

Introduction: Courtney Davis

My name is Courtney Davis. I am the new Dairy/Water Quality Extension Agent in Okeechobee County. Pat Miller was the former agent who retired in August of 2009. I was the Glades County Extension Agent for two years before coming to the Okeechobee



County Extension Office. I am originally from North Florida where my family is involved in production agriculture. I am married to an Okeechobee resident and am the proud mother of little boy who was born in October of 2009. I look forward to learning more about the dairy industry in

Okeechobee and surrounding counties. If I can help you with anything or you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cbdavis@ufl.edu or by calling the office at (863) 763-6469, located at 458 Highway 98 North, Okeechobee, FL 34972-2303.

Introduction: Chris Holcomb

The 4-H Youth Dairy Program is in full swing for 2010. Chris Holcomb has returned to Florida from New York and has been put in charge of the youth programs. Chris graduated from the University of Florida in 2000 with his Masters Degree in Dairy Nutrition before moving, with his wife, to New York. In New York they started a dairy operation and developed their very own ice cream that was produced using milk from their dairy herd.

Chris participated in the Florida 4-H dairy program as a youth and has a strong passion for the program. Many dates and events are already planned for the upcoming year and we are looking forward to one of the best years ever. We will be visiting many of our Florida farms throughout the year and look forward to a great year. If you would like to



volunteer or know of anyone that may be interested in becoming involved with the dairy program please let Chris know. The focus of the dairy program will shift slightly from where it was, to a more practical dairy farm-based program. Those youth exiting the program will be more prepared to enter the industry and become the leaders of the future. Many of the traditional events will continue, as well as the return of some older programs, and the implementation of some new ones. The goal of the program will not only be to educate the current participants but to draw as many new members as possible. The program however will not only focus on youth but dairy leaders as well. We do have one of the best volunteer leader groups in the state, as well as the country and efforts will be made to make sure that this remains true.

Chris will be located in Bartow, FL and would welcome anybody to stop by or give a call and let him know of any suggestions, comments, or just to talk. If anyone is into **Facebook**, there is a page set-up "**Florida 4-H Dairy**" that will also keep you up to date on what is going on with the program. Chris can be contacted at (863) 519-8677, PO Box 9005, Drawer HS03, Bartow, FL 33831, or at christophersholc@ufl.edu.

It's Spring Cleaning Time Again! # 15

David R. Bray

Now is the time to prepare for the long hot summer. I think it is more important this year due to these depressed times when we need to be more efficient and productive.

1. Clean out high organic matter dirt (MUD) in pastures and lots and add new dirt, especially in calving areas.
2. Clean your barn cooling fans now, and whenever they look dirty. Dirty fan shields can reduce fan efficiency by 50%. If cows are in the barn or holding area, run fans 24 hours a day; this not only moves air to cool cows, it also helps to remove moisture and dry the place out.
3. Make sure your sprinklers, foggers, etc., work. It was a cold winter, many pipes froze and/or broke,

and dirty nozzles don't add much water. Check timers for the proper time for adding water; constant water is not as efficient as intermittent sprinkling and saves water. Set your sprinkler thermostat at 75 degrees F or lower during the hot season. Sprinklers need to run at night because cows get hotter at night than during daytime on those hot nights. You need timers to control sprinklers at night, so they only run when cows are eating and standing at the feed line. Running sprinklers when cows are in the stalls will waste great volumes of water and raise the humidity in the barn.

4. Clean and rebuild your pulsators, wash out and change the filters on your vacuum controller, (unless you have a variable speed drive); make sure all ATOs work.
5. Replace all milk hoses, wash hoses, pulsator hoses and jetter cup holders. Replace all rubber hoses that may be in the milk house that may add water to the pipeline and/or bulk tank wash. These hoses harbor Pseudomonas and Coliforms and can raise your bacteria count. If rubber hoses are used to wash udders, change them also.
6. Check every cow in the herd for blind quarters; band the cow's legs so they are not milked. This will lower your SCC and SPC. Consider drying off or killing these quarters.
7. Replace all of your floor mounted cow wash sprinkler nozzles once a year. Spring is a good time to do this. They not only clean cows, they cool cows also. Several short wash cycles are more efficient and use less water.
8. Check the pipeline and bulk tank chemical concentrations. If you change brands or suppliers, they may need to be checked.
9. Clean your condenser fins on your milk coolers; dirty fans cut down cooling and efficiency and you get warmer milk at higher electric costs.
10. Mow and spray careless weeds in all pastures; calves, heifers, dry cows.
11. Cull your chronic mastitis cows now, it will lower your cell count and your help is sick of treating them.
12. Clean out the back third to half of your free stalls at least 10-12" deep and add new sand. Keep your stalls bedded every 4-5 days and groomed daily.
13. Clean out cooling ponds: pump out the water, clean out the sludge and spread it someplace where the cows do not have access to it.
14. Let ponds sit dry for the sun to work on the bacteria. Mycoplasma and other nasty stuff live in ponds. You must clean them out, at least once a year if you continuously add water to the pond. If you *DO NOT* continuously add water, you need to

