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GEORGIA DAIRYFAX

Dear Dairy Producers:

The enclosed information was prepared by the University of Georgia Animal and Dairy Science faculty in Dairy Extension, Research & Teaching. We trust this information will be helpful to dairy farmers and dairy related businesses for continued improvement of the Georgia Dairy Industry.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: October November December 2023

Sincerely,

Shu Tao

Associate Professor

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION

Dr. Valerie Ryman is leaving the Department of Animal and Dairy Science

Dr. Valerie Ryman, the Assistant Professor and State Extension Dairy Specialist, is leaving the Department of Animal and Dairy Science. But she will remain at UGA, and start her new position at the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology of College of Veterinary Medicine as a lecturer specifically focusing on the Biomedical Physiology undergraduate program. She will start her new position on January 1st, 2024.

Dr. Ryman is originally from South Carolina where she received her B.S. degree at Clemson University. Later, she received her M.S. degree from UGA under the direction of Dr. Steve Nickerson. Dr. Ryman then received her Ph.D. from Michigan State University under the direction of Dr. Lorraine Sordillo. Dr. Ryman's research centered on immunity, inflammation, and mammary health. Following a brief post-doctoral training, Dr. Ryman joined the Department of Animal and Dairy Science at UGA in 2017 as a public service assistant. In 2019, she transitioned to an assistant professor position in the same department.

Dr. Ryman excels in teaching. She teaches multiple graduate and undergraduate level classes (8) in the department with a total of 1,600 credit hours. Her classes are well liked by students. Her teaching is also well recognized by peers. She was an Active Learning Leader (2023), a Teaching Academy Fellow (2020-2021), and a Lily Teaching Fellow (2020-2022). In addition to her class teaching, she is an active mentor for undergraduate research. She mentors more than 20 students per year in various research trials. Notably, 5 undergraduate researchers under her mentorship received UGA Undergraduate Research Awards in the last 5 years. Further, Dr. Ryman has received $12,000 Teaching Enhancement and Innovation Funds from UGA to support her teaching activities.

As a State Extension Dairy Specialist, Dr. Ryman's extension program focuses on mammary health in dairy herds. She conducted in-person farm visits and provided valuable recommendations in maintaining or improving mammary health in many dairy farms. She hosted and participated in different workshops for dairy producers and presented more than 30 Extension and Outreach talks and presentations. Additionally, she has published over 25 Extension bulletins and newsletters.

Although no official research appointment, Dr. Ryman is productive in research publications with 20 peer-reviewed journal articles. She has mentored two graduate students and served as committee members for 8 other graduate students. Further, she has secured over $135,000 in grant funding as a principal investigator or co-investigator.

Dr. Ryman has been a great resource for dairy producers, industry personnels, and undergraduate and graduate students. We appreciate her contributions to the GA dairy industry, and the teaching, extension, and research programs in the Department of Animal and Dairy Science. We also appreciate the opportunity to work with her in the last 6 years.

Thank you, Valerie. Congratulations on your new job. Good luck with your new adventure. You will be missed.

Welcome Dr. Anderson A. C. Alves

Dr. Anderson Alves recently joined the Department of Animal and Dairy Science at UGA. He is an expert in Precision Livestock Science and will provide tremendous value to our research, teaching, and extension programs.

Dr. Alves is originally from Brazil. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Animal Science from the State University Vale Do Acarau and Federal University of Ceara, respectively. He then went on to receive his Ph.D. degree in Animal Breeding and Genetics from Sao Paulo State University in 2019. Dr. Alves's research in graduate school focused on applying machine learning for genomic analysis of reproductive traits in Nellore cattle. Following graduate school, Dr. Alves taught at the Federal Institute of Education, Science, and Technology of Maranhao for 3 years before joining the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2021 as a postdoctoral research associate.

At UGA, Dr. Alves's research agenda will center on harnessing sensor technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) techniques to support efficient and sustainable livestock farming, driven by non-invasive and automated methods for monitoring welfare, health, and production indicators in dairy cattle and other livestock species. His research group will focus on the development and application of efficient statistical learning methods and computational tools for the analysis of high-dimensional livestock data derived from different sources, including cameras, acoustic sensors, farm records, radio-frequency systems, and modern molecular information. The general goal is to create decision-making tools that will support efficient management decisions. Examples of applications include the use of cameras to monitor individual behavior in dairy cows, enabling early disease prediction, estrus detection, and identification of heat stress indicators.

Dr. Alves plans to teach courses on Machine Learning Applied to Large Livestock Data. His goal is to train students with several data-analytic skills that will help them to make sense of data collected on-farm, ultimately contributing to the efforts of future generations to improve livestock production and efficiency.

2024 Dairy Youth Programs

A quick guide to all things DAIRY in 2024

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Event Name	Dates	Location
State Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest	January 29th	*Rock Eagle 4-H Center*
State Commercial Dairy Heifer Show	February 21st - 23rd	*Perry, GA*
State Dairy Judging Contest	April 26th	*Athens, GA*
Southeast Dairy Youth Retreat	July 8th - 24th	Gainesville, FL
National 4-H Dairy Conference	September 29th - October 2nd	Madison, WI
National Youth Dairy Judging Contest	TBD	Madison, WI
National Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest	November 8th - 9th	Louisville, KY

Fundamental Dairy Youth Program Objectives
Increase experiences with agriculture
Increase awareness regarding opportunities within agriculture
Grow connections between youth with similar interests and goals
Develop life skills such as team work, independence, and time management
Develop understanding of the dairy industry
Grow in appreciation of the dairy industry
Have fun while learning and growing

2023 – A Year of Change

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2023 has been an interesting year with some big changes but not all were positive. Milk prices were often touted as going higher but remained fairly constant. Input costs continued to rise even with the government's effort to bring down inflation.

Here are a few observations I have made on 2023.

NEW MILK PLANT

Walmart announced plans to build a milk plant in Valdosta. For the past decades there have been discussions of the "chicken or egg" theory to increase the Georgia dairy industry. Do we need to add dairies and cows to get a new milk plant or do we need a new milk plant to get new dairies and more cows? With the Walmart announcement the question has been answered. Now we have to add dairies or are we just going to move milk. Are the present dairy farmers going to move from one processor to another processor? Are the coops going to move milk into the region to meet the demand or are they going to encourage a dairy expansion?

The new plant announcement has received plenty of press coverage. All of the dairy publications and internet blogs have mentioned the new plant. What I have not seen is any article on the opportunity for new dairies for the plant.

Georgia Milk Producers and the coops do not have a good history of encouraging expansion. Over the years there has been information developed on the opportunity for dairy expansion in Georgia and the Southeast. I expected there would be a talk at the Georgia Milk Producers Dairy conference or a report on the opportunities.

