

Supported by



Komar Scholarship
page 6-7

4-W Farm Feature
page 8-9

Get More Pounds of Milk Fat
page 12



Do You Know About KDDC's Programs?

Soon after the beginning of the original KDDC MILK Program almost 17 years ago, we identified a producer need to help improve milk quality. The fact that there was a qualifying level set for Somatic Cell Counts (SCC) and Preliminary Incubation (PI) to receive premiums from the MILK Program created a need to assist producers to improve their milk quality. This need led to the beginning of the MILK COUNTS program.

In the beginning, University of Kentucky's Dr. Jeffrey Bewley served as coordinator for the program while collaborating with U.K.s Dr. Michelle Arnold, county extension educators and KDDC consultants. Now for numerous years, the KDDC consultants have taken the lead in conducting MILK COUNTS audits for many producers in their areas.

When a producer contacts a consultant for assistance the consultant sets up a farm visit. The dairy's owner or manager is the main source of information to begin the search for the solution to lower SCCs. A team approach is used in some cases when needed. This approach is used to get input from others that are familiar with the dairy's management. Those resources can come from various places, including the dairy's milkers, market representative, nutritionist or the dairy's vet.

SCC Audit Can Include

- Evaluation of DHIA records
- Evaluation of Milking Procedures
- Evaluation of Management Protocols
- Evaluation of Animal Hygiene and Housing
- Evaluation of Dry Cow Treatment and Handling
- Culturing Problem Cows and Interpreting the Results
- Searching for the cause of high PI counts may include the following.

PI Audit

- Examine Past PI Counts
- Check Efficiency of Milk Cooling System
- Check Temperature of Milk in the Tank with Thermometer to Determine Accuracy of Tank Thermometer
- Check Temperature and Capacity of Hot Water Heater
- Check Milk Tank for Proper Cleaning and Build Up
- Check Milking Equipment for Build Up and Improper Cleaning
- Overall, there are many reasons for improving milk quality. Just a few of these reasons include:

Lowering SCC increases milk production.

You can take advantage of any plant quality premiums.

If you're enrolled in KDDC's MILK 4.0 program, you could receive an annual quality premium.

Also, lower SCC can lead to better reproductive health.

Having good milk quality makes you an asset to your milk market.

And if you ever look to change markets, lower SCC makes you more marketable to a prospective new market.

The MILK COUNTS program has been used by many producers across Kentucky with great success. If you are interested or have questions on the MILK COUNTS program, please contact your KDDC consultant.

2023 KDDC Board of Directors & Staff

Executive Committee

President: Freeman Brundige
Vice President: Charles Townsend, DVM
Sec./Treasurer: Tom Hastings
EC Member: Greg Goode
EC Past President: Richard Sparrow

Board of Directors

District 1: Freeman Brundige 731.446.6248
District 2: Thomas Sumner 270.991.1915
District 3: Megan Komar 270.670.5311
District 4: Bill Crist Jr. 270.590.3185
District 5: Tony Compton 270.378.0525
District 6: Jerry Gentry 606.875.2526
District 7: Greg Goode 606.303.2150
District 8: Matt Collins 859.314.7132
District 9: Steve Weaver 270.475.3154
District 10: Jeff Gibson 502.379.2756
District 11: John Riney 859.805.1369
District 12: Jesse Ramar 270.277.7107
Equipment: Tony Cowherd 270.469.0398
Milk Haulers: Mike Owen 270.392.1902
Genetics: Dan Johnson 502.905.8221
Feed: Tom Hastings 270.748.9652
Nutrition: Elizabeth Lunsford Alltech 859.553.0072
Dairy Co-op:
Veterinary: Dr. Charles Townsend 270.726.4041
Finance: Todd Lockett 270.590.9375
Heifer Raiser: Bill Mattingly 270.699.1701
Former Pres.: Richard Sparrow 502.370.6730

Employee & Consultants

Executive Director: H.H. Barlow
859.516.1129
kddc@kydairy.org

DC-Central: Tori Embry
2472 Sunbeam Road, Leitchfield, KY 42754
tembry@kydairy.org
859.516.1966

DC-Western: Dave Roberts
1334 Carrville Road, Hampton, KY 42047
roberts@kydairy.org
859.516.1409

DC-Northeast: Jennifer Hickerson
PO Box 293, Flemingsburg, KY 41041
j.hickersonkddc@gmail.com
859.516.2458

KDDC

176 Pasadena Drive • Lexington, KY 40503
www.kydairy.org

Kentucky Milk Matters produced by Carey Brown

President's Corner Freeman Brundige



It's the middle of January spitting snow and a layer of ice is on the roads. Is the milk hauler going to get in today? Is the heifer watering trough frozen up? Will the tractor start? Boy I wish we could get some warm weather!!! So, as I am writing this the TV weatherman has just stated a heat index of 121 degrees, the highest I have ever seen here. Watch what you wish for!

This summer weather has been up and down all year. Very dry one month then extremely wet the next. Overall, I think our crops are going to be good, but not the all-time best. Nationally, it looks like commodity prices could be a little easier on our feed bills this year. One of the biggest pluses we have now are cull cow prices, now is the time to rid the herd of unprofitable and problem cows at all time high prices.

The story is still the same as it was for our grandparents! Lots of tough times mixed with a few things that can maybe help us get through it. Farm bill negotiations and Federal Order hearings are running full blast right now and we at KDDC are trying to keep the interests of our Kentucky dairy farms first and foremost through these talks. We will try to constantly keep you up-to-date on how things are proceeding and hope for your input and thoughts on any of these matters.

SHELBY INSURANCE AGENCY

Explore the risk management options available to you in addition to Dairy Margin Coverage that can work with DMC or stand alone.

