

# ALABAMA DAIRY NEWSLETTER

ADS-D-10 4  
April 12, 2010

This issue of the Alabama Dairy Newsletter contains ADHIA summary information for March 2010. Enclosed are several dates of importance, Boyd's Bullets and Alabama Dairy Field Day Information.

## 2010 Dates to Remember

April 27, 2010: Alabama Dairy Field Day – Shorter, AL

May 1, 2010: DAIRY U 2<sup>nd</sup> Term – Auburn, AL

September 27, 2009: 4-H National Dairy Conference, Madison, Wisconsin - Leave Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> and Return Thursday Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

October 1, 2009: Lease Forms For Animals To Be Shown At The Alabama National Fair

October 1, 2009: Entry Forms For The Alabama National Fair Show

October 10, 2009: Fayette District Dairy Show(Tentative)-Fayette, AL

October 11, 2009: Montgomery District Dairy Show – Montgomery, AL

October 11-13, 2009: Alabama National Fair Dairy Show- Montgomery, AL

November 2, 2010: Quiz Bowl Louisville KY - Leave Friday Nov 6 & Return Sunday

Nov. 8 The Contest Is Saturday Nov 7<sup>th</sup>

November 2, 2010: Dairy Judging Louisville KY - Leave Saturday Nov 7 & Return

Monday Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Contest Is Sunday Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

***For More Info: [www.ag.auburn.edu/~bradybo](http://www.ag.auburn.edu/~bradybo)***

Respectfully,

Boyd Brady, Extension Dairy Specialist

**ALABAMA'S TEN HIGH HERDS FOR MILK,FAT & PROTEIN IN MARCH 2010**  
**OFFICIAL 305 DAY DHIA HERDS PROCESSED BETWEEN 3-1-10AND 3-31-10**

Name	City	Breed	No. Cows	%in Milk	All Cows		
					Ave. Daily Milk	Fat	Protein
<b><u>MILK</u></b>					<b>**</b>		
E V SMITH CENTER	SHORTER	H	92	99	79.0	2.69	2.29
BENNEY JOE BROWN	SOUTHSIDE	H	78	92	63.1	1.81	1.84
RONNIE SMITH	CULLMAN	H	133	94	62.3	1.97	1.99
J BOYD SIGAFOOSE	CENTURY	B	80	96	62.3	2.18	2.01
CHARLES EICHER	NEWBERN	H	80	95	61.0	2.28	1.75
DAVID/WILL GILMER	SULLIGENT	H	228	96	60.9	2.08	1.74
MIDDLETON BROS	MOBILE	H	252	100	57.2	2.15	1.83
TRAYLOR DAIRY	WEDOWEE	X	214	93	56.8	1.48	1.72
MIKE RYAN	COTTONDALE	H	91	92	55.3	1.75	1.65
J D BARR III	TROY	H	131	87	54.3	1.91	1.61
Average of Ten High Herds This Month					61.2		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Month					55.6		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Year This Month					56.8		

					<b>**</b>		
E V SMITH CENTER	SHORTER	H	92	99	79.0	2.69	2.29
E V SMITH CENTER	SHORTER	J	63	100	48.8	2.48	1.75
CHARLES EICHER	NEWBERN	H	80	95	61.0	2.28	1.75
J BOYD SIGAFOOSE	CENTURY	B	80	96	62.3	2.18	2.01
MIDDLETON BROS	MOBILE	H	252	100	57.2	2.15	1.83
JEFF SULLIVAN	ELROD	J	29	90	46.3	2.15	1.57
DAVID/WILL GILMER	SULLIGENT	H	228	96	60.9	2.08	1.74
RONNIE SMITH	CULLMAN	H	133	94	62.3	1.97	1.99
J D BARR III	TROY	H	131	87	54.3	1.91	1.61
BENNEY JOE BROWN	SOUTHSIDE	H	78	92	63.1	1.81	1.84
Average of Ten High Herds This Month					2.17		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Month					2.09		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Year This Month					2.17		

					<b>**</b>		
E V SMITH CENTER	SHORTER	H	92	99	79.0	2.69	2.29
J BOYD SIGAFOOSE	CENTURY	B	80	96	62.3	2.18	2.01
RONNIE SMITH	CULLMAN	H	133	94	62.3	1.97	1.99
BENNEY JOE BROWN	SOUTHSIDE	H	78	92	63.1	1.81	1.84
MIDDLETON BROS	MOBILE	H	252	100	57.2	2.15	1.83
E V SMITH CENTER	SHORTER	J	63	100	48.8	2.48	1.75
CHARLES EICHER	NEWBERN	H	80	95	61.0	2.28	1.75
DAVID/WILL GILMER	SULLIGENT	H	228	96	60.9	2.08	1.74
TRAYLOR DAIRY	WEDOWEE	X	214	93	56.8	1.48	1.72
MIKE RYAN	COTTONDALE	H	91	92	55.3	1.75	1.65
Average of Ten High Herds This Month					1.86		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Month					1.73		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Year This Month					1.82		

# *Boyd's Bullets April 2010*

## **Make Milk Quality Simple**

March 29, 2010

“Milk quality has nothing to do with where you milk cows,” says David Sumrall, of Dairy Production Systems in High Springs, Fla. Sumrall addressed his remarks to the NMC (formerly the National Mastitis Council) annual meeting last month in Albuquerque, N.M.

“As a guy who has managed cows and people in Idaho, Colorado, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Maryland, I can tell you it has everything to do with commitment,” he adds. “If quality is important to you, it is achievable anywhere.”

