

GDYF GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD MAY 8TH



GDYF is doing their part to help stop the spread of the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. The annual golf tournament has been rescheduled for **May 8, 2020**, at the Lane Creek Golf Club in Bishop. Tee time is at noon and lunch will be served at 11 a.m. For more info, visit their website at www.gadyf.com

CERTIFIED WASTE OPERATOR TRAINING POSTPONED

Due to the COVID virus spread into Athens, UGA and The GA Dept. of Agriculture **have postponed** the Certified Planner and Waste Operator training on March 25-26, 2020. Once a new meeting date is set, Georgia Milk Producers will share the information with producers and industry affiliates.

GA FOOD ANIMAL CONFERENCE MOVED TO SEPTEMBER



The Georgia Food Animal Conference **has been rescheduled** for Sept. 18-20 due to the recent virus outbreak. Producers are invited to attend Friday's general session. The sessions will focus on greater Georgia regulatory issues risks and mental health, cow care, and pain management.

For registration go online: <https://www.gvma.net/georgia-food-animal-conference/>. The conference will be held at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain.



Waldroup Dairy, LaGrange

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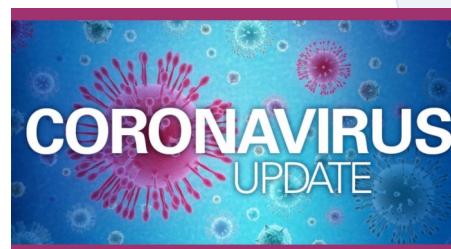
Dixie Dairy Report

Georgia Department of Agriculture COVID-19 Update

From The Georgia Department of Agriculture

Whether you have a licensed meat facility, livestock market, or a "just-in-time" production system (e.g. commercial dairy, poultry, swine, or beef), the following points apply to you and your business.

1. The Georgia Department of Agriculture is dedicated to doing all we can to help mitigate the COVID-19 outbreak, through social distancing by having as many of our staff telework as often as they can, as directed by Governor Kemp; while continuing to fulfill our essential duties. Although staff may be teleworking, we are still "open for business" and we intend to continue to respond to inquiries and fulfill needs, as usual.
2. We are committed to continuing to support commerce and continuity of business to the best of our ability.
 - a. We plan to have inspectors in meat establishments inspecting meat every day, as we recognize that our licensed meat facilities cannot apply the mark of inspection if we are not there to inspect.
 - b. We will continue to conduct animal health inspections and market news reporting at livestock markets, as resources and directives allow.
 - c. We will continue to investigate suspect or confirmed diseases that impact livestock and other species.
 - d. As COVID-19 progresses and more information is made public, GDA recognizes that additional action may be warranted resulting in the decreased number of staff able to perform duties. We will do everything within our power to fulfill our regulatory responsibility, but we encourage our licensed facilities to develop contingency plans in the event of a staff shortage. We vow to communicate any changes within our operating structure as soon as possible, if this were to occur.
3. We strive to keep our staff safe.
 - a. When our staff work in the field to fulfill essential functions, we will be equipping them with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep themselves safe (e.g. hand sanitizer and gloves).



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Georgia Department of Agriculture COVID-19 Update (cont'd) *From Commissioner Gary Black and staff at the GA Dept. of Agriculture*

- b. We have empowered each of our staff members to utilize PPE as they deem appropriate and/or leave a facility, if he or she arrives and observes someone at a facility that is visibly ill (whether an employee or a visitor).
 - i. To help prevent this from happening, we recommend that facilities follow CDC's recommendations in having employees stay home if they have symptom consistent with COVID-19.

We strongly encourage the review of existing biosecurity plans, or development and implementation of a robust biosecurity plan, to help protect employees, businesses, and the industry as a whole.

We encourage food animal producers to review their continuity of business plans in the event that a portion of the supply chain for the industry is affected. Additional resources on this topic can be found at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Secure-Food-Supply/>

We encourage visiting the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html> and the Georgia Department of Public Health at <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>, for additional information regarding whether or not to proceed with a scheduled function or for additional resources on responding to COVID-19.

In this constantly evolving situation, you can find our contact information and additional resources at our website: <http://agr.georgia.gov/animal-industry-division.aspx>.

Dr. Joe W. West Retires from Tifton campus

Written by Dr. Sha Tao, UGA Assistant Professor, Department of Animal and Dairy Science, UGA-Tifton

After 34 years of services in research, Extension and administration, Dr. Joe W. West retired from University of Georgia as the Assistant Dean of the Tifton campus. Dr. West joined the faculty of Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences of UGA in 1986, and developed an extraordinary career in research and extension in heat stress physiology, management and nutrition of dairy cattle. He is an outstanding professional, mentor, and colleague. His intelligence, broad knowledge and deep understanding of ruminant nutrition and heat stress in dairy cattle have not only influenced students, peers and researchers, but also impacted the decision making of many dairy producers.



