NC Dairy Producers Association Report

Norman Jordan, Jr., NCDPA President

Are you a member of the North Carolina Dairy Producers Association? If you are receiving this newsletter then you should join your state’s dairy association. For more than a decade NCDPA has been representing the NC dairy farmers’ interests. Face to face meetings, conference calls, letters, and documents of concern have been held and sent to our state and national legislators, the Commissioner of Agriculture, various supporting associations such as NC Farm Bureau, NC State Grange, and other parties of influence and importance.

NCDPA has worked on environmental issues, supported the NC Dairy Stabilization and Growth Act, MILC extension, and Johnes testing and eradication funding. In 2004 we hosted a NC Commissioner of Agriculture Candidates forum and set up an advisory committee to work with NCD&A&CS on developing research priorities and facilities needed by the industry. NCDPA is continuing its involvement in developing a response to a foot and mouth disease outbreak that would identify herds that test negative in order to help keep those herds in business in the face of a disaster.

During the summer of 2006 NCDPA became a member of the Southeast Producers Steering Committee in order to help address marketing problems that exist and are of great concern to the southeastern dairy industry. With the support of the ten southeastern Commissioners of Agriculture and most southeast Farm Bureau presidents, the steering committee met in Washington on October 3, 2006 with Dana Cole, Deputy Administrator, Dairy Programs, AMS-USDA and members of her staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss milk marketing problems in the southeast, and explore opportunities for more in-depth study to better understand the issues and possible solutions that would improve the financial health and well being of the southeastern dairy industry. She and her staff acknowledged that there are problems in the southeast, and recommended that we submit proposals to address the problems we face.
In November 2006 a proposal, dealing with the current, excessively liberal, touch base and diversion limitations was sent to the market administrators of Federal Orders 5 and 7. This proposal would make the rules for Orders 5 and 7 more comparable to Florida’s Order 6 rules that have allowed those farmers to continue to plan and expand, as dictated by supply and demand, since their money is kept in their market place. The Steering Committee, which is listed below, feels that this is the first step in the effort to improve the financial health of the southeastern dairy industry. We will continue our efforts.

Southeast Producers Steering Committee
Norman Jordan, Jr., President, North Carolina Dairy Producers Association and Chairman, Southeast Producers Steering Committee
Dr. Ben Shelton, President, Upper South Milk Producers Association
Dewitt Hardee, NCDA&CS Consumer Program Specialist
Tom Thompson, President, Georgia Milk Producers, Inc.
Beth Crocker, General Counsel and Director of Legal Affairs, SC Department of Agriculture
Chester Lowder, NC Farm Bureau, Director of Livestock Programs
Roger Thomas, Executive Director, Kentucky Dairy Development Council

Again I ask you, are you a member of the NCDPA? If not, you should be and I encourage you to join. When asked about what the NCDPA does, I respond that the NCDPA represents the interests of North Carolina’s dairy farmers. I would like to say that our membership includes 100% of NC’s 300 plus dairy farms. Please consider joining as we continue our focus during 2007 on milk marketing issues, farm biosecurity and business continuity, and the development of a NC Dairy Strategic Plan. The enclosed brochure briefly describes NCDPA, and contains a membership application form that you can complete and mail in today. Come join us at our annual meeting on February 28, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Salisbury, NC.

Annual NC Dairy Conference Scheduled

Dr. Donald Pritchard, NCSU Extension Dairy Specialist

The 56th annual North Carolina Dairy Conference will be held this coming March 1, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Salisbury. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with conference attendees being able to visit with the numerous exhibitors who will be there to show and discuss their products and services. The morning educational program will commence at 9:45.

Several dairy groups will be having their board or annual meetings on February 28. In the afternoon there will be the annual Dairy Foods Safety and Quality Conference, the North Carolina ADA/SUDIA Board meeting, and the North Carolina Dairy Youth Foundation Board meeting.

At 7 p.m. on February 28 the North Carolina Dairy Producers Association will have their annual meeting. Dairy producers and dairy industry representatives are encouraged to become members of the NCDPA and attend this annual meeting and program. In addition to president Norman Jordan, Jr.’s report of organization activities during the year and the election of Directors, the group will hear from NCDA&CS Commissioner Steve Troxler about the status of several dairy initiatives that the NCDA&CS, NCSU, and NCFB have been working on this year to assist and stabilize the dairy industry in the state.
During the morning program of the annual Dairy Conference on March 1, the featured speaker will be Dr. Mike Overton. He will be discussing “Cow Comfort Considerations”. Dr. Overton is a veterinarian who practiced in North Carolina for several years. He is currently a faculty member at the University of Georgia. The featured afternoon presentation about “Factors Affecting Dairy Cow Lameness” will be given by Dr. Dana Tomlinson from the Zinpro Corporation. Several other short presentations on various dairy topics will also be given during the day’s program.