Dairy Revenue Protection protects against the decline in quarterly revenue on an area basis.

Livestock Gross Margin Dairy covers a squeeze between milk prices and feed cost.

Pasture, Rangeland and Forage covers lack of rainfall over two month intervals on an areas basis determined by NOAA.

Whole Farm Revenue Protection covers a decline in revenue due to insured causes including a decline in milk prices.

*See policies for details. Policy languages is controlling.
Shelby Insurance Agency is an equal opportunity provider.*



Give us a call!

(502) 633-6108 • david.mathis@shelbyins.com

July Young Producers Tour Tori Embry

On July 13, the Young Dairy Producers of Kentucky toured operations in Western Kentucky that focused on different aspects of value-added production. Our first stop was to Enos Stoltzfus's dairy farm, where he has been milking at the current location since 2016. In 2021, Enos switched markets and started shipping milk to his neighbor, Country View Creamery. Since then, many of his decisions around his farming operation are with the creamery in mind. Enos stated that "most of what we do revolves around the creamery" including their current transition from Holstein to Jersey cows to take advantage of the higher protein yields and heat tolerance. Enos also raises tobacco, laying hens, mums, and other diversified crops. Enos showed us how successful producers can strategically grow and adapt to fit their market to create a mutually beneficial relationship.

After lunch at Country View Creamery, we were offered a tour by Omar Stoltzfus. Country View purchases all of their milk from dairies within 5 miles of their location and is currently processing cheese 2-3 days of the week. They have customers throughout the state and beyond, with products being sold under their Country View Creamery label, as well as under private labels. Omar said the goal of the creamery is to support local farmers and he values the different relationships they have with other companies that help the creamery meet that goal. Country View is a refreshing view of a market that focuses on supporting local farmers and other businesses within their industry.

Our last stop of the day was at Mark Hoover's farm. This included a variety of operations, the first being a dairy farm operated by Mark's son, Mahlon. The dairy milks about 100 Holsteins housed in a freestall barn. All cows are AI'd to ABS InFocus beef bulls and replacements are bought from other operations, a decision based on the economics of selling high-quality beef-on-dairy calves and replacing with quality springers as needed. This breeding strategy also supports Mark's beef-on-dairy feeding operation. Here, Mark will buy calves at 400-500 pounds and fatten them out to around 1200 pounds to sell at the packing plant. He's had success with this venture with high quality carcass results and hopes to keep expanding. He attributes this success to not only good, reliable genetics like those found using ABS InFocus or Select Sires Profit Source bulls, but also from buying calves that have been well-managed and fed correctly prior to receiving them. Besides the cattle, Mark also has a custom soybean roasting business where he provides several customers with ground, rolled, or whole roasted soybeans to fit their needs. This operation is a great example of strategic management from beginning to end to produce high-quality products.

We appreciate the producers that took the time to show us around their operations, as well as those young farmers that attended the tour. News and updates on future events will be posted on our Facebook page and mailed to members. Sign up for the mailing list today and send suggestions for future events by contacting Tori Embry at 859-516-1966.

Our next tour will be on November 10th starting at 8:45 CT at WKU Dairy in Bowling Green, followed by lunch and a tour at Chaney's at 11:00, a tour of Coral Hill Dairy in Hiseville at 2:30 and dinner provided at Gondolier in Glasgow at 5:30 with speaker Dr. Jack Britt. This will be a unique opportunity to tour with a group of producers from Indiana, so plan on coming early, staying late, and enjoying the conversation!



Executive Director Comments

H H Barlow



It looks like we've had a great crop year all across the state. There may be some isolated spots that didn't get the rain, but we've had a good season. Plenty of corn silage and hay in storage is a good way to head into winter.

The milk price situation for the past few months has been brutal. Milk checks have been the lowest since Covid in 2020. As I've stated in the past, Dairy Margin Coverage insurance payments have been lifesavers. The cost of production has not dropped any this year, while the milk price is \$8.00/cwt lower than a year ago. The payment rate for August covering July milk production is \$5.98/cwt, which is the highest rate ever paid. DMC payments cover up to 5 million pounds of production. This is a great help to our dairymen who have herds of 200 cows or less but it needs to be expanded to cover larger herds. We have many really good herds over 200 cows in Kentucky who could use the help. The margin between the all milk price and feed cost will improve going forward and hopefully the increase will be enough to lower the need for the insurance payment.

Federal Order hearings are going full blast in Carmel, Indiana for the month of September. The reason for these hearings are to modernize the milk pricing system. No changes have been made to pricing since 2000 and our markets have changed greatly. There are 22 proposals being discussed. The proceedings are expected to last 6 weeks. Testimony is being offered by Coops, producer groups like the American Dairy Coalition, American Farm Bureau and individual farmers. The processor and retail group International Dairy Foods Association also plays a big role in the proceedings, often taking an opposing view to the producer's testimony.

KDDC has contacts that are closely monitoring the hearings on a weekly basis. Many of the proposals will directly affect our milk checks in the future. The National Milk Producers Federation and American Farm Bureau's proposals are closely aligned with KDDC's position. They have experts and lawyers there every day to represent producers' interests. The tough part of this proceeding is that it is a long process of implementing any changes. It is estimated it will be summer of 2024 before the changes take place.

The Farm Bill is also being prepared by Congress. It is still in discussion and appears the present Farm Bill will be extended for some time until the new one is finished. Politics are a challenge. The Ky. Governor's race is just two months away. It is important, please vote for the candidate who aligns with your values.

