



**GDYF'S 7TH ANNUAL GOLF  
TOURNAMENT  
MARCH 31, 2017**

Enjoy a day of golf and support the Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation at the 7th Annual GDYF Golf Tournament on Friday, March 31.

This year's tournament will be held at the Lane Creek Golf Club in Bishop, GA. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m. and tee time is at noon.

Your support is greatly appreciated each year. With your help and money raised from other fundraising activities, GDYF is able to support many 4-H and FFA dairy youth activities that offer kids the opportunities to learn about the dairy industry, to develop leadership and sportsmanship skills, to properly care for livestock and to gain respect for agriculture and the farmers who provide food for the world.

To learn more about the tournament go to the GDYF website at [www.gadyf.com](http://www.gadyf.com).

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for those that do not wish to play.

# GEORGIA MILK REVIEW

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR GEORGIA MILK PRODUCERS, INC.



*Ferdia Farms, Garfield*

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## Immigration Enforcement Executive Orders Causing Fear – *Written by Jacqui Fatka, Feedstuffs*

President Donald Trump campaigned on taking a strong stance against individuals who are undocumented and living in the U.S., and recent executive actions have taken his promises to a new level of injecting fear in the countryside as well as buckling down on those who provide false documents.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum that greatly expands policies designed to stem illegal immigration and facilitate the detection, apprehension, detention and removal of aliens who currently reside in the U.S.

"The result of that memo calls for vigorous enforcement. An employee was apprehended walking into Walmart," Laurie Fischer, chief executive director of the American Dairy Coalition, said.

This new guidance dedicates significantly more federal law enforcement agents to immigration enforcement and includes an expansion of the "287(g) program," which allows DHS to deputize state and local law enforcement officers to enforce the immigration laws by way of apprehending, detaining and deporting individuals.

The U.S. is currently home to an estimated 11.4 million undocumented immigrants, the vast majority of whom have lived in the country for more than five years, according to estimates from the New American Economy. Agriculture desperately needs some kind of legal mechanism or guest worker program for those who work in agriculture.

**From GA Agribusiness Council:** *We understand ICE has conducted roadblocks in various locations across Georgia and perhaps detained immigrant workers.*

*As you are aware, having a viable workforce for our industry is critical. We are seeking information you can share about any such roadblocks and the impact it may have had on your agribusiness and/or others in your area. This information will be compiled and communicated with elected leaders about any of the economic outfall from such activities. Pathways to a sustainable workforce in agriculture and rural Georgia have long been a key issue for the Council. Your input is very important and details will be kept confidential. Please feel free to email Bryan Tolar at [btolar@ga-agribusiness.org](mailto:btolar@ga-agribusiness.org) or call their office at 706-336-6830.*

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## 2016 Cream of the Crop Awards Presented at the Georgia Dairy Conference

The University of Georgia and Southeast DHIA presented their 2016 Cream of the Crop Awards during the evening banquet of the Georgia Dairy Conference last month. Fourteen Georgia dairy farms were recognized for their production achievements and 22 dairies were recognized for their outstanding milk quality.

The Rodgers' Family of Hillcrest Farms in Dearing received the "Top High Holstein Herd" award for 2016. Hillcrest Farms milks 436 cows, with a rolling milk production average of 31,283 lbs. and 1096 lbs. of butterfat. Godfrey Dairy in Madison received 2nd place and Eberly Family Farm received 3rd place for the Holstein category.

The Williams Family from WDairy in Madison received the "Top High Crossbred Herd" award for 2016. They milk 1978 cows three times a day and receive a milk production average of 27,304 lbs. and 1060 lbs. of butterfat.

The Franks Family of Franks Farm in Waynesboro received the "Top High Others Breed" award for their Brown Swiss dairy. The Franks milk 169 cows, with a rolling milk production average of 19656 lbs. and 781 lbs. of butterfat.



*From left to right: Andy Rodaers, Hillcrest Farms; Dave Clark, Godfrey Dairy; Daniel Williams, WDairy; Jimmy Franks, Franks Farm and Eldon Eberly, Eberly Family Farms.*



*Bobby Walker, WDairy and Iris Barham, Berry College*

To be eligible for the GA Cream of the Crop Awards, herds must have a minimum herd size of 30 cows and conduct a minimum of 9 tests per year.