A brochure describing the conference and a registration form will be sent to producers and industry representatives in January. Plan now to attend this annual educational and social event.

**Report on State 4-H Dairy Judging Teams and Dairy Quiz Bowl Team, and National 4-H Dairy Conference**

Dr. Brinton Hopkins, NCSU Extension Dairy Specialist

**2006 State 4-H Dairy Judging Teams Compete at Contests in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Kentucky**

Congratulations to both 2006 North Carolina State 4-H Dairy Judging Teams for an outstanding judging season. Coaches were Ken Vaughn (County Extension Director in Iredell County); Brad Johnson (Dairy and Livestock Extension Agent in Rowan County); Nancy Keith (Area Specialized Dairy Extension Agent based in Yadkin County) and Dr. Brinton Hopkins (Extension Dairy Specialist).

State 4-H Dairy Judging Team Members (pictured from left to right): Ken Vaughn (County Extension Director in Iredell County, Coach); Carrie Hoffner (Rowan County); Tyler Bussard (Rowan County); Joe White (Johnston County); Hillary Robinson (Rowan County); and Brad Johnson (Dairy and Livestock Extension Agent in Rowan County, Coach).
Alternate State 4-H Dairy Judging Team Members (pictured from left to right): Nancy Keith (Area Specialized Dairy Extension Agent based in Yadkin County, Coach); Melinda Staebner (Yadkin County); Otto Buttke (Randolph County); Caleb Knox (Rowan County); Avery Lutz (Davie County); and Ken Vaughn (County Extension Director in Iredell County, Coach).

Primary funding for the teams to travel and compete was generously provided by the North Carolina Dairy Youth Foundation.

**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Contest:**
Our state team placed 12th overall and 12th in reasons in the Pennsylvania Youth Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held in Harrisburg, PA. North Carolina won 2nd place in the Guernsey breed, 7th in Ayrshires, 9th in Holsteins and 2nd in the Linear Evaluation part of the contest.

On the trip to Harrisburg, the team participated in practice sessions on farms in Maryland, visited the Gettysburg battlefield and the North Carolina Memorial. While in Pennsylvania, the team also toured Hershey, PA and the Amish area in Lancaster County.

**National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest held at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin:**
The state team traveled to Madison, Wisconsin and competed at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest held at the World Dairy Expo. Our state team placed 14th in total overall score and 13th in total reasons score out of 30 U.S. teams.

The team placed 8th in the Ayrshire breed; 8th in Holsteins; 10th in Jerseys; 16th in Guernseys and 25th in Brown Swiss. Individual highlights included: Tyler Bussard (3rd in Guernseys); Joe White (7th in Holsteins); Carrie Hoffner (10th in Holsteins, 15th in Jerseys, 20th in Ayrshires and 24th high individual overall in the contest); and Hillary Robinson (27th in Guernseys).

On the Saturday before the contest, our North Carolina State 4-H Team participated in practice judging sessions at Daltondale Ayrshires in Hartland, WI; Vilter Guernseys in Hartland, WI; Agnew Farm in Oconomowoc, WI and Crescentmead Holsteins in Ixonia, WI. On the day before the contest, the teams had a great time participating with the other teams in touring dairy sites in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin including NASCO, the Dairy Shrine, and the Hoard’s Dairyman Farm. They also participated in judging practice sessions at Sunshine
Genetics, Inc. in Whitewater, Wisconsin and Barlass Jersey Farm in Janesville, Wisconsin. On the day following the contest, the team visited World Dairy Expo where they saw hundreds of dairy exhibits as well as some of the finest dairy cattle and dairy shows in the world.

**North American 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Louisville, KY:**
Congratulations to the Alternate State 4-H Dairy Judging Team for placing 12th out of 22 teams in overall score and 9th overall in reasons in the North American 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Louisville, KY. The team placed 3rd in Brown Swiss, 4th in Holstein, 10th in Ayrshire, 13th in Guernsey and 19th in Jersey. Individual highlights included: Avery Lutz placed 2nd in Holsteins and 7th in Brown Swiss while Melinda Staebner placed 11th overall in the contest.

**North Carolina State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team from Rowan County Competes at 2006 National Contest in Kentucky**

Congratulations to the Rowan County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team who did an outstanding job representing North Carolina and competing at the North American 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. Team members included Carrie Hoffner, Tyler Bussard, Hillary Robinson, John Hoffner, and Ryan Sloop. Brad Johnson (Rowan County Dairy and Livestock Extension Agent), and David and Cheryl Correll (Rowan County 4-H Dairy Volunteers) served as coaches.