The Ky. State Fair recently concluded with a very large participation of dairy exhibitors showing their animals. The highlight of the fair was the Cheese Auction at the end of the youth show Friday afternoon. KDDC is one

of the principal donors of cheese and contributor toward the auction. We are joined by over 50 other contributors to make the final price. All the proceeds go to youth who participated in the dairy show and a portion goes to 4-H and FFA programs. There were 43 young exhibitors receiving additional checks over and above the premiums they received in the showing. The Cheese Auctioned for a total of \$23,500. This is a new record, and it was a very exciting event. Thank you to all the donors for making this such a special event.

The Ky. Milk Quality Conference was held in Bowling Green on August 28th to 30th. This conference is sponsored by the Dairy Products Association of Ky. It is an educational event that brings our processors, inspectors and producers together to discuss milk quality. Our manufacturing industry is essential to all producers and this conference provides the venue for everyone to meet and build relationships.

The KDDC Fall Tour is coming up on October 3rd-6th. We have a great tour planned to the World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin and we will also tour many dairy farms in our travels. I hope many of you can join us.

Thankfully our milk prices have bottomed out and are definitely improving. The future looks brighter, domestic demand for dairy products is robust and milk production is remaining constant. Better times are ahead, so fire up the grill during football season and eat a lot of cheese and pizza.

ARTEX
ALMOST AS TOUGH AS FARMING.

**TOUGHEST
MANURE
SPREADER
ON EARTH**

**BUY YOUR
ARTEX AT**
859-608-9745
ARTEXMFG.COM

**RED BARN
AND ASSOCIATES**



The 6th Annual Kentucky State Fair Junior Cheese Auction brought in \$23,500 to Junior exhibitors, 4-H and FFA. Thank You to all the Sponsors and to KDDC for coordinating the cheese auction along with Eunice Schlappi and Glen Sageser.



2023 State Fair Production Awards

RED WHITE HOLSTEIN Production Award-3 Year Old

Cow Name: Rocky-Run Springs Topaz-RED

Shown By: Emily Goode

Production Record: 22,714 pounds 779 lbs of Fat 610 lbs of Protein

RED WHITE HOLSTEIN Production Award-4 Year Old

Cow Name: Style Crest Jordy Denver

Shown By: Caden McIntyre

Production Record: 21,689 pounds 894 lbs of Fat 682 lbs of Protein

RED WHITE HOLSTEIN Production Award-5 Year Old

Cow Name: Janney Defiant Star-RED

Shown By: Emily Goode

Production Record: 26,852 pounds 937 lbs of Fat 869 lbs of Protein

BROWN SWISS Production Award-5 Year Old

Cow Name: Fairdale Total Cali-ET

Shown By: Emily Goode

Production Record: 365 days 38,392 lbs 1530 lbs of Fat 990 lbs of Protein

GUERNSEY Production Award-4 Year Old

Cow Name: Style Crest Mentor Chandler

Shown By: Caden McIntyre

Production Record: 305 days 22,251 lbs 679 lbs of Fat 650 lbs of Protein

GUERNSEY Production Award-5 Year Old

Cow Name: Style Crest Chief Sophia

Shown By: Caden McIntyre

Production Record: 305 days 21,816 lbs 906 lbs of Fat 700 lbs of Protein

AYRSHIRE Production Award-3 Year Old

Cow Name: Eller's Berkely Tipsey

Shown By: Keith Wright

Production Record: 305 days 18,805 lbs 618 lbs of fat 595 lbs of protein



Komar Scholarship 2024

Fabian Bernal M.S., P.A.S

Dairy Advisory Manager. MANA

In life, Brenda Komar was the light of all gatherings and friendships. After her passing, all I can remember is her smile and her kind, powerful words of encouragement. It is very unusual to run into someone with a strong, yet selfless personality that radiates love and kindness. But first, let me tell you of my story and how I came to meet Brenda Komar. With all odds against me, I came to this beautiful dairy farm to my first ever consulting/large farm evaluation where I was completely on my own. I had heard of the management team and I was quite nervous, but I knew this was an opportunity like no other. Before I had a chance to meet with Billy Komar, I ran into a very strong woman with a huge smile that introduced herself to me and told me that we should chat before walking around the farm. Not once did she question my capabilities or who I was, she just extended her hand with a friendly welcome. She gave me a couple of key points to look at, but more so she gave me one piece of advice that I carry with me even today "Fabian, let me tell you. You are better off if you listen before you talk, and I am not only talking about my husband, but the people on the farm and the animals too." I think of this often and since then it has become part of my process when visiting farms around the world.

Thinking back, her and the Komar family were some of the first people that gave me an opportunity when I did not have a lot to offer. Brenda extended a helpful hand even when it was not asked for. Over time I consulted with her on many occasions to the point that I relied on her in some of the most difficult cases that I have ever dealt with for some direction and deep thought. At some point, Brenda became so close that I started calling her mama and she called me her Colombian son. She taught me to be quiet and that I am better off to listen than talk when the situations are difficult and when you are in front of those that will question your capabilities, your knowledge and your worth. She helped many of us understand the value of friendship and strong leadership. Never with a demeaning word, yet always strong. The shared smiles and experiences I will always treasure, and I know those that know her will agree that there is no better way to remember and honor her memory than a scholarship that helps others achieve their dreams even in the most difficult circumstances.

In the Komar family I have found knowledge, true friendship and complete acceptance. Please join all of us honoring Brenda's memory and her dedication and passion for the industry.

