

BLACK RE-ELECTED AS GEORGIA'S COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



Republican Gary Black was re-elected this month as Georgia's Commissioner of Agriculture. Black defeated Democratic challenger Fred Swann of Macon.

Commissioner Black spent the final weeks of his campaign visiting South Georgia farmers whose crops, timber and barns were devastated by Hurricane Michael.

Since taking office in 2011, Black says, food safety inspections, promotion of Georgia-grown crops and school nutrition programs have improved under his watch.

BENTLEY NAMED PRESIDENT OF GA AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL

Will Bentley was recently named the new President of the Georgia Agribusiness Council. For the last five years, Bentley has served as the Executive Vice President of Georgia Cattlemen's Association and the Georgia Beef Board.

Bentley is from Thomaston, GA., where he and his family own and operate Bentley Farms. He is a graduate of Shorter College.



Ocmulgee Dairy, Bonaire

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New Type of Mastitis Becoming More Prevalent, Difficult to Treat - Reprinted from Dairy Herd Management; Written by Jim Dickrell

A relatively new form of mastitis caused by Lactococcus bacteria is occurring more frequently, and because it is resistant to several types of commonly used antibiotics, it can be difficult to control and contain.

Because of the way Lactococcus is cultured, it is often difficult for lab technicians to differentiate it from environmental streps. Quality Milk Production Services at Cornell University took an in-depth look at the problem, and found that of 473 non-Strep agalactiae samples, 27% were actually Lactococcus bacteria.

First identified in the 1930s but reclassified in 1985, Lactococcus bacteria were only considered of importance as a starter culture in cheese and buttermilk production. Recent outbreaks, however, elevate its importance as a mastitis pathogen, says Valerie Ryman, an Extension dairy specialist with the University of Georgia. "Lactococcus mastitis is a serious concern given its resistance to common mastitis therapies such as Spectramast LC, ToDay and even Pirsue," she says.

Mammary infections caused by Lactococcus resemble infections caused by environmental streps and other common pathogens in that they result in clinical mastitis with high somatic cell counts. The Lactococcus infections, however, might not respond to antibiotic therapy.

Some veterinarians have found that Lactococcus infections will respond to Amoxi-Mast therapy. But before starting such treatment, Ryman urges farmers to work with their veterinarian, county agent or Extension dairy specialist to get a positive culture test and treatment plan in place first (*continued on next page*).



Figure 1. *Lactococcus* sp. Photo courtesy of University of Copenhagen-Denmark



Figure 2. *Streptococcus* sp. Photo courtesy of University of Copenhagen-Denmark

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New Type of Mastitis Becoming More Prevalent, Difficult to Treat *(continued from previous page)*

If you suspect Lactococcus mastitis infections in your herd, you have several options:

1. If you are culturing milk (either done by on outside lab or on-farm) and have a high number of environmental streps that do not respond to conventional antibiotic treatments, consider sending quarter milk samples to a University Diagnostic Lab for species confirmation. Well-equipped diagnostic labs have the capability to identify many different types of bacteria in milk samples using MALDI-TOF tests. Testing is relatively inexpensive and results often can be available in just a few days, says Ryman.
2. If you are not culturing milk but your bulk tank analysis comes back positive for Lactococcus mastitis, target high somatic cell cows for further diagnostic tests.
3. If you are not culturing bulk tank milk and cannot obtain a detailed bulk tank analysis from your milk processor, consider sending a bulk tank sample to a diagnostic lab for more detailed analysis. "Depending on the number of cows infected with Lactococcus, it may or may not be possible to detect it in a bulk tank sample," says Ryman. In any case, you still might want to target high somatic cell count cows for further testing.

Ryman also notes there is an on-farm, culture-based test called AccuMast from FERA Diagnostics which can differentiate lactococci from other environmental streps and strep-like bacteria. The test takes as little as 16 hours to run and costs \$7 per sample. "The system utilizes growth media that results in different colored bacteria depending on genus and species," she says.