Twenty-two Georgia dairy farms were also recognized for exceeding milk quality standards in 2016.

Congratulations to Addis Dairy located in Rocky Face for receiving the "Top High Herd Quality" Award for 2016. The Addis Family's SCC average for 2016 was 140,000 cells/ml.

Berry College in Rome received the 2nd place quality award with a SCC average of 160,000 cells/ml, and WDairy received 3rd place with an SCC average of 160,000 cells/ml for 2016.



**Attention GA Dairy Farms:** Georgia Milk Producers is currently planning an informative series on improving on-farm milk quality. This series will review your milking routine and procedures during the week of March 20th. Georgia Milk will host Dr. Roger Thompson and *The Teaching Parlor*® in three locations: Waynesboro, Tifton and Jackson. *The Teaching Parlor*® is a one-of-a-kind portable training parlor designed to simulate a real milking parlor in every way, and is fully capable of a complete NMC milking system airflow and CIP analysis. Details will be finalized and mailed/emailed to dairy producers later this week. Check out Dr. Thompson's website at [www.mqiqconsulting.com](http://www.mqiqconsulting.com)

## Lisa K. Nolan named dean of UGA College of Veterinary Medicine



Dr. Lisa K. Nolan, a veteran educator, administrator and scholar of diseases that affect animal and human health, has been named dean of the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. Nolan is currently professor and Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine and her appointment at UGA is effective July 1.

"Dr. Nolan is one of the nation's most respected veterinary educators and administrators, and I'm delighted that she has joined the University of Georgia's leadership team," said Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Pamela Whitten.

Nolan has led the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University since 2011. She co-chaired a campus-wide "One Health-One Medicine" initiative that brought faculty members from across campus together to foster new collaborations that span animal, human and ecosystem health. The initiative has resulted in several faculty hires across campus and a significant enhancement of Iowa State's research capacity.

Nolan earned her doctor of veterinary medicine degree from UGA and also earned her master's degree and Ph.D. in medical microbiology from UGA. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Valdosta State College, now Valdosta State University. Georgia Milk Producers welcome's Dr. Nolan back to UGA and looks forward to working with her in the future.

## Another Record Year for Milk Production, Largest Dairy Herd Since 1985 - *Written by Calvin Covington*

It was another record year for milk production; with the largest dairy herd since 1985, but fewer replacements. U.S. dairy farmers produced 212.5 billion lbs. of milk in 2016. Production in 2016 was 1.9% more than the previous year. Since 2000, the average annual yearly increase in milk production is 1.7%. The additional milk in 2016 came from more milk per cow, and more cows. Average production per cow in 2016 was 22,770 lbs. up 1.6% from 2015. Total cow numbers at the end of 2016 were 9.358 million head. This is 38,000 more dairy cows than a year ago. We have to go back to 1985 (pre-whole herd buyout) to find a larger national dairy herd. The large number of dairy cows is the major concern for future milk price increases. However, even though cow numbers are increasing, replacements are declining. USDA's January 1 cattle inventory reports total dairy replacements at 4.754 million head which is about 60,000 head less than a year ago. The coming months will tell us if fewer replacements translates into fewer dairy cows.

Southeast milk production was down in 2016, but still up 4.5% since 2010. Milk production in the ten (10) southeast states (shown below) was 2.6% lower in 2016 compared to 2015. However, since 2010, the southeast has added over 400 million lbs. of milk production. Georgia was the only state producing more milk in 2016 compared to 2015. Since 2010 production in Georgia has increased over 30%. Historically, southeast dairy farmers react to lower milk prices and margins quicker than the rest of the country, thus my explanation why total production increased in the U.S. last year, but declined in the southeast. Since 2010, only four states increased production; Florida, Georgia, Virginia, and North Carolina. Compared to 2010, these four states produced 930 million lbs. more milk last year. Florida and Georgia, combined, accounted for 46% of southeast production in 2016, compared to 39% in 2010. Continued growth in Florida and Georgia, and declining production in most other southeastern areas, means more milk moving south to north.