The family of Brenda Komar has established an annual scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 in remembrance of Brenda and her dedication and love of the dairy profession. An individual must meet the following requirements for consideration.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

Be enrolled in an agriculture-related field

Be a high school senior planning to major in a field of agriculture

Be a Kentucky student

Be a student currently enrolled at an accredited college or university

TO APPLY

Submit the following with the scholarship application:

Resume

Complete transcript

One letter of recommendation from college/university or high school faculty member

One letter of recommendation from an agriculture representative

High resolution photo suitable for print

DEADLINE

Applications must be received by December 29, 2023. Mail completed application packets to Kentucky Dairy Development Council, Attention: Jennifer Hickerson, 176 Pasadena Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40503 or email to j.hickersonkddc@gmail.com

AWARD PROCESS

KDDC scholarship review committee will review applications and select a recipient

The recipient will be recognized during the KDDC Annual Banquet in February 2024

Payment will be made directly to the student's school upon proof of term enrollment

The scholarship must be used by the year following the award

QUESTIONS

For more information and questions, please contact KDDC at 859-516-1129 or kddc@kydairy.org

CLASSIFIEDS

Are you ready for a Division of Water regulatory inspection of your farm? Planning an expansion of your operation? Stay compliant, update your Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), and take advantage of financial assistance programs for livestock manure management, crop nutrient management, and water quality BMPs. Contact - Ben Koostra - Professional Engineer and NRCS Technical Service Provider - Bowling Green - 859-559-4662

Komar Scholarship 2024

<div>NAME</div>	<div>ADDRESS</div>
<div>PHONE</div>	<div>EMAIL</div>
<div>PARENT OR GUARDIAN 1</div>	<div>PARENT OR GUARDIAN 2</div>
<div>DO YOU LIVE ON A DAIRY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</div>	<div>ARE YOU A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</div>
<div>HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED/ATTENDING</div>	<div>COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDED/ATTENDING</div>

Please answer the following and submit with application.

- After completion of college, what are your career plans and how do they relate to dairy?
- What role do you play in your family dairy farm operation?
- What qualities do you possess that would move dairy forward in Kentucky?
- What is the most important management practice a dairy operation can utilize to be sustainable in the future?
- In 500 words or less, describe your future plans and how the Brenda Komar Memorial Dairy Scholarship would assist you in meeting your goals.

Submit the following with your scholarship application

- Resume
- Complete transcript
- One letter of recommendation from college/university or high school faculty member
- One letter of recommendation from an agriculture representative
- High resolution photo suitable for print

FARM FAMILY FEATURE



4-W farm is the name of the Wright's dairy farm in south Logan County near the community of Schochoh. They milk 330 beautiful Jerseys making them the largest Jersey herd in Ky. Today, the farm is operated by Mary Lou Wright and her son Blake. The 4-W story is one of high school sweethearts working together to build a special life.

Jimmy Wright and Mary Lou Delaney were both born in Tennessee, but both their families saw opportunity in Logan County Kentucky. Logan County has beautiful, gently rolling land with extremely productive soils. It looked great to Jimmy's dad, from Mt Juliet, Tennessee and Mary Lou's dad from east Tennessee. The Wrights moved to Kentucky in 1965 and the Delaney family was displaced by the Tellico Dam near Greenback, Tennessee in 1970 and they relocated to Logan County.

Both families had their own dairy herds. Jimmy and Mary Lou ended up in high school together. A romance blossomed and they married in 1976.

Jimmy's family moved to Mississippi, but Jimmy stayed behind and worked for the Delaney's milking cows and raising tobacco. In 1983, they bought their first farm and started their own dairy in 1987 milking 29 Jerseys on a small amount of land. People asked Jimmy why they chose Jerseys and they answered that they could feed more Jerseys on their small acreage.

During these early years, they had two children, Blake and Jenny. Blake is now married to Courtney, and they have one son, Delaney. Jenny married Brad Rogers and they have two children, Luke and Mary. Blake farms full-time and Jenny's husband is pastor of a local church.

By the year 2000, when Blake graduated high school, they were milking 150 Jerseys and raising 30 acres of tobacco. I was fortunate enough to know them during this time and I can assure you that the whole family worked long hard hours.

Today they own 270 acres and lease another 360 acres of cropland and pasture. In 2007, they built a new 180 cow metal free stall barn. In 2010, they upgraded the milking parlor to a double 12 and increased the herd to over 300 cows.

Today, they milk 330 Jerseys averaging 60 to 65 lbs of milk daily on 2X milking with a 4.8 average fat test and a somatic cell count score of

160,000. The numbers speak for themselves. They operate a great quality high producing dairy farm.

A very tragic part of this story is Jimmy was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2012. I saw him often over the next two years and he always had a great attitude and kept working with his head up. He fought hard and lived for over two years.

It was a terrible loss when he passed in 2014. Mary Lou and Blake were determined to continue their farming operation that they had built with Jimmy.

The secret to their success has been their faith, hard work, dedication and maintaining a positive attitude. They are also very skillful farmers and dairymen.

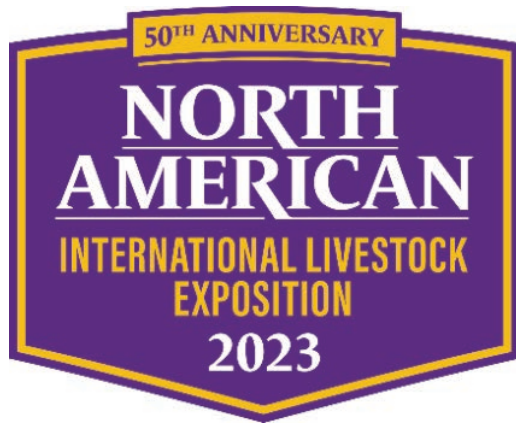
Mary Lou works every day in the dairy, managing the finances, labor and feeds all bottled calves. In the past 365 days, her death loss is less than 1%...we're talking about Jersey's who have a higher average calf mortality rate. This proves, once again, that women are the best at calf raising. Mary Lou's nurturing and absolute religious colostrum feeding are her secrets to success.

