

Dairy Extension Agenda

- Saturday **March 16**, 2013. Family Day at the Dairy Farm. The public is invited to visit the UF Dairy Unit in Hague, FL. 9 AM to 2 PM. Details at <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Wednesday, **April 10**, 2013. 49th Florida Dairy Production Conference, Gainesville, FL. Topics: Feed price outlook and risk management, genetics of feed efficiency and heatstress, North Florida Holstein's approach to cattle improvement, welfare, virtual tour of M&B Products, and a panel. Program and details at <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Wednesday to Friday, **May 8+ 9 + 10**, 2013. 62nd Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course, Gainesville, FL. Program and details at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/beef/index.htm>

UF Dairy Judging Team Places Second at Louisville

Mary Sowerby

Four intent student dairy judges represented the University of Florida at the North American International Livestock Exposition Dairy Judging Contest held November 4, 2012 at the Expo Arena in Louisville, KY: Chanse Huggins from Plant City, Holly Whetsell from Brandon, Fallon Curren from Okeechobee, and Pamela Mayo from Riverview. These four students were all trained in their 4-H years by Florida coaches James Umphrey, Gene Holcomb, and Debbie Clements. Chris Holcomb and Mary Sowerby, along with Gene Holcomb, have worked with them more recently.

At the awards breakfast the morning after the contest, the Florida students were called to receive awards many times and ultimately placed second high (by only 5 points) overall to the University of Minnesota. Twenty university teams competed in the contest with Ohio State, University of Wisconsin-Platteville and Virginia Tech rounding out the top five.

Individually, Chanse Huggins placed first in judging Guernseys, fourth in Brown Swiss, eighth in Jerseys, second in oral reasons and was second high overall individual. Fallon Curren placed sixth high overall in the contest, and was eighth in Holsteins, tenth in Jerseys and eighth high in oral reasons. Holly Whetsell placed third high individually in Jerseys, seventh high in Guernseys, ninth in oral reasons and was twelfth high overall.

As a team, UF placed first in judging Guernseys and Jerseys, third in Brown Swiss, fourth in Ayrshires and were

high team in oral reasons – the team's favorite award. The team would like to thank the many Florida dairy producers who have allowed them to practice on their dairies and SMI members whose Check-off funds sponsored their trip to Louisville and practice trip to the Maryland State Fair in Timonium, MD.

New Project: Southeast Quality Milk Initiative

The University of Florida is part of a consortium that recently received \$3 million in funding from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to help improve milk quality in the Southeast. The five year project, led by Dr. Steve Oliver from The University of Tennessee, will start February 1, 2013.

The project titled "**Southeast Quality Milk Initiative (SQMI): Implementing Science-Based Recommendations to Control Mastitis & Improve Milk Quality in the Southeast**" is a collaborative venture involving research scientists and Extension specialists from six Southeastern states as follows: Steve Oliver, Raul Almeida, Gina Pighetti, Peter Krawczel & Mark Fly from The University of Tennessee; Christina Petersson-Wolfe from Virginia Tech; Jeffrey Bewley, Lori Garkovich, Donna Amaral-Phillips & Michelle Arnold from the University of Kentucky; Steve Nickerson from the University of Georgia; Stephanie Hill-Ward from Mississippi State University; and Albert De Vries from the University of Florida.

Steve Oliver summarized the project as follows: *"Our approach for improving the sustainability of the SE dairy industry is development of a collaborative outreach, educational, and applied research program on mastitis control assembled by milk quality professionals from six Land-Grant Universities in the SE. We will identify economic and social factors affecting limited adoption of practices known to control mastitis, and develop strategies to counter the rationale for non-adoption. Information from applied research and on-farm demonstrations will be packaged for educational and outreach delivery to stakeholders including dairy producers, veterinarians, university students, and extension personnel using innovative methods of delivery including DAIReXNET and Spanish translations. We will train producers and employees to utilize current and newly developed tools to make on-farm decisions that improve milk quality and increase production. We will develop continuing education programs to create human resources needed for a more knowledgeable work force to promote milk quality. Implementation of cost effective mastitis prevention and control strategies for the SE region will result in higher milk quality, increased milk production, and improved profitability,*

all of which will benefit dairy producers in the SE and enhance the sustainability of the dairy industry in this region. We are all VERY EXCITED to get this project underway!"