Hurricane Causes Millions in Damages to GA Dairy Industry

Hurricane Michael moved through southwest Georgia Oct. 10-11, 2018, causing more than \$2.5 billion in losses to the state's agriculture industry, according to estimates from University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agents and agricultural economists. For Georgia's dairy industry, Hurricane Michael's direct and indirect economic impact totaled around \$12.4 million:

Direct Losses (as reported):

*-\$2.4 M Production
-\$1.5 M Crops (Corn for Silage)
-\$1.6 M Building/Equipment/Other*

Additional Impact from Ag Support Sector:

-\$6.9 M

Georgia Milk Producers would like to thank the following for their help in compiling this information: Sharon Kane and Kent Wolfe, Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development; John Bernard, Animal and Dairy Science; and Mark McCann, Assistant Dean for Extension. This information will be distributed to state and federal legislators and government officials.

Send in Your Nomination for the GMP Friend of the Dairy Industry Award

Georgia Milk Producers will award the "Friend of the Dairy Industry" Award to an individual or company that served as a strong advocate for Georgia's dairy industry in 2018 at the GA Dairy Conference in January. We would like Georgia dairy producers to send in nominations for this award to our office by December 7, 2018. This award is open to any individual who is involved with the dairy industry (Cooperative officials/field representatives, feed/supply companies or salesperson, veterinarian, etc.). Please call our office with your nomination at 706-310-0020 or email it to gamilkproducers@gmail.com.



*Ernest Turk
2017 FODIA Recipient*



Make Your Hotel Reservation for GDC by Dec. 30

Take advantage of special room rates for the 2019 Georgia Dairy Conference by making your reservations before Sunday, Dec. 30!

The Savannah Riverfront Marriott is offering room rates for those attending the Georgia Dairy Conference from Saturday, January 19, until Thursday, January 24, at \$130.00/room for single and double occupancy rooms. There will be a \$7

parking fee per day for our group at the hotel.

Individuals are requested to call the hotel at 912-233-7722 or 800-285-0398 for reservations or follow a link on our conference website at <http://www.gadairyconference.com/accomodations>. Please mention that you are with the “2019 Georgia Dairy Conference” when making your reservation to ensure that you receive the discounted room rate.

PLEASE NOTE: Any reservation received after the cut-off date will be accepted on a space and rate-available basis. Availability and pricing cannot be guaranteed after the cut-off date.

GEORGIA DAIRY PRODUCERS: Georgia Milk Producers will deduct \$100/night for two nights from each Georgia dairy farm’s hotel bill at checkout. It’s our way to show our appreciation for your support and to encourage you to attend your annual dairy conference! Registration for the conference is also free for Georgia dairy producers. Please register online at www.gadairyconference.com or call our office at 706-310-0020.

Milk Production Remains Up, Cow Numbers Slightly Down

Written by Calvin Covington, Dixie Dairy Report November 2018

According to USDA, milk production during the third quarter of this year is 0.9% greater than the same quarter last year. This compares to production increases of 1.5% and 0.8% during the first and second quarters of this year. Cow numbers are down slightly, 27,000 head less than a year ago. Third quarter milk per cow is up 1.2%, which is a stronger increase than the first two quarters.

Looking at year-to-date milk production changes by region, there is a wide variation. As shown below, almost of all of the year-to-date production increase is from west of the Mississippi River. The Southwest region leads the way, up 3.8% thanks to 20,000 more cows. Production is up 1.4% in California which is due to more milk per cow. The Northwest has 21,000 more dairy cows compared to a year ago which has resulted in 3.3% more milk in this region. On the other hand, cow numbers are down 25,000 head in the Midwest, resulting in only a 0.2% production increase.

The Southeast leads the way in declining milk production, down 3.7% for the year-to-date. Production is down in all ten southeast states. For the two largest southeast milk producing states, Florida and Georgia, production is down 4.7% and 4.3%, respectively. Compared to a year ago, Southeast cow numbers are 21,000 head less.