Blake takes care of feeding and crops plus artificial breeding and he is a great mechanic. They grow all their own feed. The cow's ration consists of 50 lbs. corn silage, 20 lbs. either ryegrass or alfalfa silage and 18 lbs. of a grain mix. The ratio of over 3 lbs. of milk to 1 lb. of grain mix is another reason they love Jerseys.

I asked Mary Lou and Blake about their future plans, they pretty much said one day at a time. The grandsons Delaney and Luke help a lot but right now they are really into football. Hired labor is their biggest challenge but I believe if they can keep help, they will dairy for a long time. I can't imagine Mary Lou without some Jersey calves to feed.

I've known the Wright family for over 30 years. I describe them this way. There are good people and then there are REALLY good people which totally fits who they are. Jimmy was a great friend and he coined the phrase "God put me on this earth to be a Shepherd over these cows". That describes most of us with dairy herds today and Jimmy was the Epitome of a great shepherd.

They are a great family and it is an honor to write their story.



2023 North American International Livestock Exposition

Tentative Show Schedule (As of 6-14-2023)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

8:00 a.m. Junior Brown Swiss Show- Freedom Hall

Junior Guernsey Show – Freedom Hall

8:00 a.m. JABGA Show- South Wing A

1:00 p.m. Junior Ayrshire Show- Freedom Hall

2:00 p.m. Junior Red & White Show- Freedom Hall

5:30 p.m. Junior Milking Shorthorn Cows- Freedom Hall

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

7:30 a.m. Junior Jersey Show - Freedom Hall

8:00 a.m. Junior Milking Shorthorn Heifers Show – Freedom Hall

11:00 a.m. Junior Holstein Show – Freedom Hall

Junior Dairy Cattle Supreme Champion Selection following the completion of all breeds

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

12:30 p.m. Open Milking Shorthorn Show- Freedom Hall

Open Red & White Show -Freedom Hall

5:30 p.m. Open Brown Swiss Heifers Show-Freedom Hall

Open Guernsey Heifers Show- Freedom Hall

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

7:30 a.m. Open Jersey Heifer Show- Freedom Hall

Open Guernsey Cow Show- Freedom Hall

8:00 a.m. Dairy Goat Show- South Wing C

10:30 a.m. Open Ayrshire Cow Show- Freedom Hall

2:00 p.m. Jersey Jug Futurity- Freedom Hall

5:00 p.m. Open Brown Swiss Cow Show- Freedom Hall

Open Holstein Heifer Show- Freedom Hall

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

7:30 a.m. Open Jersey Cow Show- Freedom Hall

Open Ayrshire Heifer Show- Freedom Hall

10:15 a.m. Open Holstein Cow Show- Freedom Hall

2:00 p.m. Open Dairy Cattle Supreme Selection- Freedom Hall



Farm Safety

Ryan Quarles Commissioner of Agriculture

Farmers hold a special place in my heart. I've served as your agriculture commissioner for nearly eight years, but I also come from a family of farmers. My family moved to Kentucky in the 1780s and for more than 200 years has been farming Kentucky soil.

Like many of us in Kentucky, I grew up on a tobacco farm. Days were long and the work was hard. But getting to work with my hands and produce an actual physical product was so rewarding to my young maturing heart and mind.

Along with that hard work, came daily struggles and potential for physical harm. Farmers face a number of risks in the course of their work, from machinery accidents, chemical exposure, unruly livestock, grain bin entrapment, severe weather, and many others.

In Kentucky, we have made great strides to mitigate these risks to make farming safer than ever before. But one farm injury is one too many. September's Farm Safety and Health Week draws attention to the potential hazards farmers face each and every day on the farm.

With the theme, "No One Can Take Your Place," this year's National Farm and Safety Week drives home the point that our farmers and agricultural producers are irreplaceable.

This isn't just the theme for this year's farm safety and health week, but a guiding principle for our farmers. Knowing they are valued and loved gives a greater understanding to why safety is so important when those physical dangers are present every day.

When I became Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner, I began traveling around the state to hear from our agriculture producers. My travels have taken me to every part of Kentucky. I've listened to farmers speak about their struggles, their triumphs, and their hopes.

Because of this, one of the main focuses for my administration was farmer safety. At the beginning of my tenure, KDA signed an agreement with Kentucky Community and Technical College System/Kentucky Fire Commission to promote farm safety. Our farm and home safety program has traveled the state and the nation training farmers and rescuers in safety precautions to prevent tragedy on the farm. The farm and home safety team is always in high demand and in an average year appears in more than 100 events, including the National Farm Machinery Show; the Kentucky State Fair; WAVE Ag Day in Hickman, Kentucky; and the Milan No-Till Field Day in Milan, Tennessee. Today, states from across the nation contact us asking about our program seeking help on starting one of their own. It's a world-class operation that we know has saved lives.

In addition to physical safety, we focused on the mental strains of farming on the individual. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture teamed up with state universities, and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services to launch Raising Hope. With funds appropriated through the General Assembly and a USDA grant, Raising Hope works with farmers and their families to promote their entire wellbeing – mental and physical.

Through research, prevention, intervention, and community education and outreach, the project's mission is to enhance the quality of life for Kentucky's agricultural producers. Increasing awareness of stress among farmers, along with reducing the stigma attached to mental health issues is one way to establish community-based support systems for those who need it. In addition, it's important to show appreciation of farmers and their families by realizing the positive impact they have on our communities. Addressing the mental health needs of farmers helps to reduce the physical injuries suffered on farms.

