

# Herd Testing Highlights

*Southeast Dairy Herd Improvement Program*

December 2003  
Volume 17, No. 4

## Board Elections

In the recent election conducted by mail-in ballot, Mark Rodgers, Dale Eade and Gary Keyes were reelected to the Board. 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 next board meeting is set for mid-January.

## Revised Requirements for Recognition

Recognition of high herd production has been a traditional part of DHIA. While it is far from the highest priority use of DHIA data, production recognition continues to be important to many. Several years ago, National DHIA gave up the definition of requirements to the end users. Southeast DHIA was asked to recommend minimum requirements for use in our area. The SE DHIA Board has adopted new requirements for production recognition. Herds will need a minimum of 9 DHIA tests days and no test interval greater than 65 days



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## Technician Evaluations

Some time ago, DHIA changed from the term *DHIA Supervisor* to *DHIA Technician*. While DHIA Technicians still supervise the test-day and provide certification of cow identity and milk production, the job description includes much more. Each year, DHIA Technicians are evaluated for performance. A part of that evaluation is a survey of herdowners serviced by each Technician. Enclosed with this newsletter is a response card for this purpose. Please take a minute to provide a response that indicates your opinion of the performance of your DHIA Technician.

## DHIA Provides Good Reproductive Analysis

Herds on DHIA have receive comprehensive summary of their herd's reproductive performance each test-day. The profile of reproduction can be used to target areas of management that need attention for improved profit. In recent months, *Herd Pregnancy Rate* has been added to the information summarized on the DHIA Herd Summary (DHI-202 form) provided by DRMS. This calculation is reported to be the best index of overall reproductive status of a herd. Take a look at these numbers for your herd and see what it tells you.

## Georgia Milk Producers' Meeting

This year's meeting will be January 27 and 28 in Perry. Southeast DHIA will have a booth.

**SOUTHEAST DHIA DATA COMPARISON November, 2003**

Item	All Herds	Small Herds	Large Herds
No. of Herds	290	143	147
No. of Cows	373	123	615
PCT in Milk on Test Day	81	80	81
Milk lbs-All Cows	43	42	45
Daily Milk-Cows in Milk	54	52	55
Concentrate Fed in lbs	24.7	23.1	26.8
Concentrate Cost \$	1.99	1.94	2.05
Total Feed Cost \$	2.89	2.73	3.04
Value of Milk \$	7.05	6.69	7.41
Value above Feed Cost \$	4.61	4.67	4.55
Feed Cost/CWT Milk \$	6.66	6.37	6.96
Rolling-Milk lbs	17,225	16,920	17,514
Days in Milk	187	189	186
Test Period Persistency	103	103	104
Age of 1st Lact Cows	26.25	26.76	25.76
Summit milk-1st Lact	60.46	58.73	62.14
Proj 305 day ME milk-2nd lact	19909	19528	20279
Sire PTA\$-1st Lact	254	253	254
Age of 2nd Lact Cows	41	41	41
Summit milk-2nd Lact	74	71	76
Proj 305 day ME Milk-2nd Lact	19,926	19,636	20,203
Sire PTA\$-2nd Lact	234	238	231
Age of 3rd+ Lact Cows	67.87	69.68	66.09
Summit milk-3rd+ Lact	77	76	78
Proj 305 day ME Milk-3rd+ Lact	18,840	18,795	18,885
Sire PTA\$-3rd+ Lact	171	169	174
Days to 1st Serv (%herd VWP to 100D)	43.32	41.17	45.39
Days to 1st Serv (%herd > than 100D)	38.59	42.50	34.85
Days Dry-All Lact	76	76	76
Days 1st Serv-total herd	106	110	103
PCT of heats observed for year	34.00	32.43	35.66
Proj Calving Interval	15.73	15.80	15.66
Days open-proj min-total herd	198	200	196
Con PCT	49.46	49.21	49.70
Con Rate-1st serv	49.83	49.05	50.60
Std 150 day milk	59.92	58.09	61.70
SCCS < 4	47	46	48
SCCS = 4	18	18	17
SCCS = 5	14	14	14
SCCS = 6	10	11	10
SCCS > 6	12	12	12
SCC Score	3.75	3.77	3.72
PCT Dev-Test Day	2.08	1.08	3.06
PCT Dev.	1.46	0.54	2.35

Date of Report: December 1, 2003

**For this summary, large herds are those above 200 cows.**

These data are from all herds in Southeast DHIA, as of November 30, 2003.