Southeast Milk, Inc. provided one of the letters of support that helped get the project funded.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about this project, please feel free to contact any of the project team members, in particular Steve Oliver, soliver@utk.edu or for Florida, Albert De Vries, devries@ufl.edu.

UF/IFAS' Family Day at the Dairy Farm returns March 16, Public is Invited

Tom Nordlie and Albert De Vries

GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- Last year's open house at the University of Florida dairy farm was so successful that organizers were "moo-tivated" to repeat the event in 2013, so it will return to Alachua County on Saturday, March 16.

Free and open to the public, Family Day at the Dairy Farm will take place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The farm is located in Hague, 20 minutes northwest of Gainesville just off U.S. Highway 441. For directions, see <http://tinyurl.com/d3a5626>.

Visitors can watch cows being milked, pet a calf, walk through free-stall barns, make butter, see farming equipment and learn how UF research helps keep dairy cows happy, healthy and productive. There will even be free samples of dairy products, a giant cow statue to admire, and a hayride to transport visitors to and from the parking area.



Local actor Houston Wells will reprise his role as President Abraham Lincoln, greeting visitors and posing for photos. It will be one of his final appearances commemorating the 150th anniversary of

the Morrill Act, a bill Lincoln signed in 1862 to establish the land-grant university system. UF is the state's flagship land-grant university.

Organizers hope to exceed last year's attendance, which was about 850 people, said Albert De Vries, an associate professor with UF's animal sciences department.

"The feedback we received last year was extremely positive, and we're thrilled that so many parents and children enjoyed their visit to our farm," De Vries said. "We do have some additions and improvements in the works, so for people who attended last year, we expect they will have an even better time if they come out."

Covering 850 acres and housing about 500 Holstein cows, the farm is used for research in every phase of dairy production. Faculty and students involved in animal sciences and veterinary medicine conduct studies designed to improve nutrition, cow comfort, health care, and other factors

impacting commercial dairy production. Research findings from the farm are communicated to industry by UF/IFAS Extension personnel.

Unlike many UF/IFAS research facilities, the dairy farm is operational 365 days a year. A dedicated staff of about 15 works and sometimes lives on-site, caring for the herd and assisting researchers.

"Rain or shine, the cows need to be fed and milked, the barns need to be cleaned, and so on," De Vries said. "Our staff members have the same responsibilities that commercial dairy farmers do, and that means our visitors will get a very good idea how the state's dairy farms operate."

For those who plan to attend, De Vries suggests wearing closed-toed shoes and bringing sunblock and hats; bottled water will be provided free of charge. Please leave pets at home.

This event is organized by the Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS Information and Communication Services, and Florida Dairy Farmers, Inc. For sponsorship opportunities, or more information, contact Jerry wasdin, jwas@ufl.edu, (352) 392-1120, or Albert De Vries, devries@ufl.edu, or (352) 392-5594 ext. 227. Tom Nordlie is with UF/IFAS Information and Communication Services.

Prediction of the Future Florida Mailbox Price: February 2013 - January 2014

Albert De Vries

Using the Class III and Class IV futures settle prices of January 31, 2013, and the announced Class III and IV prices until January 2013, the University of Wisconsin predicts the Florida mailbox prices for February 2013 to January 2014 to be as follows:

Month	Year	Class III settle price*	Predicted Florida mailbox price
February	2013	17.20	21.73
March	2013	16.98	21.78
April	2013	17.10	21.18
May	2013	17.59	21.51
June	2013	18.08	21.85
July	2013	18.03	23.29
August	2013	18.47	23.39
September	2013	18.54	23.45
October	2013	18.40	23.56
November	2013	18.18	23.42
December	2013	18.10	23.46
January	2014	17.95	21.15

* Class III settle price as of January 31, 2013.

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