State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team. Pictured (from left to right): Seated: Brad Johnson (Dairy and Livestock Extension Agent in Rowan County, Coach); David Correll (Rowan County Dairy Volunteer, Coach); Cheryl Correll (Rowan County Dairy Volunteer, Coach); Tyler Bussard; Standing: Carrie Hoffner; John Hoffner; Hillary Robinson; and Ryan Sloop.
North Carolina Youth Participate in the 2006 National 4-H Dairy Youth Conference

Congratulations to Melinda Staebner (Yadkin County) and Ryan Sloop (Rowan County) for being selected, through an application and interview process, to attend the National 4-H Dairy Conference that was held on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Dr. Brinton Hopkins, Extension Dairy Specialist and Amy Kidd, Vocational Agriculture Teacher at Eastern Randolph High School, accompanied the youth to this conference.

Youth from across the United States and certain provinces of Canada participated in this educational conference that was held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during World Dairy Expo. At the conference, youth participated in many outstanding educational sessions and seminars on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus and visited several dairy farms, a commercial dairy heifer grower farm, ABS headquarters and the World Dairy Expo. They also toured the Hoard’s Dairyman Farm, Hoard’s Dairyman publishing company, the National Dairy Shrine and NASCO.

Congratulations to Ryan Sloop who received an additional honor by being selected by the National 4-H Dairy Conference Planning Committee to serve as one of two youth representatives on this national committee for the 2007 conference.

Funding for our youth to attend this conference was generously provided by the North Carolina Dairy Youth Foundation.

North Carolina Delegates to the National 4-H Dairy Conference. Pictured (from left to right): Dr. Brinton Hopkins, Extension Dairy Specialist; Amy Kidd, Vocational Agriculture Teacher at Eastern Randolph High School; Melinda Staebner (Yadkin County) and Ryan Sloop (Rowan County).
The Importance of Feed & Forage Testing

Jennifer Godwin, NCDA&CS Feed Administrator

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services offers testing for feed and forage samples through the Feed Section of the Food and Drug Protection Division. Knowing the nutrient composition of feeds and forages will ensure that the nutritional needs and efficient production levels for livestock are met. Forage and feed analysis is an effective management tool that will provide the information needed to formulate a balanced ration. Nutritional values of forages and feed vary according to species, variety, stage of maturity, climate, soil, and various other conditions; therefore, using a sound feeding program based on quality can maximize livestock performance at a minimal cost to the producer.

Testing processes available are a complete analysis (at a cost of $10) and additional testing (no additional charge). A complete analysis result includes the percentages of dry matter, crude protein, unavailable protein, adjusted crude protein, acid detergent fiber (ADF), ash, and minerals (calcium, phosphorous, sodium, magnesium, sulfur, potassium, copper, iron, manganese, and zinc). Additional testing available includes testing for neutral detergent fiber (NDF), nitrates, fat, mycotoxins (aflatoxin, ochratoxin, DON, T-2 toxin, and zearalenone).

It is important to take a representative sample of the feed or forage being tested in order to obtain an accurate estimate of their value. The method of sampling varies with the feed and forage type. A sample should represent a “lot”, i.e. a forage “lot” is from a single species harvested from one field within a 5-7 day period, and a feed “lot” is feed mixture used in a single ration. Because variation is possible, it is important to collect several sub-samples (a small quantity of feed drawn from a lot) and mix thoroughly.

Some points to remember when taking samples are: sample each lot of feed/forage separately, take random samples from several lots, use a core sampler for hay and fresh silage, do not sample dry or spoiled silage (especially near the surface of the silage), clearly label each sample with an identification that helps you identify the sample, and remove all air from a quart size sample and tie securely. Instructions and the forage analysis form can be found by visiting: http://www.agr.state.nc.us/consumer.htm. Mail samples promptly (do not allow the sample to mold or change moisture content, it’s best to mail the same day they are taken) along with a completed form and any necessary monies. Your animal’s health and productivity are important. We will be happy to help.
**NCSU Extension Dairy Specialists**

Dr. Geoff Benson - 919/515-5184
-dairy farm management, marketing & policy
Dr. Brinton Hopkins - 919/515-7592
-nutrition, replacements, 4-H/Youth
Dr. Don Pritchard - 919/515-8805
-milking management, mastitis, special programs, newsletter editor
Dr. Steve Washburn - 919/515-7726
-reproduction and farm systems
Dr. Lon Whitlow - 919/515-7602
-nutrition & feeding management

(Each of the area agents serve several counties. Their home county is listed after the phone number.)
Marti Day – 336-375-5876 – Guilford
Nancy Keith – 336-679-2061 – Yadkin
Lara Worden – 704-922-2118 – Gaston

**Dairy Success Program Participating County Extension Agents**

Roger Cobb - 336/570-6740 - Alamance
Brad Johnson – 704/633-0571 - Rowan
Tony McGaha – 828/456-3575 - Haywood
Carl McKnights – 336/242-2082 - Davidson
Carl Pless - 704/920-3310 - Cabarrus
Ken Vaughn – 704/878-3165 - Iredell

**NCSU Dairy Extension Web Page Address**


North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A & T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.