A suggestion I have to spread the word of the opportunities is to have a booth at World Dairy Expo next year. Since about one third of the service area for the new plant is North Florida, it could be a cooperative effort between Georgia and Florida. It could include the universities, state government agencies, producer organizations and the coops. Maybe some local governments would be interested in attracting new dairies.

Hopefully there will be an expansion of dairies as I believe the more local milk produced the stronger the Georgia dairy industry will be.

DRYLAND CORN

In the 1960's and 1970's, the UGA Dairy with other producers in the state grew corn for silage without irrigation. Yields were less than irrigated crops and the tonnage varied from year to year with the amount of rain during the growing season. The dairy grew corn and sorghum for a summer silage crop. The rainfall in the summer started to become more variable. Longer periods of no rain in the summer resulted in the loss of the dryland corn crop while the sorghum was more drought resistant resulting in some yield of forage. The UGA Dairy in the early 1980's stopped growing

dryland corn and planted only sorghum for a summer forage crop. In the 40 years, there was only 1 year with a total failure of the sorghum crop.

As the summer weather pattern has changed with shorter dry periods during the growing season the UGA Dairy returned to dryland corn for silage. This past year the crop yielded 12 tons per acre for an adequate yield. The yield would have been higher but there was a two-week dry period before harvest.

Looking at the annual rainfall, the average of 49 inches for Athens is almost always reached. The critical rainfall is the consistent and well-spaced rain during the growing season. The last 2 years have had better summer rains in Athens. This is very variable for the state as NW Georgia had a drought this year. This makes the decision to grow dryland corn more difficult. With corn as a forage, the highest yield of energy is harvested but sorghum can compete as it has a higher drought tolerance and will more consistently produce a larger crop.

HAULING COSTS

An interesting comment by Georgia dairy producers was that the new plant would help to decrease the cost of hauling milk from the farm to the plant. Obtaining data to evaluate the hauling costs is difficult as well as how the rates are calculated. The more milk moved into the plant from long distances has an impact. So if the new plant does not increase local production then the hauling costs could increase as more milk from distance would have to be moved into the plant.

In table 1 below, the hauling costs for the UGA Dairy for the last 6 years is presented. It was approximately $.90 /cwt for 2016 to 2021. In 2022 the hauling cost increased $.40 and a fuel and stop charge were added which increased the total shipping cost to $1.52. Because milk prices were higher in 2022 this was not a large increase in the % of the milk check. If the milk price had stayed the same as 2021 then this increase would be 7.56% of the milk check.

Trying to compare the hauling costs in different regions, it is difficult to obtain data. Hoard's Dairyman had an article discussing the increase of hauling costs in 2022 from 2021. For the Upper Midwest their figures were $.51 for 2021 and $.62 for 2022. Around one half of our costs at the UGA Dairy. Lowering these costs definitely would help dairymen plus also would contribute to new dairies being added.

Table 1. Hauling Costs for the UGA Dairy for 2016 to 2022.

Year	cwt shipped	income/ cwt	hauling/ cwt	fuel/ cwt	stop charge/ cwt	shipping $/cwt	% of milk check
2022	22674.79	$28.74	$1.29	$0.10	$0.14	$1.52	5.29
2021	24902.45	$20.10	$0.90			$0.90	4.48
2020	23289.74	$19.58	$0.88			$0.88	4.48
2019	15951.94	$19.70	$0.88			$0.88	4.45
2018	19030.29	$16.90	$0.88			$0.88	5.20
2017	22402.82	$18.78	$0.93			$0.93	4.96
2016	23012.45	$17.39	$0.97			$0.97	5.55

REVIEW AND PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR

It is the year end, and many people take this time to review the past year and make plans for the next year. Budgets are generated to evaluate potential changes. One of the hardest things to do is to predict the price of milk for the coming year. Looking back gives a view of where prices have been and can be a guide to the future. The average value may be good for planning. The old saying "plan for the average, hope for the best and survive the lowest "maybe the best guide.

In graph 1 the mailbox price for milk for the UGA Dairy is presented. The mailbox price is useful because it takes into account the deductions checkoff, coop, hauling, and premiums and penalties for SCC, quality, seasonality. If a farm has deductions taken for loans, feed costs or other deductions, this needs to be accounted for in the budgeting process and calculate mailbox price.

The first thing to notice for the mailbox price is the variability over the years. In the thirteen years presented there are several large swings. The average price over the time period is $20.14/cwt. Depending on the time period and the length of time considered the average price will vary greatly. Using a 2 year or 5 year period will result in very different values. The longer the period the more consistent the value will represent the period. The median price is the $19.48/cwt. This is the price that half of the values are above it and half are below it. With the median price below the average, it shows that there is more variability in the higher prices than the lower prices. By using both values the level of confidence in the budgets can be increased.

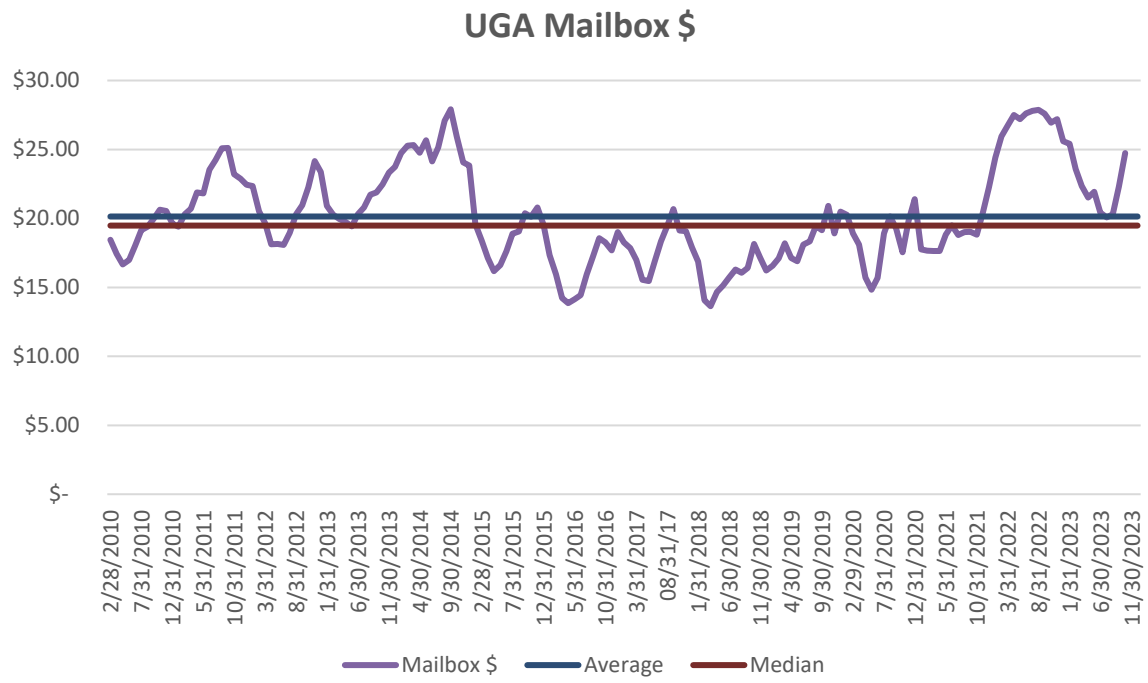

Figure 1. The Mailbox Monthly Price, Average Mailbox Price and Median Mailbox Price.