We refine our focus on farmer safety this month, but it's an important aspect we need to realize every day. Without our farmers, we would be a world without food, fiber, and fuel the public needs. Farmers are truly irreplaceable.

Dixie Dairy Report

September 2023

Calvin Covington

Milk prices. August blend prices in the three Southeastern federal milk marketing orders (FMMOs) are projected about \$1.00/cwt. lower than July, and the lowest blend prices for the year. Better news is the September Class I Mover (3.5% fat) is \$18.90 per cwt. which is \$2.28 per cwt. higher than August. This will move September blend prices upward, about \$1.50 per cwt. higher than August. Looking further ahead, October blend prices are projected slightly higher than September.

Stronger cheese and butter prices are responsible for the increase in the September Class I Mover. The Dairy Products Sales Report (DPSR) cheese price, used in calculating the September Mover, is \$0.40 per lb. higher than August, \$1.86 versus \$1.46 per lb. The DPSR butter price moved up \$0.21 per lb. from \$2.45 to \$2.66 per lb. On the other hand, both nonfat dry milk powder (NDM) and dry whey prices moved lower. The August NDM price is the lowest in over two years, and dry whey the lowest in five years. Global prices and exports, significantly, impact NDM and dry whey prices. Both global prices and exports remain weak. For example, the August Oceania skim milk powder price is \$1.09 per lb. A year ago, it was \$1.62 per lb. The Oceania butter price is about \$0.50 per lb. lower than the domestic price

Total dairy demand. For the first half of 2023, dairy demand measured by total solids, is 1.4% higher than the first half of 2022. Unlike previous years, domestic demand is the bright star. Domestic demand is up 2.8% while exports are 5.0% lower. Through June, exports represent 16.5% of total demand, last year it was 17.6%. Dairy Market News reports for the first six months of 2023 versus 2022, exports for all four major dairy products are lower as follows: butter down 43%, cheese down 7%, NDM down 1%, and dry whey down 5%.

Fluid milk sales. Through June of this year, USDA estimates fluid milk sales are 2.0% lower than the same period last year. In the three Southeastern FMMOs, combined, fluid sales are down 2.9%. Nationwide, both conventional and organic sales are 2% lower. Organic was 6.7% of total fluid sales for the first half of the year. The positive news is sales in two fluid milk categories continue to grow. Whole milk sales, both conventional and organic, are 1.1% and 3.0% higher than last year, respectively. Sales of the category "other fluid milk products" are 8.9% stronger than a year ago. This growing category represents 3.4% of all conventional fluid milk sales. This category includes ultrafiltrated, lactose free, and non-organic specialty milks such as grass-fed and A2.

Milk production. For the fourth consecutive month, dairy cow numbers continue to decline. At the end of July, USDA estimated the national dairy herd at 9.4 million head. This is 46,000 fewer dairy cows compared to USDA's March estimate. Dairy cow slaughter numbers continue to grow. Through July, 112,500 more head were slaughtered compared to the same period a year ago. Low margins (July Dairy Margin Coverage Program margin lowest in history at \$3.52 per cwt.) and relatively high cull cow prices will further increase the number of dairy cows slaughtered.

Declining dairy cow numbers pushed July milk production 0.5% lower than last July. In the nation's two largest milk producing states, July production was down 5.5% in California and up 0.9% in Wisconsin. Milk production continues to decline in New Mexico and Texas, 9.1% and 4.3% lower, respectively. The May (most recent data) New Mexico mailbox price was \$16.41 per cwt. and \$16.95 per cwt. in West Texas. Milk production in the Southeast States is starting to stabilize. For the three Southeast monthly reporting states, July milk production was up 3.6% in Georgia and up 0.9% in Virginia, while the Florida decline was only 0.6%. Combined, July production in three states was 1.4% higher than last July.

Milk Prices

FMMO 5

www.malouisville.com

August 2023

Class 1 Advanced Price
(@3.5%BF)

\$20.02

September 2023

Class 1 Advanced Price
(@3.5%BF)

\$22.30

FMMO 7

www.fmmatlanta.com

August 2023

Class 1 Advanced Price
(@3.5%BF)

\$20.42

September 2023

Class 1 Advanced Price
(@3.5%BF)

\$22.70

Kentucky Dairy Consultant Position Vacancy

Kentucky Dairy Development Council (KDDC) is seeking qualified applicants for the position of **South East Region Dairy Consultant**. Please visit our website www.kydairy.org for more information and full job description.

To be considered, each applicant should submit a resume and cover letter to KDDC President, Freeman Brundige at fhbrundige@gmail.com. Applications are being accepted now until October 15.

If you have questions, please contact Freeman Brundige at **731-446-6248** or H.H. Barlow at **859-516-1129**.



Stocked With What You Need

Staffed By People Who Care



Visit a Store Near You For Your Animal Health and Husbandry Needs

Columbia:
2536 Campbellsville Rd.
270.384.2487

Danville:
1111 Perryville Rd.
859.236.0400

Glasgow:
100 Georgetown Ln.
270.651.8000

Lebanon:
212 N. Depot St.
270.699.2875

Bowling Green:
5199 Nashville Rd.
270.842.6171

Edmonton:
319 N. Main St.
270.432-7007

Hardinsburg:
1584 US 60
270.756.2002

London:
1115 S. Laurel Rd.
606.877.3333



Wildcat Wisdom

Donna Amaral-Phillips

Retired UK Dairy Specialist



How Can You Get More Pounds of Milkfat From Your Dairy Herd?

Feeding and management practices impact not only milk yield, but also butterfat content of milk and thus your milk check.

