born, raised and processed in the U.S. Some animal health experts are saying that on-the-animal ID tags will be required that indicate *point of origin* for each animal. Currently, there are working groups with dairy representatives working out details of a national ID program. DHIA is likely to have a role.



Southeast DHIA, Inc.

P.O. Box 142460

Gainesville, FL 32614-2460

Phone: (352) 392-5592

Fax: (352) 392-5595

Universities of Florida and Georgia

Dan W. Webb
Ray West
Don Shaw
Christina Dore'
Robyn Brady

General Manager
Area Manager-Georgia
Meters & Training
Administrative Assistant
Field Rep-North Georgia

Board Elections

Ballots are in the mail for election of one director from each district. Be on the look out for your ballot to cast your vote. Nine dairy farmers make up the Board of Southeast DHIA. These persons spend valuable time guiding and overseeing the DHIA program in Florida and Georgia. The board's next scheduled meeting is October 15 in Belleview, Fl.

Florida High-Herd Correction

The previous issue of this newsletter listed high producing herds recognized for 2002. One very good herd was omitted from that list. Suwannee River Dairy of Live Oak, operated by Pete Shurter and family, finished the year with 21,932 lbs of milk, 762 of fat and 663 of protein. We apologize for the error.

DHIA Has Good Calf Identity Program

Herds on DHIA have automatic calf identity if they choose to utilize it. Whenever a calving date is reported, the DHIA Technician must indicate whether the resulting calf was identified or not. Most dairy farms raising replacements can provide the sex of the calf along with a tag number. This little amount of information can go a long way toward a complete inventory of animals with basic background data.

SOUTHEAST DHIA DATA COMPARISON AUGUST, 2003

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>GA & FL HERDS</u>	<u>GA HERDS</u>	<u>FLORIDA HERDS</u>
NO. OF HERDS	301	205	96
NO. OF COWS	364	246	615
% IN MILK	79.4	79.2	79.7
MILK LBS - ALL COWS	40.2	40.6	39.3
MILK LBS - MILKING COWS	50.4	51.1	49.0
CONCENTRATE FED ..LBS	24.9	24.4	26.5
CONCENTRATE COST ..\$	2.01	2.04	1.91
TOTAL FEED COST ..\$	2.91	2.91	2.92
VALUE OF MILK ..\$	5.31	5.31	5.32
VALUE ABOVE FEED COST ..\$	2.64	2.70	2.45
FEED COST PER CWT MILK ..\$	7.26	7.19	7.47
ROLLING HERD AVG - MILK LBS	17238	17516	16642
% LEFT HERD	37.8	38.0	37.2
AVG DAYS IN MILK	230	229	231
TEST PERIOD PERSISTENCY	99	99	100
AVG AGE - 1ST LACTATION	26.3	26.6	25.8
SUMMIT MILK - 1ST LACTATION	61.5	61.5	61.4
ME MILK - 1ST LACTATION	20017	20234	19555
AVG SIRE PTA\$ - 1ST LACTATION	253	255	246
AVG AGE - 2ND LACTATION	40.9	41.0	40.7
SUMMIT MILK - 2ND LACTATION	75.7	75.9	75.1
ME MILK - 2ND LACTATION	20096	20406	19439
AVG SIRE PTA\$ - 2ND LACTATION	229	235	216
AVG AGE - 3+ LACTATION	68.0	68.9	66.2
SUMMIT MILK - 3+ LACTATION	79.7	80.3	78.3
ME MILK - 3+ LACTATION	19105	19536	18192
AVG SIRE PTA\$ - 3+ LACTATION	161	164	156
% OPEN < VWP @ 1ST SERV	17.9	17.2	19.4
% OPEN VWP-100 DAYS @ 1ST SERV	43.8	42.8	45.9
% OPEN OVER 100 DAYS @ 1ST SERV	38.2	39.9	34.7
AVG DAYS DRY	75	73	78
AVG PTA\$ FOR SERVICE SIRE	272	283	249
AVG DAYS TO 1ST BREEDING	107	109	105
% HEATS OBSERVED	34.0	32.8	37.0
PROJ. CALVING INTERVAL	15.6	15.6	15.6
AVG DAYS OPEN	195	194	195
% SUCCESSFUL - ALL SERVICES	49.4	49.2	49.6
% SUCCESSFUL - FIRST SERVICE;	49.9	49.7	50.2
STANDARDIZED 150-DAY MILK LBS	60.6	61.2	59.4
[% of cows]			
SCCS < 4 (below 142,000)	47	49	41
SCCS = 4 (142,000 - 283,000)	16	16	17
SCCS = 5 (284,000 - 565,000)	14	13	15
SCCS = 6 (566,000 - 1,130,000)	10	10	12
SCCS > 6 (over 1,130,000)	13	13	15
AVERAGE SC COUNT	550	531	616
T.D. BULK TANK DEVIATION %	1.9	1.7	2.3
YR BULK TANK DEVIATION %	1.4	1.5	1.0

These data are from all herds in Southeast DHIA, as of August 31, 2003.