I hope everyone has a good year and 2024 is a better dairy year.

Happy Holidays Everyone!!!

Reproduction Audits

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Many times in our professions we can become too engrained and entrenched in "the way we've always done it" that we become almost blind to new ideas and opportunities. A fresh set of eyes often can see things that we overlooked because of familiarity. Concurrently, we often no longer see things that we have become too frustrated trying to address. These reasons among others are why I would like to offer **reproduction audits.**

What is a Reproduction Audit?

This audit will take a look at your records to assess where you currently stand reproductively as well as pitfalls and opportunities for improvement. From this and if needed, I will develop a core set of recommendations. These recommendations will be based on your resources, motivation, and goals.

What will I need?

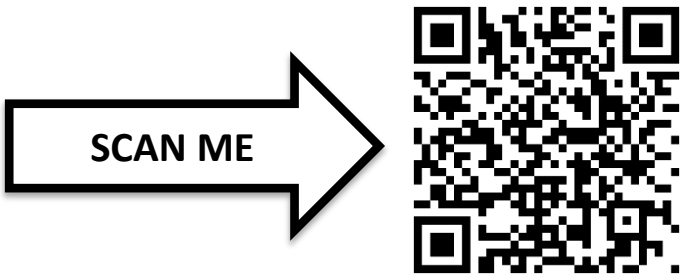
In the beginning, only access to your records for reproduction will be key. Ideally this would be in the form of PCDart, Delpro, DairyComp, etc. I will not share your information unless you deem it acceptable.

Following this initial review, I would like to make a farm visit to look at the facilities, animals, etc. During these, I could also assist with any necessary reproduction trainings (AI, Heat Checking, Pregnancy Detection).

What are the Goals?

My goal is simple, to help. That is to help without being intrusive. If granted your permission, I would also use it to open up avenues of education for county agents as well as graduate and undergraduate students.

If interested in giving it a try, use the QR code below to fill out a quick survey to get you started. I look forward to the potential of working with you and your herd!



Should we be more concerned about fescue toxicosis in the dairy industry?

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Throughout North Georgia sits the fescue belt that consist of a hearty deep-rooted perennial known as tall fescue. Tall fescue is well adapted to cooler seasons and is utilized by many farmers as it makes up approximately 1 million acers of pasture throughout northern Georgia. Although typically utilized in cooler weather, tall fescue can also be used in the early to mid-summer if moisture conditions are right. Tall fescue has many benefits such as drought tolerance and resistance to various insects, viruses, and fungal diseases; tolerance and resistance that is attributed to the presence of a fungal endophyte, *Neotypodium coenophialum*. An endophyte is classified as a fungus or bacteria that lives within a plant, specifically between its cells. This particular habitat for the endophyte can make detection difficult since plants do not show visible signs of infection. In the case of tall fescue, the fugus produces a toxic ergot alkaloid which is a naturally occurring nitrogen compound. Since the endophyte is already present at the time of planting, infection will begin to spread through the plant as it grows. The most common ergot alkaloid found in tall fescue is ergovaline which when consumed can lead to fescue toxicosis. Fescue toxicosis has been known to negatively impact the heath and productivity of cattle. Ergovaline is known to cause vasoconstriction, i.e. narrowing of blood vessels, and compromise multiple organ systems such as the nervous and reproduction system. Common symptoms observed by cattle affected by fescue toxicosis include, but are not limited to decreased feed intake, decreased milk production, fescue foot, and thickened placentas. The financial implications of fescue toxicosis is not as widely discussed within the dairy industry, but within the beef industry it has been reported to cost U.S producers $2 billion annually. Within the dairy industry, one major area of concern is the impact of fescue toxicosis on milk production thought to be the result of a decrease in prolactin.

Prolactin: Why do we care in milk-producing animals?

Prolactin is a hormone that is released from the pituitary gland in the brain and serves an important role in udder development and colostrum/milk production. Milk synthesis can be broken down into two phases, a lactogenic phase that encompasses the onset of lactation (up to peak lactation) and a galactopoietic phase (beginning at ~mid-lactation) that is focused on the maintenance of milk production. Although there has been previous research demonstrating a positive relationship between prolactin and milk yield throughout lactation (i.e., we HAVE to have

prolactin for milk), there are still many unknowns about the role of prolactin in maintaining milk synthesis. However, prolactin, or the lack of it, has been found to have profound effects within the lactogenesis phase.

One of the important roles of prolactin in lactogenesis is that it helps with the maturation of nonfunctioning milk-producing epithelial cells within the udder to fully functioning cells capable of milk-secretion. Development of milk-producing epithelial cells **requires** prolactin to produce vital proteins in the udder, including alpha-lactalbumin, a specific milk protein. This specialized protein is only found in the udder once the udder cells are mature and is absolutely necessary for lactose to be made. Most know that lactose is a natural sugar found in milk. What is not known as widely, is that without lactose water is not drawn into the gland. Without water/fluid drawn into the gland, milk synthesis does not happen. Thus, prolactin → lactose → milk synthesis. Exactly how all of this happens is not fully understood but we do know that prolactin is required for the onset of lactation. Without prolactin, a first-calf heifer or cow will be severely diminished in their capacity to begin lactation.

Impact of ergot alkaloids on milk production and concerns for producers

Milk production

Cattle affected by fescue toxicosis have decreased milk yield or a complete loss of milk production (called agalactiae), which may be attributed to a several factors, one being that ergot alkaloids mimic the effects of dopamine. Dopamine prevents the release of prolactin from the pituitary gland, and since a decrease in prolactin most impacts the process of lactogenesis, leaving fresh heifers and cows most vulnerable to a loss in milk production. Late gestation cows and heifers that are fed endophyte-infected fescue can experience agalactia at parturition. Ergot alkaloids also lead to decreased milk synthesis/yield during mid to late lactation as a result of vasoconstriction. Narrowing of the blood vessels can reduce the amount the milk precursors/nutrients delivered to the udder, resulting in decreased milk production.

Components (fat)

Very little is known about the impact of ergot alkaloids on milk fat synthesis, but it has been reported that it can have alter fat metabolism. Dairy cattle fed high endophyte-positive fescue had lower milk fat content % and lower milk fat yields overall when compared to those fed negative endophyte fescue. Although the mechanism behind the milkfat decrease remains unclear, it is important to be aware of these potential impacts, especially for dairies that market their milk as having higher fat content and for meeting milk fat thresholds that are regulated by milk co-operatives.