sample the ponds for Mycoplasma and pump and clean out the ponds once or twice during the summer.

15. Keep a stiff upper lip, if you made it through last year, you can make it through this year.

Contact Dave Bray at drbray@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-5594.

SMI Quality Program takes Effect on April 1, 2010. Are you ready?

David R. Bray

Southeast Milk, Inc., will charge penalties for Somatic Cell Count (SCC) monthly averages over 700,000 cells/ml or bacteria Count monthly averages over 90,000. The Preliminary Incubation Count (PI Count) penalty also goes in affect April 1, 2010 for monthly averages over 100,000.

Do you have a high SCC herd now?

1. Get a bulk tank culture done on the herd, two weeks in a row.
2. Strip every quarter of every cow in the herd. This should be done by someone in management or ownership in the dairy, not by the guy you hired last week.
3. Do something with those cows with high SCC quarters. If she has been treated more than 5 episodes this lactation, dry that quarter off, kill it, if a small herd get a quarter milker and keep that quarter's milk out of the tank or cull the cow. Dry the cow off early if she is pregnant.
4. If you have a bunch of junk cows, chronic cows, cull them.
5. Treat the quarter with a commercial tube, cleaning the teat end off with alcohol pads. Follow label directions, some drugs need to be given at 12 hour intervals. Do what the label says.
6. Treat or cull enough cows to be below the penalty limit.
7. Determine what kind of bacteria you have in the herd from the bulk tank results. If you have a veterinarian you should have some input from him or her. If not, I would be happy to discuss the options with you.
8. Figure out how you got into this mess and how to get out of it. Milk clean dry udders, post dip every quarter milked, keep your cows in as clean a place as possible, rebuild your pulsators, clean your vacuum controller, dry treat every cow going dry, and mow your careless weeds in all pastures.
9. Cull junk cows and don't make more junk cows!

High SPC cows?

1. A bulk tank analysis would help to make a decision; if you have low SCC, low pathogen levels you have eliminated cows, if high see above in high SCC.
2. Cooling is easy. Is the milk cooling fast enough, temperature low enough? You need a thermometer.
3. Get the system checked, clean the cooling fins, check if the agitator is working, is the tank iced up, and get it checked.
4. Cleaning. Is your hot water temperature 160° F at the start of wash? 120° F at the dump cycle? Is the air injector working properly?
5. Have your chemicals changed? Inexpensive chemicals are usually less concentrated and more are needed. Are you sanitizing the tank less than a hour before using it? If you use chlorine, some acid rinse sanitizers have a long time limit.
6. Change all rubber hoses, gaskets, jetter cups in the parlor twice a year. Change liners every 1200 cow milkings or per label directions. Change all rubber parlor hoses and milk house hoses at least once a year, don't chase milk with water, and don't drink out of them either.

High PIC?

1. Poor milking hygiene, dirty conditions in lots, stalls and the parlor.
2. Poor wash up procedures and/or sanitizing of milking equipment.
3. Poor or slow milk cooling; milk not cooled below 38° F, blends should not exceed 48° F.
4. Poor water quality.
5. Milk clean dry udders and teats, have proper wash up and sanitizing of milking equipment, cool your milk cold and as quickly as possible.

Contact Dave Bray at drbray@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-5594.

