

ALABAMA DAIRY NEWSLETTER

ADS-D-10 1
January 17, 2010

This issue of the Alabama Dairy Newsletter contains ADHIA summary information for December 2009. Enclosed are several dates of importance and Boyd's Bullets.

2010 Dates to Remember

February 4, 2010: Alabama Farmers Federation Meeting – Birmingham, AL
March 6, 2010: State Dairy Judging Workshop – Wedowee, AL
March 17, 2010: Entry Forms From State Judging Teams
March 20, 2010: State Dairy Judging Contest – Shorter, AL
March 20, 2010: State Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest – Shorter, AL
May 1, 2010: DAIRY U 2nd Term – Auburn, AL
September 27, 2009: 4-H National Dairy Conference, Madison, Wisconsin - Leave Sunday
September 27th and Return Thursday Oct 1st.
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

For More Info: www.ag.auburn.edu/~bradybo

Respectfully,

Boyd Brady, Extension Dairy Specialist

ALABAMA'S TEN HIGH HERDS FOR MILK,FAT & PROTEIN IN DECEMBER 2009
OFFICIAL 305 DAY DHIA HERDS PROCESSED BETWEEN 12-1-09 AND 12-31-09

Name	City	Breed	No. Cows	All Cows			
				%in Milk	Ave. Daily Milk	Fat	Protein
<u>MILK</u>				**			
RONNIE SMITH	CULLMAN	H	138	87	57.7	2.07	1.88
E V SMITH CEN	SHORTER	H	91	79	55.5	1.67	1.75
CHARLES EICHER	NEWBERN	H	81	81	52.2	1.93	1.58
J BOYD SIGAFOOSE	CENTURY	B	77	94	51.9	2.11	1.73
J D BARR III	TROY	H	133	80	49.9	1.99	1.51
E V SMITH CEN	SHORTER	J	62	85	49.5	2.21	1.79
TRAYLOR DAIRY	WEDOWEE	X	222	80	48.9	1.22	1.60
MIDDLETON BROS	MOBILE	H	257	90	44.1	1.76	1.42
DAVID WRIGHT	ALEXANDRIA	X	86	81	43.5	1.86	1.46
BOBBY SPENCER	VERNON	J	65	91	43.3	1.86	1.58
Average of Ten High Herds This Month					49.6		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Month					43.6		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Year This Month					42.3		

<u>FAT</u>				**			
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	J	62	85	49.5	2.21	1.79
J BOYD SIGAFOOSE	CENTURY	B	77	94	51.9	2.11	1.73
RONNIE SMITH	CULLMAN	H	138	87	57.7	2.07	1.88
J D BARR III	TROY	H	133	80	49.9	1.99	1.51
CHARLES EICHER	NEWBERN	H	81	81	52.2	1.93	1.58
WADE HEATHERLY	BAILEYTON	X	74	84	42.7	1.93	1.26
DAVID WRIGHT	ALEXANDRIA	X	86	81	43.5	1.86	1.46
BOBBY SPENCER	VERNON	J	65	91	43.3	1.86	1.58
MIDDLETON BROS	MOBILE	H	257	90	44.1	1.76	1.42
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	H	91	79	55.5	1.67	1.75
Average of Ten High Herds This Month					1.93		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Month					1.54		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Year This Month					1.60		

<u>PROTEIN</u>				**			
RONNIE SMITH	CULLMAN	H	138	87	57.7	2.07	1.88
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	J	62	85	49.5	2.21	1.79
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	H	91	79	55.5	1.67	1.75
J BOYD SIGAFOOSE	CENTURY	B	77	94	51.9	2.11	1.73
TRAYLOR DAIRY	WEDOWEE	X	222	80	48.9	1.22	1.60
CHARLES EICHER	NEWBERN	H	81	81	52.2	1.93	1.58
BOBBY SPENCER	VERNON	J	65	91	43.3	1.86	1.58
J D BARR III	TROY	H	133	80	49.9	1.99	1.51
DAVID WRIGHT	ALEXANDRIA	X	86	81	43.5	1.86	1.46
DENNIS DODD	WINFIELD	J	315	81	41.2	1.66	1.45
Average of Ten High Herds This Month					1.63		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Month					1.33		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Year This Month					1.35		

Boyd's Bullets September 2009

Should You Enhance Your Calf-feeding Program?

