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Louisiana
# Dairy Digest
*Your Herd Management Resource*

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# May - June 2006

## Dairy Market News

**Cary "Bill" Herndon, Dep. of Ag. Economics, Mississippi State University**

**May and June Advanced Class I Prices Continue to Decline**

Sustained massive growth in U.S. milk production continues to overpower milk and dairy product prices. Since the beginning of 2006, Class I milk prices have plunged by $2.60 per hundredweight (cwt.), or more than 15 percent. Cheese and butter prices have also followed suit where both of these products have seen prices plummet by 20 to 25 cents per pound. While dairy product prices have stabilized since mid-April, processors are very nervous about whether the market can withstand the huge onslaught of milk output. Milk futures rallied significantly on May 19th, gaining 20-28¢ in the JUL06-JAN07 contracts. Futures covering those months have increased 55¢ in the last 2 weeks. At $12.16, they are at their highest level since Feb. 14. Today's move was unexpected, given the steadiness of the cheese market and its inability to climb past $1.20. Further, school closings are pushing more milk back into manufacturing channels, where plants are already stretched near capacity approaching the holiday weekend. The dairy product markets closed on May 24th with block cheese at 120.00 cents/lb, barrels at 119.00 cents/lb and AA Butter at 117.25 cents/lb.

The advanced class 1 mover for June milk was announced on Friday, May 19th at $10.75/cwt. This is a decrease of $0.22 from the May price of $10.97/cwt. The June class I price @ Atlanta zone will be $13.85/cwt. The MILCX payment for June milk will be $0.9996/cwt; about as close to a dollar as you can get.

**Market Conditions.**

Survival mode is the phrase being used by most dairy farmers as milk and dairy product prices crash while costs for fuel, fertilizer and other inputs skyrocket due to surging energy costs. This cost-price squeeze is causing severe financial stress on dairy producers, especially farmers located in Louisiana, Mississippi and the Southeast.

Traders and analysts continue to be concerned just how long the U.S. and world economies can endure increasing fuel costs and remain robust. The U.S. economy is still growing again as shown in reports that Gross National Product (GNP) grew by 4.9% during the first quarter of 2006. As this newsletter has mentioned, dairy product demand and milk prices are dependent on the growth of our national economy. So, GNP growth is very good news for dairy markets.

However, the continuing growth in U.S. milk production is simply drowning out rising demand and forcing down milk and dairy product prices. While milk, cheese and butter prices remain above price support levels, most of the dairy industry is deeply concerned about even a minor economic shock or international political event could trigger a complete collapse of dairy prices. Adding to these pressures is the "spring flush" and virtually ideal weather conditions across most major milk production region that are producing huge amounts of milk. So, dairy prices will continue to face downward pressures during 2006 from this milk demand-supply imbalance.

Recent USDA Cold Storage reports indicated that there are growing levels of dairy product inventories. For example, the March 31 Cold Storage report was bearish because total commercial stocks of butter rose by almost 15% between February and March, however government-owned butter stocks fell by 17% over this same months. Commercial holdings of various types of natural cheeses on March 31 ranged between 2% to 6% more than February 28 totals and were between 3% and 35% more than last March's inventories. Government owned stocks of American cheese grew by 2% between February and March but these government cheese stocks were 82% less than last March. Florida and other southeastern states saw a substantial decrease in local milk output and have substantially reduced their exports of milk outside the region during April and early May. For example, Florida milk handlers exported 46 tankers of milk during the first week of May compared to shipping out 56 truckloads during the previous week and versus exporting 230 loads during the same week of 2005. There were no additional loads imported or exported from other southeastern states during this same week of the year compared to no shipments during the previous week and zero tankers for the same week of 2005.

Continuing growth of milk supplies will maintain downward pressures on milk and dairy product prices and place extensive financial strain on dairy farmers. Milk prices are forecast to bottom out in June or July then see their usual upward seasonal trend beginning in August and running through November.