Results Dairy Extension Survey

Albert De Vries and Mary Sowerby

UF Dairy Extension is continuously interested in obtaining feedback regarding our extension programs. One such extension program is the annual Florida Dairy Production conference which has been held annually for 46 years. Attendance of this conference has been around 100 people the last several years, varying from students to allied industry to dairy producers. However, we would like to attract more dairy producers. To learn more about the future direction of annual Florida Dairy Production Conference, we handed out a one page survey form at the Southeast Milk Inc. annual meeting

held in Ocala, FL, on January 12, 2010. Forty-one Florida dairy producers completed the survey. Survey questions and answers are as follows:

2010 Dairy Extension Survey results (41 respondents)

People from my farm/firm have attended the annual Florida Dairy Production Conference:

	Responses	%
Not in the last 5 years	15	37%
1 to 3 times in the last 5 years	25	61%
4 or 5 times in the last 5 years	1	2%

Having the annual Florida Dairy Production conference for my farm/firm is:

Very important	7	17%
Somewhat important	24	59%
Not important	9	22%

The annual Florida Dairy Production conference should be held in:

Gainesville	20	49%
Ocala	8	20%
Elsewhere	1	2%
Does not matter	14	34%

Reason(s) nobody from my farm/firm has attended the annual Florida Dairy Production Conference in the last 3 years is/are (if applicable):

Location	1	2%
Program not relevant enough	9	22%
Expensive registration	3	7%
We had other obligations	16	39%

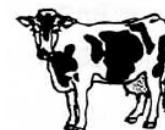
Mark all University of Florida Dairy Extension formats that are important to you:

Full day conference	14	34%
Half day conference	15	37%
Field day on farm	27	66%
Local meeting in my area, e.g. Extension office	20	49%
Newsletter	30	73%
Extension personnel visits to my farm/firm	13	32%
Other	1	2%

University of Florida Dairy Extension meetings should:

Present the latest applied research	29	71%
Have dairy producer panels	26	63%
Discuss markets, general economics, trends	24	59%
Other	1	2%

In addition to the survey, we are contacting dairy producer organizations to see how we can strengthen the Dairy Production Conference and possibly attract more dairy producers. No date has been set yet for the 2010 Florida Dairy Production Conference. We'll keep you posted.



UF Team wins Gold Award in North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge

Students from the University of Florida won a Gold Award placing in the Ninth Annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC) held April 9-10, 2010, in Visalia, Calif. Hosted by California Polytechnic State University and California State University, Fresno, 28 teams from the United States and two teams from Canada competed.

The team from the University of Florida consisted of Candy Munz, Stephanie Croyle, Nicholas Jenkins and C.J. Middleton. Mary Sowerby and Albert De Vries coached the team.

NAIDC is an innovative two-day competition for students representing dairy science programs at North American universities. It enables students to apply theory and learning to a real-world dairy, while working as part of a four-person team.



The University of Florida team competing in the 9th North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge held in Visalia, California. From left: Nick Jenkins, Mary Sowerby (coach), Candy Munz, Stephanie Croyle, and C. J. Middleton.

Day One of NAIDC began with each team receiving information about a working dairy, including production and farm management data. After an in-person inspection of one of four designated dairies, participants interviewed the herd managers. Then, each team developed a farm analysis and presentation, including recommendations for nutrition, reproduction, milking procedures, animal health, housing and financial management.

Day Two was presentation day. Team members presented recommendations to a panel of judges and then fielded questions from the judges. Presentations were evaluated, based on the analysis and recommendations. The evening concluded with a reception and awards banquet.

The North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge was established as a management contest to incorporate all phases of a specific dairy business. It strives to incorporate a higher-learning atmosphere with practical application to help prepare students for careers in the dairy industry. Supported financially through generous donations by agribusinesses and coordinated by a volunteer board of directors, the first NAIDC was held in April 2002. For more information, visit <http://www.dairychallenge.org> or contact Albert De Vries (devries@ufl.edu) or Mary Sowerby (meso@ufl.edu).

Congratulations to **Don Bennink**, North Florida Holsteins, Bell, FL, for winning World Dairy Expo's 2010 Recognition Award as **Dairyman of the Year**. Each year, World Dairy Expo recognizes four individuals for their contributions to the global dairy industry. General Manager Mark Clarke notes, "This year's honorees have each invested a lifetime in building a successful business within the dairy industry while helping others along the way. We look forward to celebrating their achievements at this year's show." The four recipients will be honored during World Dairy Expo at a special "Dinner with the Stars" banquet, held on Wednesday, September 29, in the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Tickets for the event are \$30. Reservations are required by Tuesday, September 21.

Upcoming Dairy Meetings

- A date for the next **Dairy Production Conference** has not been set.
- **Monthly Risk Management Workshops**, Lafayette County Extension Office, Mayo, FL, or by Polycom. Contact Mary Sowerby at 386-362-2771 or meso@ufl.edu.
- 59th annual Florida **Beef Cattle Short Course**, Gainesville, Florida, **May 5 - 7, 2010**. Program and registration on <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/beef/index.htm>.