By Dairy Herd news source | 1/4/2010

Editor's note: Dairy Calf and Heifer Association member Roy Williams provided this information on accelerated milk feeding programs.

“In the past several years, there has been much discussion about accelerated milk feeding programs. In a "conventional" calf feeding program, the calf is fed 1 gallon of milk or milk replacer per day. In the accelerated program, the calf is typically fed at least 1.5 gallons per day and usually 2 gallons per day. In many cases, a "28/20" milk replacer is fed, or milk that has been supplemented for increased solids.

“The arguments in favor of this type of feeding program are typically that the heifer will have higher milk production in at least the first lactation, and there have been some instances where subsequent lactations have also been more productive. This author identified 14 papers published as long ago as 1994 that suggested that accelerated feeding of milk resulted in improved production.

“However, there have been some notable exceptions, including a British study with 153 calves and a New Zealand study that covered 689 calves. The New Zealand study found that heifers fed an increased ration after weaning produced better than conventionally fed heifers, but accelerated feeding of milk did not affect production. Recently, a study done at the University of Minnesota resulted in the average age of first calving being 27 days less for enhanced-feeding program heifers as compared to conventionally fed heifers, but there was no improvement in performance on the first lactation.

“T.L. Ollivett at Cornell recently reported that enhanced feeding program calves better tolerated, and recovered more quickly from, an experimental challenge of *Cryptosporidium* than did conventionally fed calves. However, another study found that there was reduced T-cell (lymphocyte) production in calves on an accelerated feeding program as compared to calves on a conventional feeding program, thus indicating that the immune system may be adversely affected by accelerated feeding.

“This author has noted informally that very small Jersey calves that were fed the same 1-gallon-per-day ration as large-breed calves were remarkably healthy compared to the large-breed calves, as measured by treatments and mortality. (In this scenario, the Jersey calves were effectively on an accelerated feeding program, due to their much lower body weight.)

“It should be noted that none of the studies that report improved milk production compared the health records for both the conventionally-fed and accelerated-fed heifers.

“At the present time there is no clear set of reasons why so many observers have seen an improved first-lactation production from accelerated feeding program heifers when compared to conventionally fed heifers. There is some data that suggests that there is some unique development process of the udder that is especially sensitive to nutritional levels prior 4 weeks of age, but this has not been verified.

“We might also note that nursing beef calves, on good clean pasture, will typically gain 3 pounds a day or more, and experience about a 2 percent death loss through 205 days, and estimates have been made that these calves are consuming around 30 pounds (3.5 gallons) of milk per day.

“There has been no published research that reports on dairy heifers that were fed more than 2 gallons per day; most of the literature focuses on feeding a "28/20" milk replacer at rates somewhat above the conventional 1 gallon per day.

“There are two approaches to feeding additional milk: (a) feed 1 bottle (.5 gallon) more than two times a day, or (b) feed more than .5 gallon at each feeding, or (c) some combination of these approaches. For example, one program this author has seen in operation is the feeding of 3 quarts, 3 times a day. Automatic feeders can be programmed for any amount and frequency limits desired.

“At this time, it appears that an accelerated feeding program may improve the first lactation performance of the heifer, and may decrease the number of treatments (for illness). Accelerated feeding may decrease the number of deaths among pre-weaned heifers, and may lead to lower cull rates due to chronic illness and poor performance, but more study is needed. Producers who may be interested in trying an accelerated milk feeding program should contact their milk-replacer supplier, local extension agent or other recognized calf expert for further guidance.”

November Culled Dairy Cattle Numbers Down

By Dairy Herd staff | 12/24/2009

The number of dairy cows leaving the herd appears to have stabilized and even dropped.

According to USDA's "Livestock Slaughter" report issued Thursday morning, the number of dairy cows going to the beef market in November totaled 209,000, down 18,000 from October.

Many dairy cows have gone to beef in recent months because of low milk prices. The slowdown in numbers could be a bearish sign, because current cow numbers may be too high to sustain profitable prices.