To that end, Sumrall offers the following points to produce quality milk. “We believe that premier milk quality is simple and is based on these basic concepts from which we will not stray,” he insists.

These include:

- It is the role of management to set an example for the organization to follow. If it is truly important to ownership and management as evidenced by more than empty talk, it will be treated as “important” by rank-and-file employees within the organization. Fundamental keys to superior milk quality are discipline, compliance and accountability that start at the top and flow down through the organization.
- Somatic cell counts are a key indicator of animal health and milk quality. SCCs are a direct indication of the prevalence of infection within a cow or a herd and nothing else.
- The primary key to milk quality is sanitation in every area of the farm. Premier milk quality comes only when every department on the farm is working in unison with that goal in mind.
- Cows must have a clean, dry place to live that provides protection from extreme temperatures and conditions that are prevalent in the area in which the dairy operates.
- Time away from feed and resting areas must be minimal. As a result, milking routines should be efficient and crisp, yet focused on quality first. Parlor through-put is important, but should not take priority over milk quality and udder health.

# Why You Need To Know About Somatic Cell Counts

By Thomas Quaife | Monday, June 01, 2009

When you get sick, your body fights the infection by producing immune cells.

Cows are no different — their bodies create immune cells whenever there is infection or disease. These cells include white blood cells, also known as somatic cells.

Somatic cells show up throughout the body as part of the cow's natural defense system, which means they are in the milk the cow produces.

You can measure somatic cells in the milk. It's good if the cow has somatic cell counts of 100,000 or less — it means the cow is probably free of a particular form of infection known as mastitis. But as counts go higher, it could be a sign of mastitis.

It's difficult to keep every cow at this level. But it is possible to keep the herd average at 200,000 or below if everyone pitches in and does a really good job. That should be the goal.

When somatic cell counts rise much higher than 200,000, it means two things:

- The herd is not as productive as it should be.
- Milk quality is suffering.

Research has shown as the somatic count number goes up, the herd loses more milk. If the herd averages a somatic cell count of 400,000, it is losing approximately 3 pounds of milk per cow per day, compared to having no mastitis at all. When somatic cell count rises to 800,000, the loss increases to about 4.5 pounds per cow per day.

Those losses can really add up over hundreds of cows!

And, everyone down the line pays a price. The people who make cheese can't get as much cheese out of milk that is high in somatic cell count. The taste of the milk may suffer. And, high-somatic-cell-count milk will spoil faster if it sits on store shelves too long.

Some cheese plants offer more money for milk that is low in somatic cell count, or else penalize producers for milk that is high in somatic cell count.

That is why the farm owner insists on keeping somatic cell count low — it really does make a difference.

## **What is mastitis?**

If you fall down and scrape your arm, you may get an infection — especially if dirt and bacteria get into the wound.

Cows have their own form of infection known as mastitis. It occurs when certain germs get onto the teat ends of the cow and then work their way into the udder.

There are two forms of mastitis:

- Environmental
- Contagious

Environmental mastitis occurs through environmental contact. For instance, a cow may come into contact with bacteria in a free-stall barn by being around manure or contaminated bedding.

Contagious mastitis usually occurs in the milking parlor when cows come into contact with milking equipment that has been contaminated by other cows.

In each case, cleanliness is very important.

You want to keep the teats as clean and dry as possible.

So, you to pre-dip and then wipe off the teats thoroughly before milking, you are doing it for a reason.

You may also want to “strip” the teats prior to milking. This is to see if cows have clinical mastitis or not. Cows with clinical mastitis have abnormal milk and signs of disease, and you need to know which cows these are so they can receive treatment.

# ***2010 ALABAMA DAIRY FIELD DAY***

E.V. Smith Headquarters

**APRIL 27, 2010**

Shorter, Alabama

8:00 A.M. Registration for Field Day – Free for Producers & \$ 10.00 for others

Moderator: Boyd Brady

8:45 A.M. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements: Boyd Brady

8:50 A.M. Sponsor Time: Platinum Sponsors

9:00 A.M. Grazing vs. Conventional Dairying: Ron St. John

10:00 A.M. What Different Feeds are Available: Darrell Rankins

Moderator: Brenda Glover

10:40 A.M. Tests for pregnancy and non-pregnancy: Herris Maxwell

11:10 A.M. Use Of Sexed Semen: Lew Strickland

11:40 A.M. FSA - Youth & Adult Loans: Amy McDaniel

12:05 P.M. Greetings: Jim Bannon, Wayne Greene, Richard Guthrie and Paul Mask

12:10 P.M. Lunch: Sponsored by Alabama Pork Producers

Auction: Items Donated to Help Raise Funds for Dairy Youth Events

Moderator: Ilana Stover

12:45 P.M. Building Dairy's Future Together: Cheryl Hayn, Eric McClain

1:05 P.M. Two Generation Farming - Transferring Ownership, Management and Income:  
Paul Brown

2:05 P.M. PI Count – Causes and Consequences: Julie Gard

2:45 P.M. Adjourn

3:00 P.M. Dairy Tour for Those Interested: Cal McCarthy

*This form must be filled out and mailed and RECEIVED before April 22, 2010 to guarantee your meal on April 27<sup>th</sup>*

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**2010 ALABAMA DAIRY FIELD DAY**  
**E.V. Smith Research Center Headquarters at 4725 County**  
**Road 40 Shorter, Alabama 36075**  
**APRIL 27, 2010**

LUNCH WILL BE FREE TO ALL DAIRY PRODUCERS AND GUEST ALL OTHERS WILL HAVE A REGISTRATION FEE \$ 10.00 (Payable at Field Day Only)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm or Affiliation Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

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