During his career, he has touched many facets in physiology, nutrition and management of heat stress in dairy cattle. He has published over 60 peer-reviewed research articles, 74 abstracts and numerous proceedings, bulletins and reports. However, the strong influence of his research on dairy industry cannot only be quantitatively measured. His work has been widely recognized by scientists from both industry and academia, and adopted into practice nationally and internationally. Academically, his research and publication in dairy cattle heat stress has been considered as one of important references for other's future study. Practically, his research in nutritional and management strategies during heat stress has been widely utilized worldwide and considered as guidelines to cope with the negative impacts of heat stress on dairy cattle.

In addition to the research of heat stress in dairy cattle, Dr. West is one of the first to promote the utilization of Tifton 85 bermudagrass in the lactating cow rations. His research demonstrated that the warm season perennial Tifton 85 bermudagrass can partly replace corn silage without affecting lactational performance of the cows better enabling double and triple cropping systems used in the southeast. He, along with colleagues at UGA and USDA, found that Tifton 85 had lower concentrations of ferulic acid compared with other cultivars which explains the improved digestibility observed with this cultivar. This discovery is now used to help identify potential cultivars that may have greater digestibility.

In Tifton, Dr. West is well recognized for his great contribution to the Tifton campus as an administrator. However, here, I want to emphasize his contribution as a dairy scientist to the scientific community and the dairy industry in GA and worldwide. We appreciate his hardworking and contribution to the dairy industry, celebrate his retirement and wish he and his family enjoy the life after the retirement.

Farm Recovery Block Grant Applications Accepted Until April 8

The Georgia Department of Agriculture is now accepting online applications from producers who experienced losses and expenses related to Hurricane Michael. All applications must be completed and submitted by 11:59 PM on April 8, 2020. Only online applications will be accepted.

This block grant program is designed to compensate producers for losses and expenses in seven categories of assistance: beef, dairy, fruit and vegetable, pecan, poultry, timber, and uninsured infrastructure. On the application you will see these categories referred to as commodities. The assistance provided through the FRBG will address losses and expenses not already included in an existing USDA program. This means not all losses a producer experienced due to Hurricane Michael will be eligible. Eligible losses under this grant are:

- **Beef:** Future income losses related to decreased conception rates and mature cow deaths, decreased production due to post-storm effects, and expenses due to increased disease occurrence
- **Dairy:** Future income losses related to decreased conception rates and mature cow deaths
- **Uninsured Infrastructure:** Expenses and losses related to general infrastructure and irrigation used in production of an agricultural commodity. This applies to any agricultural commodity that was in the structure or under the irrigation system at the time of the storm and suffered a loss to the commodity.

Learn more about applying for the Georgia Farm Recovery Block Grant here: <http://agr.georgia.gov/farm-recovery.aspx>

Southeast Dairy Farm Numbers and Blend Prices

From Calvin Covington, March Dixie Dairy Report

Blend prices. January blend prices were over \$3.00/cwt. higher than a year ago. Blend prices will move lower in February, and continue to do so through the middle of the year. Our current projections are lower than at the beginning of the year. Now, we project blend prices to average about \$0.50/cwt.

higher in 2020 compared to 2019, versus the \$1.25/cwt. projected in January. However, our projections are not as low as current futures prices indicate. We consider the coronavirus a temporary setback in prices. Economic fundamentals are strong, which is good for dairy demand. However, the large January decline in fluid sales is concerning. If fluid milk needs continue to stay 4% below a year ago, the additional milk will find its way to cheese and butter plants, thus increasing supply of dairy products.

Dairy demand. Total (domestic and export) milk solids disappearance slowed in 2019. It only increased 0.6% from 2018, the lowest annual increase since 2009. However, 2019 was a banner year for domestic disappearance. Domestic disappearance of milk solids in 2019 was a record 24.7 billion lbs., 2% higher than in 2018. During the first decade of the twenty-first century, domestic dairy disappearance increased at an annual rate of 1.1%. During the recent decade the increase jumped to 1.5%. Disappearance of milk solids through exports was 7% lower in 2019 compared to 2018. This is the reason for the smaller increase in total demand (domestic and export) last year. Even though exports were lower, 2019 was the second highest year for exports, representing 14.2% of solids demand, only trailing 2018.

At the end of 2019, USDA reports 34,187 licensed dairy farms, 8.8% less farms than 2018. Back in 1992, when this data was first published, there were 131,535 dairy farms. Wisconsin saw the largest decline in 2019, losing 780 dairy farms, but Wisconsin remains the number one

state with 7,720 dairies. Pennsylvania is second with 5,730. The Southeast States lost 14% or 250 of its dairies in 2019, dropping from 2,025 in 2018 to only 1,775 at the end of 2019. In 1992, there were 10,261 dairy farms in the Southeast states.