**SOUTHEAST MILK PRODUCTION RANKED BY STATE 2010-2016**

| State          | 2010         | 2015         | 2016         | 2016 vs. 2015 | Share of Total |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| (MILLION LBS)  |              |              |              |               |                |
| Florida        | 2,115        | 2,582        | 2,503        | -3.1          | 26.6           |
| Georgia        | 1,395        | 1,797        | 1,830        | 1.8           | 19.4           |
| Virginia       | 1,719        | 1,771        | 1,723        | -2.7          | 18.3           |
| Kentucky       | 1,157        | 1,074        | 1,048        | -2.4          | 11.1           |
| North Carolina | 862          | 986          | 965          | -2.1          | 10.2           |
| Tennessee      | 850          | 742          | 696          | -6.2          | 7.4            |
| South Carolina | 286          | 261          | 250          | -4.2          | 2.7            |
| Louisiana      | 235          | 188          | 169          | -10.1         | 1.8            |
| Mississippi    | 223          | 165          | 144          | -12.7         | 1.5            |
| Alabama        | 159          | 101          | 92           | -8.9          | 1.0            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>9,013</b> | <b>9,667</b> | <b>9,420</b> | <b>-2.6</b>   |                |

Source: USDA-NASS



## Dixie Dairy Report – February 2017

### Calvin Covington

**Commodity prices.** Volatile is the only way to describe the cheese market during the first three days of February. Block cheddar at the CME increased \$0.15/lb. over a couple of days, but then gave all but \$0.04 of the gain back on the third day. Barrels did better, gaining \$0.19/lb. over three days, and hanging on to the gain, thus putting the spread between blocks and barrels back to more normal levels. The only explanation for the volatility is “Super Bowl Cheese Rush” that comes this time of the year. Butter has gone in opposite direction of cheese, declining \$0.0875/lb. during the first three days of February. Reports indicate there is ample cream in the marketplace, plus butter inventories, at the end of December, were almost 13% higher than a year ago. On the international market, skim milk powder has increased in price every month since May, with the December price \$0.22/lb. higher than a year ago. The international butter price increased as well, with December Oceania butter \$0.60/lb. higher than a year ago.

**Higher blend prices in 2017.** 2016 blend prices in the three southeastern federal orders were \$1.49/cwt. (Appalachian), \$1.67/cwt. (Florida), and \$1.74/cwt. (Southeast) lower than 2015 blend prices. Some good news from 2016 is prices ended on a strong note, with December blend prices the highest for the year in all three orders. January is projected to start well with blend prices about \$0.50 - \$0.75/cwt. higher than December. Unfortunately, we project lower blend prices declining in February before heading upward in late spring. For all of 2017 we project blend prices to average \$1.75 to \$2.00/cwt. higher than 2016. For those of you who keep track of my price projections, how did I do in projecting 2016 prices? Below are my 2016 projections reported in the February 2016 *Dixie Dairy Report* compared to the actual prices. For all five prices, my 2016 projections were higher than the actual averages.

**2016 PRICE PROJECTIONS versus ACTUAL PRICES**

|                         | 2016 Projection | 2016 Actual | Difference |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
|                         | (\$/cwt.)       |             |            |
| Class I Mover (3.5)     | \$15.26         | \$14.80     | -\$0.46    |
| Class I Mover (2.0)     | \$11.37         | \$11.35     | -\$0.02    |
| Florida blend           | \$19.84         | \$19.23     | -\$0.61    |
| Southeast blend         | \$18.38         | \$17.55     | -\$0.83    |
| Appalachian blend (3.5) | \$17.67         | \$17.09     | -\$0.58    |

**Total producer milk up, but Class I down.** Slightly over 10 billion lbs. of producer milk was utilized in Class I in the three southeastern federal orders last year. As shown below, total producer milk in Class I declined about 1% from 2015 to 2016, but dropped almost 12% or 1.324 billion lbs. since 2010. Combined, Class I utilization was 73.1% in the three southeast orders in 2016. This compares to 74.3% and 71.1% in 2015 and 2010, respectively

**SOUTHEAST FEDERAL ORDERS' CLASS I PRODUCER MILK (2010-2016)**

| Order       | 2010           | 2015   | 2016   | Class I-2016 |
|-------------|----------------|--------|--------|--------------|
|             | (million lbs.) |        |        |              |
| Appalachian | 4,134          | 3,871  | 3,892  | 69.6 %       |
| Florida     | 2,513          | 2,319  | 2,276  | 83.9 %       |
| Southeast   | 4,684          | 3,906  | 3,839  | 71.2 %       |
| Total       | 11,331         | 10,096 | 10,007 | 73.1 %       |

Source: Market Administrator reports