

# ALABAMA DAIRY NEWSLETTER

ADS-D-09 9  
November 17, 2009

This issue of the Alabama Dairy Newsletter contains ADHIA summary information for October 2009. Enclosed are several dates of importance, information on a Forage Conference and Boyd's Bullets. Also I am sad to report the loss of three members of our Alabama Dairy family.

## 2009 & 2010 Dates to Remember

November 6, 2009: Quiz Bowl Louisville KY - Leave Friday Nov 6 & Return Sunday Nov. 8,  
The Contest Is Saturday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

November 7, 2009: Dairy Judging Louisville KY - Leave Saturday Nov 7 & Return Monday,  
Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Contest Is Sunday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

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 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

***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 OCTOBER 2009**  
**OFFICIAL 305 DAY DHIA HERDS PROCESSED BETWEEN 10-1-09 AND 10-30-09**

Name	City	Breed	No. Cows	%in Milk	All Cows		
					Ave. Milk	Daily Fat	Production Protein
<b><u>MILK</u></b>					<b>**</b>		
J BOYD SIGAFOOSE	CENTURY	B	82	98	51.8	1.78	1.63
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	H	85	81	47.2	1.37	1.47
RONNIE SMITH	CULLMAN	H	149	74	42.8	1.53	1.36
J D BARR III	TROY	H	129	75	41.5	1.50	1.26
CHARLES EICHER	NEWBERN	H	80	81	40.9	1.56	1.18
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	J	62	79	40.9	1.81	1.47
DENNIS DODD	WINFIELD	J	318	80	39.7	1.65	1.38
JEFF SULLIVAN	ELROD	J	20	85	39.5	1.69	1.43
DAVID/WILL GILMER	SULLIGENT	H	231	78	39.4	1.26	1.15
WADE HEATHERLY	BAILEYTON	X	78	77	39.0	1.69	1.17
Average of Ten High Herds This Month					42.3		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Month					43.6		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Year This Month					42.7		

<b><u>FAT</u></b>					<b>**</b>		
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	J	62	79	40.9	1.81	1.47
J BOYD SIGAFOOSE	CENTURY	B	82	98	51.8	1.78	1.63
JEFF SULLIVAN	ELROD	J	20	85	39.5	1.69	1.43
WADE HEATHERLY	BAILEYTON	X	78	77	39.0	1.69	1.17
DENNIS DODD	WINFIELD	J	318	80	39.7	1.65	1.38
CHARLES EICHER	NEWBERN	H	80	81	40.9	1.56	1.18
RONNIE SMITH	CULLMAN	H	149	74	42.8	1.53	1.36
J D BARR III	TROY	H	129	75	41.5	1.50	1.26
BOBBY SPENCER	VERNON	J	61	77	31.8	1.49	1.15
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	H	85	81	47.2	1.37	1.47
Average of Ten High Herds This Month					1.60		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Month					1.54		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Year This Month					1.53		

<b><u>PROTEIN</u></b>					<b>**</b>		
J BOYD SIGAFOOSE	CENTURY	B	82	98	51.8	1.78	1.63
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	J	62	79	40.9	1.81	1.47
E V SMITH RESEARCH	SHORTER	H	85	81	47.2	1.37	1.47
JEFF SULLIVAN	ELROD	J	20	85	39.5	1.69	1.43
DENNIS DODD	WINFIELD	J	318	80	39.7	1.65	1.38
RONNIE SMITH	CULLMAN	H	149	74	42.8	1.53	1.36
J D BARR III	TROY	H	129	75	41.5	1.50	1.26
CHARLES EICHER	NEWBERN	H	80	81	40.9	1.56	1.18
TRAYLOR DAIRY	WEDOWEE	X	234	82	38.6	1.01	1.18
WADE HEATHERLY	BAILEYTON	X	78	77	39.0	1.69	1.17
Average of Ten High Herds This Month					1.35		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Month					1.33		
Average of Ten High Herds Last Year This Month					1.21		

# ***In Memory***

Olivia Bearden, age 19, formerly of Vincent died August 19, 2009 at Community Hospital in Tallassee. The Bearden's operated a dairy near Vincent, in Shelby County, for many years. Olivia was a 2008 graduate of Vincent High School and was currently enrolled at Auburn University majoring in Agriculture Business & Economics. Olivia had battled brain cancer for her 14 years. During this time she did not stop her desire to live life to her fullest. She continued show her heifers and cows through last year's show. Whenever she was around her animals she always was happy and smiling.

Shelley Weldon Rich, of Opelika passed away on October 6, 2009 at East Alabama Medical Center. Shelley had worked with the Alabama Extension System and Auburn University for many years. A number of those years she worked exclusively with dairy specialist and dairy producers. On several occasions Shelley stood up for dairy producers and assisted with different programs that benefited Alabama's Dairy producers even if it was not popular with other groups. Shelley helped producers start the Dairy Lab in McDounough, GA. She was always there to help producers in whatever ways she could.