**Milk Production.**

National milk output continues its astounding escalation. The USDA's March Milk Production report showed a 5.6% increase in milk output compared to March 2005. However, milk production growth appears to be slowing down. The USDA's April Milk Production report for the top 23 dairy states showed milk output in the top 23 states grew by only 3.7% as compared to April 2005.

The output gain in April was the result of a 2.2-percent gain in milk per cow and a 102,000 head increase in cows being milked in March and a 124,000 head increase in April. Large numbers of dairy replacements that were available as 2006 began are now being placed into milking herds. Coupling this with ideal weather conditions and the availability of ample, high quality feeds and forages continues to boost milk production and this trend looks to continue for the remainder of this year. A small glimmer of good news is the fact that dairy cull cow slaughter numbers have rebounded as farmers now have incentives to cull cows in the face of lower milk prices. Once again, California, Idaho, and New Mexico are maintaining their enormous growth as these three states alone added 100,000 head to their herds

**Dairy Product Demand**

While demand for dairy products remains strong as our U.S. economy surges, expanding milk output simply is overwhelming dairy product prices where declining cheese and butter prices could be threaten falling below government support levels. For example, 40-pound block cheddar cheese prices were within 3-cents of the USDA support level of $1.1314 per pound on May 5. Processor and dairy product wholesalers have been building inventories this spring, but now most have ample volumes of products in storage. So, traders are waiting on the sidelines for some bit of news that may prompt further buying activities and are reluctant to support any significant price swings over the rest of this year. Over the past month, Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) reported that 40-pound block prices fell 3.5 cents while 500-pound barrel cheese prices also declined by 1.25-cents. During April, Grade AA butter prices increased slightly by 0.75-cents per pound while Grade A nonfat dry milk (NDM) price remained constant at 88.75 cents per pound. The dairy product markets closed on May 24th with block cheese at 120.00 cents/lb, barrels at 119.00 cents/lb and AA Butter at 117.25 cents/lb.

The USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) made its first purchase in more than 15 months of 1.3 million pounds of NDM during mid-March and has continued to acquire NDM during late April and early May. Between April 17 and May 5, the CCC bought over 25 million pounds of non-fortified NDM where weekly purchases ranged from 7.3 and 10.6 million pounds. Clearly, these CCC acquisitions indicate that international demand is failing to keep pace with surging U.S. milk supplies.

**Futures Prices and Near-term Market Outlook.**

The table below displays Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) futures contract prices for the upcoming three months and shows that traders believe that milk prices have bottomed out and should increase over this period. It appears that most traders think milk prices are suffering significant downward pressure from the additional "spring flush" milk supplies. However, a glimmer of good news is that these same market analysts believe that Class III milk prices have already reached the low for 2006 and will likely remain about $1.00 above the government support level of $9.90 per cwt. The April 4 and May 5 CME settlement prices for selected Class III milk futures contracts are found in the table below along with butter futures contracts.

| CME Dairy Futures Contract Prices | Settlement Prices | | Percentage Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| | April 4th | May 5th | March 7 to April 4 |
| **Class III Milk Futures** | **— $/cwt —-** | **— $/cwt —-** | |
| May Contract | $10.90 | $10.81 | -0.7% |
| June Contract | $11.00 | $10.89 | -0.9% |
| July Contract | $11.30 | $11.27 | -0.5% |
| **Butter Futures (Cash)** | **— $/lb —-** | **— $/lb —-** | |
| May Contract | $1.1825 | $1.1775 | -0.4% |
| June Contract | $1.2000 | $1.1850 | -1.2% |
| July Contract | $1.2450 | $1.2200 | -2.0% |

## The Clock is Ticking

**Charles F. Hutchison, Dept. of Dairy Science, LSU AgCenter**

The clock is ticking as far as getting lactating cows in the herd bred before heat stress sets in for the long hot, humid summer. There are about 4to 6 weeks left before heat stress will severely limit the estrus activity of lactating dairy cows and the conception rate will drop into the low teens and sometimes to single digits.