Seasonal considerations

As we would expect, there are seasonal effects with respect to susceptibility and severity of fescue toxicosis. As an example, cattle are most at risk during the summer months when alkaloid concentrations in the plant are much higher. With respect to dairy cattle, heat stress is already an important consideration, especially in pasture-reared animals. Adding fescue toxicosis as an additional potential stressor intensifies heat-related impacts (e.g., depression in reproductive efficiency) which can greatly hinder the performance of cattle in many areas, but especially milk production.

So what should you do?

In short…get your pasture tested! If there is reason to suspect your fescue pasture is impacted by endophytic fungus, it is best practice to reach out to your local county Extension agent to learn about how to collect and send a sample to a laboratory as this is the only method to verify the presence of the endophyte.

My cattle graze endophyte-infected forage. What do I do?

Considering the endophyte toxin is present within the tissue of the plant, the best way to manage an endophyte-infected pasture is to destroy and reseed it. It is important to recognize that the endophyte toxin can remain active if the seed is less than a year old. When replanting a pasture, it is recommended to replant using either endophyte negative or a "novel" or "friendly" endophyte. However, endophyte negative fescue is not recommended in the state of Georgia because it does not grow as well as endophyte positive or novel endophyte, especially under our hot (and often drought) conditions. Novel endophyte seed does cost more per pound then traditional fescue but serves as a good alternative because it contains similar positive attributes (survivability, yield) associated with the use of endophyte-positive fescue but lacks the detrimental ergot alkaloid. Reseeding with novel endophyte is the recommended method of control by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for pastures with an infection rate of 60% and above. The process of reseeding a pasture can be time consuming and costly for a producer but can dramatically reduce the financial impact of fescue toxicosis in the long run. Outside of reseeding, there are different management strategies that can be utilized to mitigate the risk of toxicity, such as:

1) Avoiding grazing cattle on fescue pastures in the summer, rather graze cattle on these pastures in the winter when the alkaloid toxin has decreased.

2) Mowing and/or applying herbicides to minimize the presence of the seed heads where concentration of alkaloids is the highest.

3) Diluting the pasture by inter-seeding with legumes such as white or red clover or other productive grasses such as bermudagrass. The NRCS only recommends this method in pastures that have an infection rate of less than 25-35%. Unfortunately, based on available UGA Forage Team survey data, very few Georgia pastures would qualify for this. Considering the fescue belt runs right through northern Georgia, UGA conducted a survey in 2021 to determine the extent of this toxic endophyte. The results from 21 North Georgia counties showed that most of the pastures were severely infected with infection rates of around 95-100%.

Conclusion

The impact of fescue toxicosis on dairy production is becoming a growing concern for Georgia producers who utilize fescue in grazing pastures or those that utilize it within total mixed rations. Overall, the impact of fescue toxicosis on milk production still requires more research to better understand its impacts on milk production, milk component synthesis, and the financial impact on affected farmers. But there are solutions that can be utilized in improving forage composition on your farm.

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All I Want for Christmas is….No Rumen Drinking

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Feeding preweaned calves is an investment in the future of our herd. However, this is met with the realization that this area of the operation is both labor intensive and financially costly. Therefore, the management of these calves becomes a fine balance of being both effective and efficient.

How do Calves Utilize Milk?

The ruminant animal's stomach is broken down into four parts, the rumen, reticulum, omasum and abomasum. In adult cattle nutrition, the rumen or "fermentation vat" is the primary focus as it heavily influences the animal's utilization of feedstuffs. However, in young, preweaned calves the abomasum is the focal area for digestion. In fact, the calf's abomasum makes up approximately 60% of total stomach capacity while the rumen represents around 25%. In adult cattle, these inverse with the rumen representing close to 80% of total capacity and the abomasum only around 8-10%.

The abomasum is the primary compartment in the preweaned calf for two, primary reasons. The first is that the abomasum is more effective at digesting and utilizing milk components. The second is that rumen development occurs over time following exposure to fibrous feeds as well as microbial populations. Within the abomasum, ingested milk is exposed to rennin and pepsin, which helps to form a milk clot. In a biological phenomenon, this clot slows the rate of milk passage through the abomasum, which allows not only more effective digestions of milk nutrients, but a sustained release of those nutrients over time. Additionally, at a few days of age, the abomasum becomes acidic, which helps facilitate the enzymatic breakdown and subsequent utilization of milk components.

How does Milk get to the Abomasum?

The natural flow of feed in adult cattle has it first settling the reticulo-rumen as seen in the figure below.

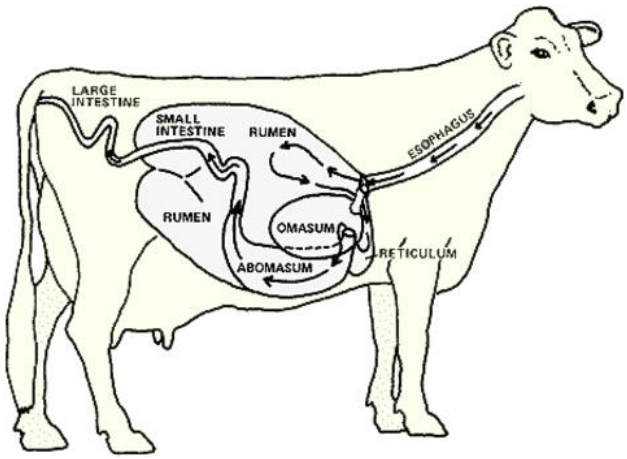

Figure 1. The compartments of the ruminant animals digestive system by Lynn et al, 2021.

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This mechanism, then must be anatomically bypassed to allow milk to go straight to the abomasum in the preweaned calf. This is achieved by a structure called the esophageal groove. This groove is a muscular structure located at the distal end of the esophagus that when shut, allows milk to go straight to the abomasum, effectively bypassing the rumen. If milk is shuffled to the rumen instead of the abomasum, there is reduced utilization of milk nutrients by the calf due to passage rate, breakdown (the rumen has a higher pH when compared to the abomasum), and microbial utilization. Additionally, milk digestion in the rumen can lead to negative health consequences to include rumen lining inflammation and metabolic acidosis as the calf's rumen pH drops.