U.S. MILK PRODUCTION by REGION – Nine Months 2018 versus Nine Months 2017

Region	2017	2018	Change
	(million lbs.)		(%)
Southeast	7,148	6,886	-3.7
Midwest	51,442	51,570	0.2
California	29,989	30,416	1.4
Northwest	23,471	24,241	3.3
Northeast	23,379	23,488	-1.1
Southwest	19,689	20,440	3.8
Plains	6,868	7,068	2.9
Alaska + Hawaii	32.2	32.0	-0.6
Total	162,379	164,141	1.1

Dixie Dairy Report – November 2018

Calvin Covington

Butter, cheese, dry whey, and nonfat dry milk powder (NFDN). These four dairy products determine class prices in all federal orders. As shown below, price trends for these four products are varied.

DAIRY PRODUCTS SALES REPORT PRICES

Product	October 2017	September 2018 (\$/lb.)	October 2018
Butter	\$2.3718	\$2.2724	\$2.2814
Cheese (block & barrel)	\$1.7254	\$1.6533	\$1.5686
Nonfat Dry Milk Powder	\$0.8099	\$0.8548	\$0.8739
Dry Whey	\$0.3790	\$0.4028	\$0.4470

During the past year butter has traded in a narrow range. Butter sales are steady, production and inventory are increasing, and the world butter price is declining. At the end of September, butter inventory was over 10% higher than a year ago. The Oceania butter

price is over \$0.75/lb. lower than last year. During the past couple of years butter drove the milk price. This is changing. NFDN and dry whey are moving into the driver's seat. Both NFDN and dry whey are still less than half of their record prices a few years back, but are well above their past year lows. Declining inventories of both products are helping to advance their prices. At the end of September the whey inventory was over 35% lower than a year ago, and the NFDN inventory over 18% lower. Plus, the European Union skim milk powder inventory is 24% lower than last year. Prices of both powder and whey should continue inching upward over the coming year. An increasing NFDN price is why the October Class IV price is almost \$2.00/cwt. higher than it was in January.

A declining cheese price is responsible for the November Class I Mover dropping \$0.81/cwt. from October, and the October Class III price \$0.56/cwt. lower than September. At the CME, the October monthly block price was the lowest since 2009 and barrel the lowest since 2006. Reasons for lower cheese prices are: declining consumption of processed cheese (major user of barrel cheese); production outpacing consumption (cheese production up almost 2.5% for the year-to-date); trade issues, and transportation challenges. Little upward movement in cheese prices are projected for the coming year.

SOUTHEASTERN FEDERAL ORDERS DAILY AVERAGE POOL PLANT CLASS I USAGE – Third Quarter 2018 versus Third Quarter 2017

Order	2017	2018	Change %	Change in Loads/Day
	(pounds)			
Appalachian	11,916,666	11,572,682	-2.9%	-7.1
Florida	6,070,691	5,852,185	-3.6%	-4.5
Southeast	11,045,122	10,848,817	-1.8%	-4.0
Total	29,032,479	28,273,683	-2.6%	-15.6

Class I usage in southeastern federal orders.

Class I usage, in the three southeastern federal orders, was 2.6% lower during the third quarter of 2018 versus a year earlier. As shown below, Class I usage was 2.9% lower in the Appalachian order, 3.6% lower in Florida, and down 1.8% in the Southeast order. The decline in all three orders is equivalent to

15.6 less tankers of farm milk per day needed during the third quarter of this year, compared to the same quarter last year; to supply the Class I market.

Highest blend prices of the year. October blend prices, in all three southeastern orders, are projected the highest for the year. October blend prices are projected about \$1.00/cwt. higher than September. Blend prices are projected to start declining in November. Our initial 2019 projection shows southeastern order blend prices averaging about \$0.75/cwt. higher than 2018. The modest price increase is based on higher NFDN and dry whey prices, and modest increases in milk supply and demand.

PROJECTED BLEND PRICES-BASE ZONES – SOUTHEASTERN FEDERAL ORDERS

Month	Appalachian	Florida (\$ /cwt.) – 3.5% butterfat	Southeast
October	\$18.66	\$20.28	\$18.94
November	\$18.12	\$20.21	\$18.62
December	\$17.41	\$19.87	\$18.11
January 2019	\$17.58	\$19.88	\$18.38