Over the next few weeks try to get as many animals inseminated as possible. If you have not had your veterinarian do a herd check for pregnancy, early lactation and problem cows recently, now is the time to get that done. Also, it might be a good idea to pregnancy check all of the cows already confirmed pregnant just to make sure one or two of them have not slipped a calf and end up with an unpleasant surprise waiting for you when you go to recheck her prior to dry off.

Cows that are diagnosed open but have functional corpora lutea (CL) should probably be given gonadotrophin-releasing hormone (GnRH) and enrolled in an ovsynch program instead of the traditional injection of prostaglandin and monitor closely for heat the next 3 to 5 days. Timed AI is part of the ovsynch protocol therefore, every animal would be inseminated. Any cows that are at least 35 days in milk (DIM) and have not passed the voluntary waiting period (VWP) should probably be started on a pre-synch or a similar type of protocol in order to get at least one service prior to the summer heat stress. Cows already pass the VWP should be enrolled in an ovsynch or similar type protocol with timed AI as part of the protocol. These synchronization programs will usually result in an increase in services per conception along with services per pregnancy but the pregnancy rate will also be improved.

Cows that are currently being AI based on heat detection should probably also be given GnRH at the time of insemination to increase conception rate. The original research recommended GnRH only on the 3$^{rd}$ service or greater. There was an improvement in conception rate by giving GnRH after the 1$^{st}$ or 2$^{nd}$ service but due to the cost of the GnRH at that time the increase in conception rate was not economical. In recent years the cost of GnRH has decreased and time is of the essence in this situation. Therefore, using GnRH after all AI services might be warranted to help increase conception rate and ultimately pregnancy rate. Remember the objective is to get as many cows inseminated and pregnant as possible over the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Some producers stop breeding during the summer and early fall, while others continue to breed all year. For example at the LSU Dairy Teaching, Extension and Research Farm, the breeding program stops after the 4$^{th}$ of July and does not start back until the week of Thanksgiving. Not breeding during the summer and early fall has several advantages. Conception rates are usually very low during the summer. This results in more services per pregnancy which increases the breeding cost per cow and per pregnancy.

One of the biggest advantages of not breeding during the summer and early fall during severe heat stress is that animals will not calve back during periods of extreme heat stress. Research has shown that cows calving during the summer produce 1,500 to 3,000 lb less during their lactation compared to cows calving in other seasons of the year. Cows calving during times of severe heat stress also tend to have more calving problems, metabolic disorders and death losses. Morbidity and Mortality rates are also higher on calves born during this time.

Some disadvantages of not breeding during the summer are days open will be higher, the calving interval will be increased and a few good cows may have to be culled if their milk production drops below the breakeven level before they become pregnant. However, the economic advantages for not breeding cows during the summer and early fall appear to far outweigh the disadvantages. For more information on ovulation synchronization programs and/or these types of seasonal breeding programs, contact your local county agent or visit us online at:
http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/livestock/dairy

## Be A Good Neighbor

**Charles F. Hutchison, Dept. of Dairy Science, LSU AgCenter**

Farming communities throughout the United States are experiencing increasing urbanization, increasing cost and decreasing acres of agricultural land. This is especially true in Louisiana over the past several years and the rate seems to have increased rapidly after the hurricanes last fall. The majority of folks moving to the country are "city" people. Many do not understand commercial agricultural practices. They do not like the dust, odors, or insect pests that are a normal part of farming. This can lead to neighbor-to-neighbor conflicts and even lawsuits in some cases. Therefore, it is imperative for dairy producers, as well as all farmers, to minimize possible conflicts with neighbors.

Here are a few suggestions for dairy producers or any farmers to avoid such possible conflicts.