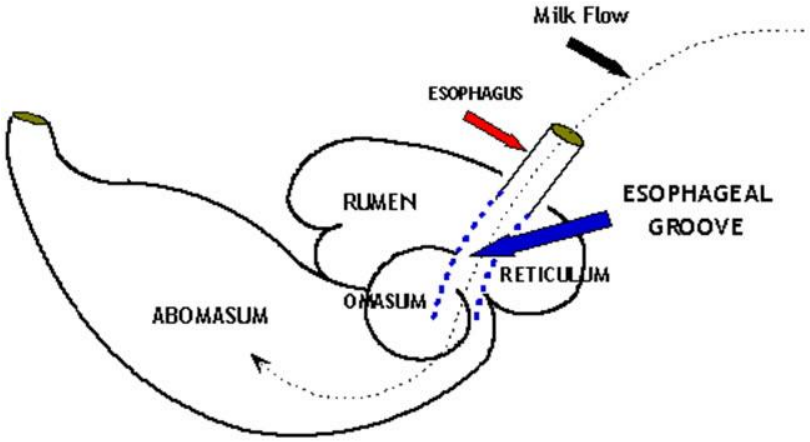

Figure 2. Esophageal groove moving milk to the abomasum, Merrick Animal Nutrition, Inc.

What is Rumen Drinking?

The closure of the esophageal groove is thought to be dependent on a few factors to include head/neck angle when consuming milk, the suckling reflex, milk proteins, and calf thriftiness among others. Rumen drinking is the condition in which there is a complete or partial failure of the esophageal groove to close. This can result from several reasons to include feeding method, calf health, milk temperature, drinking speed, stress, force feeding, and poor-quality milk. Therefore, a lot in the day-to-day practice of feeding calves can contribute to an increased incidence of "rumen drinking". However, one of the most cited causes is feeding from buckets instead of bottles. The feeding of milk via buckets increases the risk of rumen drinking as it reduces/removes the suckle reflex, has the calves consuming milk at a downward angle, and likely increases the feeding speed. All three factors, reduce effective groove closure.

How to Reduce Rumen Drinking

Reduction of rumen drinking will increase calf utilization of milk nutrients, which should translate to healthier calves with higher rates of gain.

To minimize rumen drinking:

- Feed from teats/bottles instead of open buckets
- Make sure milk temperature is warm (101-105° F) and consistent
- Do not open teat ends to allow faster feeding
- Feed high quality milk or milk replacer
- Reduce stress and health incidences that may minimize suckle reflex
- Minimize force feeding of calves

In closing, the concept of rumen drinking in preweaned calves is one that is easily overlooked as the impacts are not readily seen. However, calf physiology proves that milk digestion in the abomasum is critical for calf performance. Therefore, minimizing the incidence of rumen drinking through simple management practices has implications for improved calf health and rates of gain.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and the most joyous of New Years!

Important Dates

2023-2024

Georgia Dairy Conference

- January 15-17, 2024
- Marriott Savannah Riverfront
- https://www.gadairyconference.com/

Top GA DHIA By Test Day Milk Production – September 2023										
					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	County	Br.	Test Date	[1]Cows	% in Milk	Milk	% Fat	TD Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat
GODFREY DAIRY FARM*	Morgan	HO	9/4/2023	1214	88	95.6	3.4	2.88	31431	1216
DANNY BELL*	Morgan	HO	9/5/2023	341	91	94.3	3.9	3.21	31784	1257
WDAIRY LLC*	Morgan	XX	9/25/2023	2072	87	86	4.6	3.37	28295	1273
ARROWHEAD DAIRY LLC	Burke	HO	9/7/2023	1252	89	85.1	3.7	2.75	27249	1025
SCHAAPMAN HOLSTEINS*	Wilcox	HO	9/1/2023	766	90	83.9	4.2	3.17	30963	1163
TROY YODER	Macon	HO	9/13/2023	303	87	81	3.8	2.39	25510	997
DOUG CHAMBERS	Jones	HO	8/22/2023	415	86	80.5	3.7	2.58	25794	965
A & J DAIRY*	Wilkes	HO	9/15/2023	408	92	78.2	0	0	28426	
VISSCHER DAIRY LLC*	Jefferson	HO	9/27/2023	665	85	75.8	0	0	24415	
OCMULGEE DAIRY	Houston	HO	8/30/2023	338	85	72.9	3.8	2.38	23384	868
SCOTT GLOVER	Hall	HO	9/12/2023	96	87	72.1	4.5	2.7	26005	1066
UNIV OF GA DAIRY FARM	Clarke	XX	9/25/2023	138	89	70.7	4.2	2.69	22630	985
W & R FARMS, LLC	Burke	XX	9/19/2023	266	90	66.1	4.1	2.58	21021	870
RYAN HOLDEMAN	Jefferson	HO	9/20/2023	108	91	65.7	4.1	1.75	21879	834
JAMES W MOON	Morgan	HO	9/15/2023	138	82	62.7	3.6	1.72	18702	725
BERRY COLLEGE DAIRY	Floyd	JE	9/2/2023	34	84	62.3	4.1	1.88	18451	899
HORST CREST FARMS	Burke	HO	9/6/2023	139	88	58.6	4	2.02	20274	800
JERRY SWAFFORD	Putnam	HO	9/18/2023	152	89	58.6	3.3	1.18	22532	835
ALEX MILLICAN	Walker	HO	9/15/2023	86	72	57.5	3.4	1.41	17756	556
BOB MOORE	Putnam	HO	9/11/2023	146	88	55.4	3.8	1.82	20924	819

[1]Minimum herd or permanent string size of 20 cows. Yearly average calculated after 365 days on test. Test day milk, marked with an asterisk (*), indicates herd was milked three times per day (3X). Information in this table is compiled from Dairy Records Management Systems Reports (Raleigh, NC).

Top GA DHIA By Test Day Fat Production – September 2023										
					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	County	Br.	Test Date	[1]Cows	% in Milk	Milk	% Fat	TD Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat
WDAIRY LLC*	Morgan	XX	9/25/2023	2072	87	86	4.6	3.37	28295	1273
DANNY BELL*	Morgan	HO	9/5/2023	341	91	94.3	3.9	3.21	31784	1257
SCHAAPMAN HOLSTEINS*	Wilcox	HO	9/1/2023	766	90	83.9	4.2	3.17	30963	1163
GODFREY DAIRY FARM*	Morgan	HO	9/4/2023	1214	88	95.6	3.4	2.88	31431	1216
ARROWHEAD DAIRY LLC	Burke	HO	9/7/2023	1252	89	85.1	3.7	2.75	27249	1025
SCOTT GLOVER	Hall	HO	9/12/2023	96	87	72.1	4.5	2.7	26005	1066
UNIV OF GA DAIRY FARM	Clarke	XX	9/25/2023	138	89	70.7	4.2	2.69	22630	985
DOUG CHAMBERS	Jones	HO	8/22/2023	415	86	80.5	3.7	2.58	25794	965
W & R FARMS, LLC	Burke	XX	9/19/2023	266	90	66.1	4.1	2.58	21021	870
TROY YODER	Macon	HO	9/13/2023	303	87	81	3.8	2.39	25510	997
OCMULGEE DAIRY	Houston	HO	8/30/2023	338	85	72.9	3.8	2.38	23384	868
HORST CREST FARMS	Burke	HO	9/6/2023	139	88	58.6	4	2.02	20274	800
ROGERS FARM SERVICES	Tattnall	XX	9/5/2023	154	90	43.2	4.9	1.95	16175	738
BERRY COLLEGE DAIRY	Floyd	JE	9/2/2023	34	84	62.3	4.1	1.88	18451	899
BOB MOORE	Putnam	HO	9/11/2023	146	88	55.4	3.8	1.82	20924	819
RYAN HOLDEMAN	Jefferson	HO	9/20/2023	108	91	65.7	4.1	1.75	21879	834
JAMES W MOON	Morgan	HO	9/15/2023	138	82	62.7	3.6	1.72	18702	725
BUDDHA BELLY FARM LLC	Brooks	XX	9/18/2023	729	86	53.6	3.7	1.57	17311	725
GRASSY FLATS	Brooks	XX	9/19/2023	776	87	48.1	4	1.51	17144	685
RODNEY & CARLIN GIESBRECHT	Washington	XX	8/30/2023	134	89	50.4	3.5	1.5	20095	805