Decreases in milk fat can occur within a short time frame, but once the factor(s) influencing the drop are corrected, it may take 2 weeks or more before milk fat percentage and yields are corrected. Implementing sound feeding and management practices that reduce stress and help maintain a healthy rumen microbial population are the cornerstones to optimizing milk fat synthesis as well as milk yield.

Factors Outside Your Control

Some factors, which influence butterfat content of milk, are not controllable, but management can decrease their effect on butterfat percentage.

Breed and genetic selection for milkfat: Over the years, Holsteins and other breeds have been bred such that the average butterfat percentage and yield have increased. Butterfat percentage is highly heritable and breeding cows to higher component sires positively influences butterfat content, but it takes a few years to change. The average butterfat percentage for US herds tested through DRMS in Raleigh currently average 3.9% in 6780 Holstein herds. Today many Holstein herds average 4.0% or greater butterfat, and butterfat percentages of 3.6 to 3.8% may be considered low.

Higher producing cows: Higher producing cows may have a lower milkfat percentage, but they contribute more total pounds of fat to the bulk tank because of higher total yield.

Stage of lactation: Early lactation cows within 60 to 90 days in milk generally have the lowest milkfat percentage. However, these cows are at their peak production and thus total yield of fat reflects their higher total milk production.

Time of year: Butterfat content is generally the lowest in the summer. Some of this response relates to day length. However, the higher environmental temperatures and humidity result in heat stress on cows. Heat-stressed cows eat less and produce less milk along with a reduced butterfat content, thus further reducing total fat yields. Proper spacing, routine maintenance, and correct usage of fans and sprinklers can help reduce these effects.

Management Practices Impact Butterfat

Luckily, sound management practices can help improve or optimize butterfat yields.

Manage heat stress: Keeping cows cool can have a positive impact on butterfat yields. Fans should come on when temperatures are above 65°F which can easily occur in the fall and late winter months.

Prevent overcrowding: Overcrowding increases competition for access to the feedbunk and use of freestalls. Overcrowding at the feedbunk results in larger meals and less even feed intake throughout the day. Both factors negatively influence the rumen environment that can decrease milkfat yield.

Cows consistently need 12 to 14 hours of rest daily: Lactating cows should not be away from their pen for more than 1 hour at a time to be milked and should spend a minimal amount of time in headlocks

for general management practices, such as heat detection or health and reproductive checks. Comfortable stalls or area for cows to lie down and ruminate is important. Rumination or cud chewing helps buffer the rumen contents and has a positive effect on milkfat synthesis.

Feeding Protocols Impact Butterfat

Besides the ingredients used in rations, the management of the feeding program can affect the “health” of the rumen.

Practices in TMR-fed herds: The key is to have a TMR mix that is uniform and prevents or minimizes sorting by the cows fed the diet. The mix should not be over or under mixed. Long forages should be processed so that when fed out, the hay or baleage is evenly distributed throughout the feedbunk and is consistently no more than the width of a cow’s muzzle. To achieve this objective, TMR knives need to be sharp and not worn, feeds added in the correct order to the center of the mixer, and scales calibrated. Accurate and consistent amounts of each feed need to be added to each batch and to batches fed at different feedings or days. The mixer needs to be working correctly with the kicker plate or plow in the correct position for proper mixing. To prevent feed from heating, wet feeds/forages should be removed from storage and added to the mixer at feeding time. Cows should be fed at least twice daily especially during the warmer parts of the year. The goal is to minimize sorting and ensure the cow has enough chew factor in the diet to allow proper rumination and saliva production to help maintain rumen pH.

Component Fed Herds: Feeding large amounts of grain, greater than 6 lbs per 4-hour window, can decrease rumen pH and decrease milkfat percent and thus fat yield. Feeding hay one hour prior to the grain will help maintain fat test.

Readily accessible feed: Feed should be pushed up every 30 minutes for the first 2 hours after putting feed out. Pushing up feed additional times daily is needed to help cows readily reach feed. Do not let the feedbunk get empty before the next feeding. Amounts of feed fed need to be adjusted at each feeding to reflect the number of cows and intake patterns of cows. Cows generally eat less during the summer with more eaten at night than during the day.

Minimize sorting by cows: The key is to get cows to consume the diet in the proportions balanced by your nutritionist.

Diet Management and Composition Affects Butterfat

Nutritionists try to balance rations such that rumen bacteria make products the cow uses to make milk components and not those that hinder milkfat synthesis. Nutritionists continue to learn more about the best approach which results in optimum production and fat yields. Remember you are paid for milk fat YIELD not milk fat percentage.

Amount of Starch: Adequate, but not excessive amounts, of starch should be fed. Also, remember that the digestibility of starch changes as corn silage or high moisture corn or earlage undergoes fermentation and storage. The digestibility of the starch in these feeds increases with length of storage. Corn silage harvested and then fed one-month post-harvest is not the same as that fed 6 months later.

Corn silage this year was wetter than normal with harvest taking place at a later stage of maturity of the corn kernel. Hopefully, kernel processors were set such that kernels were broken up adequately (no more than 2-3 corn kernels half or whole in a 32 oz. cup) with the cob broken into 8 pieces. After harvest, one can get a kernel processing score from a forage testing lab to determine the extent of kernel processing and thus availability of starch for the microbes in a cow's rumen. Kernel processing scores (also called corn silage processing score by some labs) should be greater than 70%.

Adequate but not excessive amounts of fiber: Adequate amounts of fiber are needed to support rumination or cud chewing. When cows ruminate, they secrete saliva that buffers the rumen. This helps maintain a favorable pH and "healthy rumen".

Diet Composition: Higher corn silage diets or those incorporating grazed young immature forage are at higher risk for lower butterfat percentages. The total amounts and types of unsaturated fatty acids found in these feeds and grains can increase the risk for a lower butterfat content.