- Meet your neighbors – people will communicate and compromise with people they like and respect
- Appreciate your neighbor's concerns – operate your farm as if you were living next door
- "Out of sight, out of mind" – use trees, buffer zones, or landscapes to screen production facilities and waste management systems from your neighbor's view if possible
- Be considerate when applying manure or effluent to land – consider prevailing winds and weather conditions
- Practice good sanitation methods to avoid odor problems and potential reservoirs for flies
- Consider the appearance of your farm – a well-maintained, clean farm makes a good impression
- Develop and use a nutrient management plan – this plan can be beneficial for handling neighbor conflicts
- Comply with all regulations – make sure you follow federal, state and local environmental and zoning laws
- Use proper dead animal disposal techniques

As an agricultural producer you may want to consider having your local county agent, sanitarian and/or milk marketing co-op fieldman come and meet with you and your neighbor to help educate and assure them that you are using approved and accepted agricultural practices to avoid potential conflicts.
(Source: Article adapted from The Communicator, Spring 2006, USPEA)

## Corn Silage Harvesting and Storage

**Vinicius R. Moreira, Southeast Research Station, LSU AgCenter**

Harvest time for corn silage is fast approaching. By now you have chosen the correct hybrid (hybrids with higher grain:forage ratios tend to yield better silage), adjusted soil fertility, prevented invading weeds and planted your corn in line spaces 30 inches or less hoping to obtain a healthy plant population of 18,000 or more plants per acre. Now, if the weather cooperates you are set to obtain good silage. Well, corn silage growers know these steps are just the beginning for producing a high quality corn silage crop. The next steps are quickly approaching: harvesting and storage your corn silage. In this article we present a few reminders that will help improve the quality of your corn silage for the upcoming year.

**Time of harvesting**

The ideal time for harvesting corn for silage is when the moisture content of the whole plant of corn nears 65% to 70% (or 30% to 35% dry matter). Harvesting corn with moisture content above 70% can lead to excessive moisture seepage from the silo. Silage seepage is a strong contaminant and runoff into public waters should not be tolerated. Excessive moisture will also have a negative impact on proper fermentation and can cause spoilage of the product. Harvesting corn for silage at the correct moisture will optimize the amount of silage produced, ensure proper fermentation to maximize the quality of the product, reduce harvesting losses and minimize seepage losses. An adequate level of moisture will also produce silage that is more stable after the silo is opened.

Moisture content of corn silage can be determined through a forage sampling lab such as the forage lab at the Southeast Research Station. Moisture content can also be determined on the farm using a microwave oven for drying a representative sample of the corn. The following procedure for determining silage moisture content requires an accurate scale (to 1 gram) and a microwave oven, and takes from 20 to 30 minutes (depending on the particular oven and the amount of moisture in the samples).

1. Obtain representative sample from the field being harvested (whole plants).
2. Cut or chop the plants into 1/2 inch pieces, keeping leaves and stems uniformly mixed.
3. Weigh a plate plus 100 grams of plant sample. It is best to spread sample as uniformly thin as possible. Put a paper towel between the sample and plate to minimize “sweat” from forming on the plate.
4. Put a 10-16 oz. covered glass of water in the corner of oven to capture unabsorbed microwaves as the plant tissue dries.
5. Set oven to HIGH for 5 minutes.
6. Re-weigh the sample and plate and record the weight of sample.
7. Change the water and insert sample into oven for 2 more minutes. Weigh and record sample weight.
8. Repeat steps 6 & 7 until sample weight does not change more than one gram. This is the final dry weight of the sample.
9. Subtract the dry weight in grams from 100 grams to determine percent moisture. Percent dry matter is the same as the final dry weight of the sample.

Another practical recommendation is to follow the progression of the kernel milkline. This line advances inwards and represents the increase in starch content. Harvesting is suggested between 1/3 and 2/3 of kernel milkline, targeting ½ milkline, which has been shown to produce the best results on cow performance studies. Keep in mind that some hybrids have different dry-down rates of ear and stalk/leaves. That may render ineffective the rule of thumb presented above for an adequate harvesting window based on the milkline alone.