[1]Minimum herd or permanent string size of 20 cows. Yearly average calculated after 365 days on test. Test day milk, marked with an asterisk (*), indicates herd was milked three times per day (3X). Information in this table is compiled from Dairy Records Management Systems Reports (Raleigh, NC).

Top GA DHIA By Test Day Milk Production – October 2023										
					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	County	Br.	Test date	[1]Cows	% in Milk	Milk	% Fat	TD Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat
GODFREY DAIRY FARM*	Morgan	HO	10/2/2023	1202	88	95.2	3.5	2.94	31459	1210
DANNY BELL*	Morgan	HO	10/2/2023	338	91	94.9	3.8	3.07	31646	1250
TROY YODER	Macon	HO	10/12/2023	307	86	89.2	3.9	2.92	25642	1007
SCHAAPMAN HOLSTEINS*	Wilcox	HO	10/7/2023	758	90	88.7	3.8	2.94	30911	1171
WDAIRY LLC*	Morgan	XX	9/25/2023	2072	87	86	4.6	3.37	28295	1273
DOUG CHAMBERS	Jones	HO	10/22/2023	408	86	83.1	3.6	2.56	25931	965
ARROWHEAD DAIRY LLC	Burke	HO	10/26/2023	1277	88	82.4	4.1	2.9	27073	1021
A & J DAIRY*	Wilkes	HO	10/13/2023	404	93	80.5	0	0	28319	
VISSCHER DAIRY LLC*	Jefferson	HO	9/27/2023	665	85	75.8	0	0	24415	
SCOTT GLOVER	Hall	HO	10/9/2023	98	88	74.5	4.3	2.65	25780	1070
OCMULGEE DAIRY	Houston	HO	9/28/2023	325	86	73.1	3.6	2.21	23455	870
UNIV OF GA DAIRY FARM	Clarke	XX	9/25/2023	138	89	70.7	4.2	2.69	22630	985
JAMES W MOON	Morgan	HO	10/13/2023	139	83	69.2	4	2.39	19039	736
BERRY COLLEGE DAIRY	Floyd	JE	10/4/2023	33	83	69.1	4.5	2.26	18262	886
RYAN HOLDEMAN	Jefferson	HO	9/20/2023	108	91	65.7	4.1	1.75	21879	834
W & R FARMS, LLC	Burke	XX	10/17/2023	266	90	63.8	4.4	2.53	21375	883
BUDDHA BELLY FARM LLC	Brooks	XX	10/16/2023	702	86	61.6	3.7	1.88	17292	719
RODNEY & CARLIN GIESBRECHT	Washington	XX	10/25/2023	118	89	59.9	4	1.83	19548	775
HORST CREST FARMS	Burke	HO	10/26/2023	139	88	59.5	4.2	1.98	20294	801
JERRY SWAFFORD	Putnam	HO	9/18/2023	152	89	58.6	3.3	1.18	22532	835

[1]Minimum herd or permanent string size of 20 cows. Yearly average calculated after 365 days on test. Test day milk, marked with an asterisk (*), indicates herd was milked three times per day (3X). Information in this table is compiled from Dairy Records Management Systems Reports (Raleigh, NC).

Top GA DHIA By Test Day Fat Production – October 2023										
					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	County	Br.	Test Date	[1]Cows	% in Milk	Milk	% Fat	TD Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat
WDAIRY LLC*	Morgan	XX	9/25/2023	2072	87	86	4.6	3.37	28295	1273
DANNY BELL*	Morgan	HO	10/2/2023	338	91	94.9	3.8	3.07	31646	1250
GODFREY DAIRY FARM*	Morgan	HO	10/2/2023	1202	88	95.2	3.5	2.94	31459	1210
SCHAAPMAN HOLSTEINS*	Wilcox	HO	10/7/2023	758	90	88.7	3.8	2.94	30911	1171
TROY YODER	Macon	HO	10/12/2023	307	86	89.2	3.9	2.92	25642	1007
ARROWHEAD DAIRY LLC	Burke	HO	10/26/2023	1277	88	82.4	4.1	2.9	27073	1021
UNIV OF GA DAIRY FARM	Clarke	XX	9/25/2023	138	89	70.7	4.2	2.69	22630	985
SCOTT GLOVER	Hall	HO	10/9/2023	98	88	74.5	4.3	2.65	25780	1070
DOUG CHAMBERS	Jones	HO	10/22/2023	408	86	83.1	3.6	2.56	25931	965
W & R FARMS, LLC	Burke	XX	10/17/2023	266	90	63.8	4.4	2.53	21375	883
JAMES W MOON	Morgan	HO	10/13/2023	139	83	69.2	4	2.39	19039	736
BERRY COLLEGE DAIRY	Floyd	JE	10/4/2023	33	83	69.1	4.5	2.26	18262	886
OCMULGEE DAIRY	Houston	HO	9/28/2023	325	86	73.1	3.6	2.21	23455	870
ROGERS FARM SERVICES	Tattnall	XX	10/3/2023	153	90	44.8	5.1	2.06	16096	742
HORST CREST FARMS	Burke	HO	10/26/2023	139	88	59.5	4.2	1.98	20294	801
BUDDHA BELLY FARM LLC	Brooks	XX	10/16/2023	702	86	61.6	3.7	1.88	17292	719
RODNEY & CARLIN GIESBRECHT	Washington	XX	10/25/2023	118	89	59.9	4	1.83	19548	775
GRASSY FLATS	Brooks	XX	10/17/2023	739	87	54.8	4	1.79	17257	691
RYAN HOLDEMAN	Jefferson	HO	9/20/2023	108	91	65.7	4.1	1.75	21879	834
ALEX MILLICAN	Walker	HO	10/19/2023	89	71	55.9	3.6	1.2	17651	554

[1]Minimum herd or permanent string size of 20 cows. Yearly average calculated after 365 days on test. Test day milk, marked with an asterisk (*), indicates herd was milked three times per day (3X). Information in this table is compiled from Dairy Records Management Systems Reports (Raleigh, NC).