Don Whorton, a resident of Wetumpka, died October 26, 2009 at his home, at the age of 65 after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis and colon cancer. Don was the owner of one of the largest and most productive dairy farms in Alabama for 30 years and the recipient of many awards, honors, and recognitions, including being Master Dairyman for many years. Don worked tireless as a member of several dairy committees. He traveling around the State and Country trying to improve dairying in the State of Alabama. Upon the dispersal of his dairy farm, he developed the acreage into Macon Place Subdivision. Don was elected as Elmore County Commissioner for two terms serving from 2000-2008.

The thoughts and prayers of the Alabama Dairy Family go out to these three families.

## ***Boyd's Bullets September 2009***

CONGRATULATIONS to the deJong family on becoming Alabama's First Organic Dairy Farm!!!! I know how long and hard they worked to obtain this prestigious status. This is a major accomplishment. Again, congratulations and Best Wishes!!!!!!

We also, send out our thoughts and prayers to Jan and trust he is still improving from his serious accident, someone was watching over him! He was injured working on the farm.

### **CWT taps another 26,412 cows**

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Cooperatives Working Together announced Tuesday that it has tentatively accepted 154 bids in the fourth herd-retirement it has conducted in the last 12 months. The 26,412 cows and 517 million pounds of milk accepted in this round, combined with CWT's three previous herd-retirements since December 2008, equal a total reduction of milk production capacity of five billion pounds.

"Coming into 2009, CWT's economists estimated that we would need to remove between five and six billion pounds of milk, the production of approximately 250,000 cows, through herd-retirements," says Jerry Kozak, president and [chief executive officer](#) of the National Milk Producers Federation, which administers CWT. "We are pleased that the participation in this third herd-retirement of 2009 has brought us to our goal of aligning supply with demand, and hastening the recovery of farm-level milk prices that plunged because of the global recession."

CWT member farmers in 33 states submitted a total of 168 herd-retirement bids during the two-week bidding period which ended Oct. 15. This is the ninth herd-retirement in the past six years of CWT's existence, and featured a maximum acceptable bid threshold of \$5.25 per cwt., the same price ceiling as in the retirement conducted in August.

"We felt it was important to help milk prices continue to strengthen by conducting another herd-retirement as soon as we completed farms audits for the previous round one in the summer," notes Kozak. He said in addition to the 26,000 cows, 465 bred heifers were also accepted this week.

Starting next week, CWT field auditors will begin visiting the 154 farms whose bids were accepted, checking their milk production records, inspecting their herds, and tagging each cow for processing. All farmers will be notified no later than Nov. 16, as to whether their bid was among those accepted.

Once CWT field auditors inspect and finalize acceptance of the herds offered through the bidding process, farmers have 15 days in which to send their animals to a processing plant. CWT will again provide each farmer with the NMPF guidelines for the proper culling and transporting of dairy cattle, Kozak says.

As with the two most recent herd-retirements in 2009, producers whose bids are accepted in this herd retirement will be paid in two installments: 90 percent of the amount bid times the producer's 12 months of milk production when it is verified that all cows have gone to slaughter, and the remaining 10 percent plus interest at the end of 12 months following the farm audit, provided both the producer and his dairy facility — whether owned or leased — do not become involved in the commercial production and marketing of milk during that period.

[Cooperatives Working Together](#) is funded by dairy cooperatives and individual dairy farmers, who contribute via a 10-cent-per-hundredweight assessment on their milk production through December 2010.

## Evaluate Dehydration

Calves can lose 5 to 10 percent of their body [weight](#) due to water loss within one day of scouring. Fluid loss above 8 percent requires intravenous treatment, and above 14 percent can result in death. The amount of water lost can be approximated by skin-tenting, gum condition, attitude and ability to suckle, says Sylvia Kehoe, professor of animal science at the [University of Wisconsin-River Falls](#).

To use skin-tenting, pinch a fold of skin and count the seconds it takes to flatten — less than two seconds indicates normal hydration; two to six seconds indicates 8 percent dehydration, and greater than six seconds indicates severe dehydration of more than 10 percent.

Evaluate gums by looking at their color and feeling them for moisture. Normal gums should be pink and damp. But if gums are white and dry, it indicates 8 to 10 percent dehydration. One of the best measures of estimated dehydration and illness in calves is their attitude during milk-feeding. Calves may show no symptoms of dehydration, but if they need encouragement to drink, monitor them closely for scouring or other illnesses. Have a set protocol so everyone is on the same page and knows what to do when calves show these symptoms.

## The function of chromium in dairy cattle

Chromium assists dairy cows with efficiently partitioning glucose. High producing dairy cows undergo extreme stress prior to giving birth and during early lactation, when glucose demands are high. Without chromium, large amounts of available glucose would otherwise be supplied to the growing fetus and to the milk component [lactose](#), reducing the dietary glucose available to the transition cow for normal maintenance.

The primary role of chromium is to potentiate the action of insulin. Increased insulin activity has been shown to promote intracellular glucose uptake and reduce circulating non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA), ensuring that transition dairy cows are portioning glucose efficiently.