**Height of cutting and chopping length**

Harvesting corn plants at 9" above ground level may enhance silage digestibility and minimize soil contamination which can cause “bad” fermentation in the silo. Higher heights of cutting (ranging from 18" to 28") have been suggested with the intent to increase digestibility (energy) of the corn silage and contribute to control soil erosion. On the other hand, recent studies found little or no effect on cow performance with high-cut corn silage.

The theoretical length of cut (**TLC**) recommended is 3/8", but it may range from ¼” to ½” depending on factors such as hybrid, moisture level, and harvester. Using the right TLC will assure adequate forage packing in the silo and enough effective fiber for cows when silage is unloaded.

**Silo filling and cover**

Silage is a method of forage preservation under anaerobic conditions. That means air should be removed from the silo in order to obtain good silage quality. To achieve this goal, certain management aspects must be emphasized: Forage should be harvested, chopped, packed well and covered in the silo as fast as possible.

There are a number of types of silo: upright or tower silos, trench or bunker silos, and stacks. The silo should be air-tight and sealed for at least 21 days to allow for adequate fermentation time. Most silos used in Louisiana require cover (trench, bunker, stacks). If stacked silage is the storage of choice, special attention should be given to packing and cover to minimize aerobic losses. Silo covers can be a weather resistant plastic sheet. Covering silos should begin in the center and progress outwards to remove air.

Air and rain infiltration can cause bad fermentation in the silo. Rain will increase moisture/seepage, favor growth of undesirable bacteria (for example *Clostridium sp.*), and wash nutrients away. The resulting silage will have low nutritional value and will likely be avoided by cows (low dry matter intake). Intake is directly related to milk production in lactating dairy cows.

**Alternatives/corrective practices**

Making silage past the optimum stage is a very common situation. Under these circumstances, fecal grain loss may reach up to 25% of the grains ingested. Mechanical processing is a viable practice to increase starch digestibility and reduce fecal grain loss by cows. Processing corn silage consists in passing the chopped forage between two rolls spaced from 1/16" to 1/8". The TLC should be increased when chopped corn is processed to assure sufficient supply of effective fiber. Corn processors are becoming common attachment used by custom harvesters and should be taken advantage whenever possible. Conditions that warrant mechanical processing include late harvesting of corn drier than recommended, hybrids with vitreous (hard) corn kernels, and hybrids with higher grain/forage ratio. Processing hybrids with soft kernels and low grain/forage ratio may not be required, resulting in negative cow performance in some instances.

Inoculants are additives that contain "good" bacteria. The use of inoculants is recommended when ensiling conditions are less than ideal. The inclusion of "good" bacteria such as ***Lactobacillus buchnerii*** increases the rate of silage fermentation, causing faster reduction of pH and reducing the time required for fermentation to be completed. Inoculants can also increase aerobic stability of the silage after the silo is opened. Although its use is unnecessary when silage is made using appropriate techniques, inoculants can serve as an extra "insurance". It will not solve all the problems that can occur when the ensiling process is faulty.

**Final remarks**

Make sure to send a representative sample of the silage for nutrient analyses as soon as the silo is opened, to assure adequate ration balancing for your cattle. REMEMBER that your investment in silage will only produce returns if good quality corn silage is adequately fed to good cows.