PROJECTED* BLEND PRICES – Base Zones – SOUTHEASTERN FEDERAL ORDERS

Month	Appalachian	Florida (\$/cwt. at 3.5% butterfat)	Southeast
January 2020	\$21.03	\$23.33	\$21.32
February	\$19.76	\$21.83	\$20.34
March	\$19.40	\$21.64	\$19.82
April	\$19.04	\$21.41	\$19.54

*Projections in bold

SOUTHEAST LICENSED DAIRY FARMS (2018-2019)

State	2018	2019	Difference	State	2018	2019	Difference
Alabama	30	25	-5	Mississippi	65	60	-5
Florida	95	90	-5	N. Carolina	180	150	-30
Georgia	160	140	-20	S. Carolina	50	40	-10
Kentucky	540	480	-60	Tennessee	250	200	-50
Louisiana	90	85	-5	Virginia	565	505	-60

Source: USDA -NASS

Dixie Dairy Report – March 2020

Calvin Covington

Dairy commodity prices. A combination of the coronavirus and additional milk flowing into manufacturing plants is making commodity prices shaky. Due to its dependence on the export market, nonfat dry milk powder (NFDM) is the most impacted by the coronavirus. Because of the price lag, the February NFDM price, used to establish federal order prices, was \$1.2453/lb., a fraction higher than January. However, disruption of powder exports will be reflected in a lower March price. Renewed export activity will be needed to reverse prices.

The butter price is at its lowest price in almost five years. Relatively strong butter prices in recent years, increased butter production, and opened up the door for more imports; all of which moved the price lower. In 2019 the U.S. imported 84.5 million lbs. of butter, a record, with a high percent being Irish butter. The butter inventory at the end of January was 15% higher than last January. Until butter inventories decline, no significant butter price increase is expected. Reports indicate butter is close to, or may have reached a floor price.

Moving to cheese, both cheddar blocks and barrels were lower in February, compared to January, but still higher than a year ago. Based on trading at the CME during the first week of March, cheese prices continue to move lower with blocks closing at \$1.76/lb. and barrels at \$1.5175/lb. on March 6. The large block to barrel spread is a sign of uncertainty in the marketplace. The positive news on cheese is the January inventory is 1.2% lower than last January, and cheese makers report sales as steady.

Milk production. Dairy Market News reports cheese plants are at or near capacity. Prices paid for surplus milk, by Wisconsin cheese plants, are reported between \$1.00 to \$5.00/cwt. below the class price. Looking at the production numbers, USDA reports 0.9% more milk produced in January compared to a year ago. USDA estimates 6,000 less head of dairy cows than last year, but there are 5,000 more head than December. January milk production was higher in all of the top five milk producing states, except for Wisconsin, which was down 1.0%. January production changes for the other four states with higher production: California 0.7%, Idaho 3.7 %, New York 2.2%, and Texas 7.9%.

January saw the Southeast milk production pattern change. For the three Southeast reporting states, January production was 2.4% higher in Florida and 1.3% higher in Georgia. After many consecutive months of declining production, January saw Virginia's milk production 1.5% greater than a year earlier. These three states produce about two-thirds of the milk in the Southeast.

Class I sales. The New Year started off poorly in regards to Class I sales. January Class I producer milk, in all eleven federal orders, was 4.4% lower than a year ago. This equates to 179 million less lbs. of milk used in fluid products compared to last January. This additional 179 million lbs. had to find a home in cheese or powder plants, with much of the milk sold at a discount. Loss of fluid milk sales has a double price impact on dairy farmers: 1) significant less revenue compared to the Class I price, and 2) additional milk to manufacturing plants which in turn increases dairy product supply leading to lower dairy product prices.

Unfortunately, the largest decline in January Class I sales was in the Southeast Federal Order, down 10.4%. The Appalachian Order was second with a decline of 6.8%. The Florida Order saw a drop of 3.2%. Combined, this is 66 million lbs. less of producer milk utilized in Class I this January, compared to last January in the three Southeast orders. Again, the double impact of lower fluid sales; less Class I dollars and more milk to manufacturing. If the significant decline in Class I sales continues in the Southeast, dairy farmers will see a greater spread between mailbox and order blend prices.

Whole milk greater share of the fluid market. For many years the Florida Market Administrator staff has provided us with fluid milk sales data by product. From 2014 to 2019, whole milk sales increased its share of the Florida market from 34.7% to 38.7%. While during the same period, the market share of low fat declined from 41.5% to 39.2%, and skim from 10.2% to 6.8%. Organic fluid sales are a relatively small part of the Florida market, 3.3% in 2014 and 3.7% in 2019.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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