Fat content of diet: When butterfat content is low, a proposed solution might be to just add more fat to the diet, but be aware of the consequences of adding too much fat. When feeding fats remember, that too much fat can cause the microorganisms and forage particles to become coated in fat. In addition, the types of fats fed can have a negative impact in the rumen and result in a depression in milkfat synthesis in the udder. Bottom line, not all fats are equal and adding more fat may make the situation worse depending on the original diet.

Southland Dairy Farmers Fall 2023 Calendar of Events

Our fall schedule is filling up and we look forward to educating and promoting all over the Commonwealth of Kentucky! We invite you to join our Mobile Dairy Classroom at one of our public events! See a live milking demonstration and receive a great education on the benefits of dairy in a daily diet.

Crab Orchard Elementary School, September 26, Crab Orchard

North Jackson Elementary School, September 27, Glasgow

Family STEAM Day, September 30, Louisville

Kelly Elementary School, October 4, Burlington

Buckmeadow Farm Fest, October 5 & 6, Lawrenceburg

Murray Ag Day, October 9 & 10, Murray

Henry Clay High School, October 11, Lexington

Buckmeadow Farm Fest, October 12 & 13, Lawrenceburg

Henderson County Gifted Studies, October 17 & 18, Henderson County

Cornerstone Christian Academy, October 19, Shelbyville

Buckmeadow Farm Fest, October 20, Lawrenceburg

Farm to School Day, October 24 – 26, Dry Ridge

Southside Elementary School, October 27, Versailles

Logan County Schools, October 30 – November 1, Logan County

North American International Livestock Exposition, November 9 – 12, Louisville

Muhlenberg County Ag Day, November 16, Central City



Back-To-School Trainings Showcase Milk on the Menu

Now that summer break is over and students are back in the classroom, The Dairy Alliance is sharing with school nutrition staff across the state how they can encourage students to choose milk at mealtimes. This August, staff visited schools throughout Kentucky to share The Dairy Alliance programming, especially the popular Moo Brew program.

School food service managers, staff and directors from Franklin County School District recently held a training with Alan Curtsinger, Assistant Director for Youth Wellness. Alan trained the approximately 65 people in attendance on the Strive for 35 program, which offers solutions and tips for keeping milk cold for students throughout the meal period. By maintaining milk's temperature at 35 degrees, milk is served at the optimum temperature, keeping it safe and delicious for students.

School food service staff from Nelson County received back-to-school training about The Dairy Alliance programs. Matti Coffey, Manager of Youth Wellness, trained around 15 staff members on Reimbursement to the Max. This training showcases The Dairy Alliance's innovative programs to get students excited about milk. The staff taste tested Moo Brew and also received a smoothie

training from Terin Coe, the Manager of Youth Wellness in Tennessee. Staff loved the strawberry banana smoothies as an option to serve to students.

For Hazard Independent Schools staff, Matti trained 15 staff on Strive for 35 and Reimbursement to the Max programs. There was great discussion on how to keep milk cold and their current Moo Brew

program. Matti also trained about 35 school foodservice staff of Boyle County Schools on the Reimbursement to the Max program. The presentation covered programs offered by The Dairy Alliance to help support reimbursement goals.

Each of these trainings were accompanied by Moo Brew samples. The Moo Brew program serves iced coffee served with



real milk to middle school and high school students. Boyle County learned how to implement Moo Brew on their serving lines, as the school system will be starting Moo Brew at the middle and high schools this year through Dairy Optimization Grant funds.

The program is proving successful. After attending a presentation by The Dairy Alliance about Moo Brew, McCracken County High School implemented the program using The Dairy Alliance resources. On the second day of school, one hundred students came through the line to get a Moo Brew. On the third day of school, that number doubled to two hundred students. By the fourth day of school, there were 250 Moo Brew beverages served. This shows a 10% participation increase compared to the same time last year. As students return to school, their school nutrition staff are preparing new ways to serve them delicious dairy through Moo Brew and other The Dairy Alliance programming.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



"Voice of Kentucky Agriculture"



Allied Sponsors

PLATINUM

Bel Cheese
Bluegrass Ingredients
Burkmann Feeds
Cowherd Equipment
CPC Commodities
Dairy Farmers of America
KAEB Sales
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Kentucky Farm Bureau
Kentucky Soybean Board
Prairie Farms
Shaker Equipment Sales
Southland Dairy Farmers
Trenton Farm Supply
Zoetis

GOLD

Kentucky Corn Growers
Mid-South Dairy Records
Owen Transport
Select Sires Mid-America

SILVER

Advance Comfort Technology
Givens & Houchins Inc.
Grain Processing Corporation
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
Luttrull Feed
Land O' Lakes/Nutra Blend
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers
South Central Bank
United Producers Inc.

BRONZE

Alltech
Bagdad Rolling Mills
Central Farmers Supply
Day & Day Feed
Limestone & Cooper
Phibro Animal Health
Red Barn
Shelby Insurance
Wilson Trucking



176 Pasadena Drive
Lexington, KY 40503
859.516.1129 ph
www.kydairy.org

Non-Profit
US Postage
PAID

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 3-6	KDDC Fall Tour - Wisconsin
OCTOBER 24-25	Southeast Dairy Business Initiative, Short Course
NOVEMBER 2-6	North American International Livestock Exposition Dairy Shows
NOVEMBER 16	KDDC Board meeting, Taylor County Extension Office
NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2	Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
DECEMBER 12	KDDC Board Planning meeting, Taylor County Extension Office
JANUARY 15-17	Georgia Dairy Conference