Top GA DHIA By Test Day Milk Production – November 2023										
					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	County	Br.	Test Date	[1]Cows	% in Milk	Milk	% Fat	TD Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat
DANNY BELL*	Morgan	HO	10/30/2023	334	91	96.3	3.9	3.39	31919	1256
GODFREY DAIRY FARM*	Morgan	HO	10/30/2023	1186	89	95.5	3.8	3.2	31508	1211
SCHAAPMAN HOLSTEINS*	Wilcox	HO	11/11/2023	759	90	92.3	3.8	2.99	30928	1173
WDAIRY LLC*	Morgan	XX	10/23/2023	2104	87	88.7	4.6	3.44	28294	1271
TROY YODER	Macon	HO	11/10/2023	295	86	83.1	4.2	3.04	25739	1013
ARROWHEAD DAIRY LLC	Burke	HO	10/26/2023	1277	88	82.4	4.1	2.9	27073	1021
A & J DAIRY*	Wilkes	HO	11/10/2023	400	93	81.8	0	0	28251	
DOUG CHAMBERS	Jones	HO	11/21/2023	421	86	81.4	4	2.84	25957	965
OCMULGEE DAIRY	Houston	HO	10/31/2023	321	86	76.7	4	2.65	23589	875
SCOTT GLOVER	Hall	HO	11/6/2023	98	89	76	4.3	2.9	25628	1073
BERRY COLLEGE DAIRY	Floyd	JE	11/3/2023	35	82	68.7	4.5	2.39	18185	877
JERRY SWAFFORD	Putnam	HO	11/13/2023	143	89	66.7	4	1.9	21739	807
RYAN HOLDEMAN	Jefferson	HO	11/15/2023	108	90	65.7	4	2	21165	813
UNIV OF GA DAIRY FARM	Clarke	XX	10/27/2023	142	89	65.6	4.4	2.68	22864	996
BUDDHA BELLY FARM LLC	Brooks	XX	10/16/2023	702	86	61.6	3.7	1.88	17292	719
RODNEY & CARLIN GIESBRECHT	Washington	XX	11/21/2023	116	89	61.5	3.9	2.09	19515	767
W & R FARMS, LLC	Burke	XX	11/14/2023	271	90	61	4.7	2.52	21657	895
HORST CREST FARMS	Burke	HO	10/26/2023	139	88	59.5	4.2	1.98	20294	801
JAMES W MOON	Morgan	HO	11/10/2023	142	85	58.4	4	2.04	19451	752
ALEX MILLICAN	Walker	HO	11/16/2023	85	71	57.7	3.4	1.18	17589	549

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Top GA DHIA By Test Day Fat Production – November 2023										
					Test Day Average				Yearly Average	
Herd	County	Br.	Test Date	[1]Cows	% in Milk	Milk	% Fat	TD Fat	Milk	Lbs. Fat
WDAIRY LLC*	Morgan	XX	10/23/2023	2104	87	88.7	4.6	3.44	28294	1271
DANNY BELL*	Morgan	HO	10/30/2023	334	91	96.3	3.9	3.39	31919	1256
GODFREY DAIRY FARM*	Morgan	HO	10/30/2023	1186	89	95.5	3.8	3.2	31508	1211
TROY YODER	Macon	HO	11/10/2023	295	86	83.1	4.2	3.04	25739	1013
SCHAAPMAN HOLSTEINS*	Wilcox	HO	11/11/2023	759	90	92.3	3.8	2.99	30928	1173
ARROWHEAD DAIRY LLC	Burke	HO	10/26/2023	1277	88	82.4	4.1	2.9	27073	1021
SCOTT GLOVER	Hall	HO	11/6/2023	98	89	76	4.3	2.9	25628	1073
DOUG CHAMBERS	Jones	HO	11/21/2023	421	86	81.4	4	2.84	25957	965
UNIV OF GA DAIRY FARM	Clarke	XX	10/27/2023	142	89	65.6	4.4	2.68	22864	996
OCMULGEE DAIRY	Houston	HO	10/31/2023	321	86	76.7	4	2.65	23589	875
W & R FARMS, LLC	Burke	XX	11/14/2023	271	90	61	4.7	2.52	21657	895
BERRY COLLEGE DAIRY	Floyd	JE	11/3/2023	35	82	68.7	4.5	2.39	18185	877
ROGERS FARM SERVICES	Tattnall	XX	10/31/2023	159	90	46.7	5.3	2.24	16054	750
RODNEY & CARLIN GIESBRECHT	Washington	XX	11/21/2023	116	89	61.5	3.9	2.09	19515	767
JAMES W MOON	Morgan	HO	11/10/2023	142	85	58.4	4	2.04	19451	752
RYAN HOLDEMAN	Jefferson	HO	11/15/2023	108	90	65.7	4	2	21165	813
HORST CREST FARMS	Burke	HO	10/26/2023	139	88	59.5	4.2	1.98	20294	801
JERRY SWAFFORD	Putnam	HO	11/13/2023	143	89	66.7	4	1.9	21739	807
BUDDHA BELLY FARM LLC	Brooks	XX	10/16/2023	702	86	61.6	3.7	1.88	17292	719
GRASSY FLATS	Brooks	XX	10/17/2023	739	87	54.8	4	1.79	17257	691

[1]Minimum herd or permanent string size of 20 cows. Yearly average calculated after 365 days on test. Test day milk, marked with an asterisk (*), indicates herd was milked three times per day (3X). Information in this table is compiled from Dairy Records Management Systems Reports (Raleigh, NC).

Top GA Low Herds for SCC – TD Average Score – September 2023									
Herd	**County**	**Test Date**	**Br.**	**[1]Cows**	**Milk-Rolling**	**SCC-TD-Average Score**	**SCC-TD-Weight Average**	**SCC-Average Score**	**SCC-Wt.**
BERRY COLLEGE DAIRY	Floyd	9/2/2023	JE	34	18451	1.2	41	1.7	69
DANNY BELL*	Morgan	9/5/2023	HO	341	31784	1.8	146	1.7	135
SCOTT GLOVER	Hall	9/12/2023	HO	96	26005	2.1	99	1.7	94
GODFREY DAIRY FARM*	Morgan	9/4/2023	HO	1214	31431	2.2	132	2.2	177
ARROWHEAD DAIRY LLC	Burke	9/7/2023	HO	1252	27249	2.3	175	2.2	173
UNIV OF GA DAIRY FARM	Clarke	9/25/2023	XX	138	22630	2.3	235	2.2	191
JAMES W MOON	Morgan	9/15/2023	HO	138	18702	2.4	244	2.8	292
WDAIRY LLC*	Morgan	9/25/2023	XX	2072	28295	2.5	197	2.2	163
RYAN HOLDEMAN	Jefferson	9/20/2023	HO	108	21879	2.6	202	2.7	282
ALEX MILLICAN	Walker	9/15/2023	HO	86	17756	2.6	340	2.5	253
SCHAAPMAN HOLSTEINS*	Wilcox	9/1/2023	HO	766	30963	2.8	278	2.7	258
DOUG CHAMBERS	Jones	8/22/2023	HO	415	25794	2.8	339	2.6	226
W & R FARMS, LLC	Burke	9/19/2023	XX	266	21021	3	291	2.4	182
TROY YODER	Macon	9/13/2023	HO	303	25510	3.2	239	2.7	208
HORST CREST FARMS	Burke	9/6/2023	HO	139	20274	3.3	363	3.3	361
ROGERS FARM SERVICES	Tattnall	9/5/2023	XX	154	16175	3.5	393	2.9	244
RODNEY & CARLIN GIESBRECHT	Washington	8/30/2023	XX	134	20095	3.6	420	3	325
JERRY SWAFFORD	Putnam	9/18/2023	HO	152	22532	3.7	314	2.8	277
GRASSY FLATS	Brooks	9/19/2023	XX	776	17144	3.7	446	3.2	321

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Top GA Low Herds for SCC –TD Average Score – October 2023									
Herd	**County**	**Test Date**	**Br.**	**[1]Cows**	**Milk-Rolling**	**SCC-TD-Average Score**	**SCC-TD-Weight Average**	**SCC-Average Score**	**SCC-Wt.**
DANNY BELL*	Morgan	10/2/2023	HO	338	31646	1.5	109	1.7	133
BERRY COLLEGE DAIRY	Floyd	10/4/2023	JE	33	18262	1.6	58	1.7	62
GODFREY DAIRY FARM*	Morgan	10/2/2023	HO	1202	31459	1.8	113	2.1	172
SCOTT GLOVER	Hall	10/9/2023	HO	98	25780	1.9	102	1.7	94
ALEX MILLICAN	Walker	10/19/2023	HO	89	17651	2	291	2.4	268
ARROWHEAD DAIRY LLC	Burke	10/26/2023	HO	1277	27073	2.1	152	2.2	172
UNIV OF GA DAIRY FARM	Clarke	9/25/2023	XX	138	22630	2.3	235	2.2	191
WDAIRY LLC*	Morgan	9/25/2023	XX	2072	28295	2.5	197	2.2	163
RYAN HOLDEMAN	Jefferson	9/20/2023	HO	108	21879	2.6	202	2.7	282
TROY YODER	Macon	10/12/2023	HO	307	25642	2.6	202	2.6	206
W & R FARMS, LLC	Burke	10/17/2023	XX	266	21375	2.7	257	2.5	192
JAMES W MOON	Morgan	10/13/2023	HO	139	19039	2.8	325	2.8	291
SCHAAPMAN HOLSTEINS*	Wilcox	10/7/2023	HO	758	30911	2.9	262	2.8	263
DOUG CHAMBERS	Jones	10/22/2023	HO	408	25931	2.9	323	2.6	236
RODNEY & CARLIN GIESBRECHT	Washington	10/25/2023	XX	118	19548	3.2	290	3	333
ROGERS FARM SERVICES	Tattnall	10/3/2023	XX	153	16096	3.3	219	2.8	226
JERRY SWAFFORD	Putnam	9/18/2023	HO	152	22532	3.7	314	2.8	277
HORST CREST FARMS	Burke	10/26/2023	HO	139	20294	3.7	459	3.4	375
OCMULGEE DAIRY	Houston	9/28/2023	HO	325	23455	4	527	4.1	543

[1]Minimum herd or permanent string size of 20 cows. Yearly average calculated after 365 days on test. Test day milk, marked with an asterisk (*), indicates herd was milked three times per day (3X). Information in this table is compiled from Dairy Records Management Systems Reports (Raleigh, NC).

Top GA Low Herds for SCC –TD Average Score –November 2023									
Herd	**County**	**Test Date**	**Br.**	**[1]Cows**	**Milk-Rolling**	**SCC-TD-Average Score**	**SCC-TD-Weight Average**	**SCC-Average Score**	**SCC-Wt.**
BERRY COLLEGE DAIRY	Floyd	11/3/2023	JE	35	18185	1.7	75	1.7	64
DANNY BELL*	Morgan	10/30/2023	HO	334	31919	1.8	113	1.7	131
SCOTT GLOVER	Hall	11/6/2023	HO	98	25628	1.9	129	1.7	95
GODFREY DAIRY FARM*	Morgan	10/30/2023	HO	1186	31508	2	158	2.1	172
UNIV OF GA DAIRY FARM	Clarke	10/27/2023	XX	142	22864	2	173	2.1	191
ARROWHEAD DAIRY LLC	Burke	10/26/2023	HO	1277	27073	2.1	152	2.2	172
WDAIRY LLC*	Morgan	10/23/2023	XX	2104	28294	2.4	207	2.2	169
W & R FARMS, LLC	Burke	11/14/2023	XX	271	21657	2.5	190	2.4	195
ALEX MILLICAN	Walker	11/16/2023	HO	85	17589	2.6	288	2.4	265
DOUG CHAMBERS	Jones	11/21/2023	HO	421	25957	2.7	320	2.6	241
TROY YODER	Macon	11/10/2023	HO	295	25739	2.9	244	2.6	210
JERRY SWAFFORD	Putnam	11/13/2023	HO	143	21739	3	170	2.8	274
RYAN HOLDEMAN	Jefferson	11/15/2023	HO	108	21165	3.1	331	2.7	288
JAMES W MOON	Morgan	11/10/2023	HO	142	19451	3.3	297	2.8	279
RODNEY & CARLIN GIESBRECHT	Washington	11/21/2023	XX	116	19515	3.3	297	3	327
ROGERS FARM SERVICES	Tattnall	10/31/2023	XX	159	16054	3.6	275	2.8	223
HORST CREST FARMS	Burke	10/26/2023	HO	139	20294	3.7	459	3.4	375
OCMULGEE DAIRY	Houston	10/31/2023	HO	321	23589	4.2	563	4.1	553

[1]Minimum herd or permanent string size of 20 cows. Yearly average calculated after 365 days on test. Test day milk, marked with an asterisk (*), indicates herd was milked three times per day (3X). Information in this table is compiled from Dairy Records Management Systems Reports (Raleigh, NC).