For more information on dairy cattle, visit us online at http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/livestock/dairy

# Upcoming Dairy Dates

| Date | Event | Location |
|---|---|---|
| June 7 | Washington Parish Dairy Day | Southeast Research Station |
| June 9 | Tangelina Dairy Day | Bruce Fortenberry Farm |
| June 10 | N. La. Jr. Dairy Festival | Le Cheval Arena, Bossier City, La |
| June 15 | N. La Dairy Day | N. Desoto High School |
| June 21 | 4-H University Dairy Cattle Judging | LSU Dairy Farm |

## Lowering Summertime Cell Counts

**Dr. Gary M. Hay & Dr. Charles F. Hutchison**
**Dept. of Dairy Science, LSU AgCenter**

It's that time of year again. The weather's getting hot, milk production is falling and bulk tank somatic cell counts (BTSCC) are rising. Keeping your summertime cell counts at acceptable levels CAN be done with a little extra effort and monitoring in 4 key areas of the operation.

**1. Nutrition.** One of the biggest problems for herds that rely on ryegrass grazing as their primary forage source in their feeding program is that ryegrass grazing usually plays out in early May. As ryegrass pasture ends, Dry Matter Intake (DMI) and subsequently milk yield will begin to drop severely unless some type of high quality forage such as corn silage, ryegrass baleage or alfalfa hay is substituted for ryegrass grazing. As their milk production drops, the number of somatic cells in the milk remains constant, so, the somatic cell count begins to rise dramatically. This is called a concentration effect because the cells become more concentrated in less milk. One absolutely critical component of summertime nutrition is ready access to an abundant amount of clean, fresh drinking water. Using stagnant ponds or streams or having one water trough that cows have to walk several hundred yards through the sun to get too won't work. Cows need clean, fresh sources of water with immediate access in order to maximize their water intake and help regulate their body temperature. Without it, they will have trouble maintaining their normal body core temperature resulting in more feed nutrients going toward maintenance instead of production, reduced DMI, lower milk production and higher cell counts.

Other nutritional areas to consider during the summertime are: making the ration more nutrient dense in regard to energy, protein, vitamins and minerals while still maintaining enough fiber in the ration for proper rumen function and health. Cows lose a lot of sodium and potassium through sweating and primarily panting. The level of sodium (Na) in the total ration on a DM basis should be 0.40% to 0.45% with the potassium (K) level a minimum of 1.5%. The use of products such as potassium carbonate, potassium bicarbonate and sodium bicarbonate to increase the levels of Na and K are recommended instead of increasing the level of salt in the ration and the addition of potassium chloride to meet these mineral levels. Both of these products will tend to raise the chloride level in the ration which has been shown to cause a drop in DMI. The addition of sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate and potassium carbonate to the ration has an added advantage of increasing the buffering capacity of the diet as well as increasing the dietary cation anion difference (DCAD). The Magnesium (Mg) level should be raised to 0.40% of the total ration DM because of the possibly of the higher K level in the diet causing problems with Mg absorption. Also, the timing of feeding and feeding frequency along with good bunk management will help maintain DMI levels during the summer.

**2. Cow Comfort.** For herds that rely on nature as their cow housing facilities, hot weather makes cows seek shade. If the only shade available is from trees, cow will congregate under the trees and quickly make a wallow of mud, urine and feces. As cows continue to lie around in these areas, their udders will be constantly exposed to high levels of bacteria which will lead to more subclinical and clinical mastitis infections and higher BTSCC. Two ways to reduce this potential environmental mastitis disaster are to provide portable shade structures that can frequently be moved to avoid creating wallows and/or to build properly designed and functioning cooling ponds. Cooling ponds should have a constant flow of water in and out of the pond to reduce bacterial levels in the water and the out-flowing water must go directly into a waste management lagoon. Also, the cooling pond should have a concrete bottom and concrete entrance and exit ramps. Two additional suggestions for cow comfort are to place high velocity fans and sprinklers in a covered holding lot. Cows crowded together for several hours a day waiting to be milked will not disperse body heat and this will raise their body temperature and drastically reduce their Dry Matter Intake. Placing fans and sprinklers in a covered feeding area will also help cool the cows. For herds with free stall housing, the bedding area needs to be kept clean and dry to avoid exposing udders to large concentrations of bacteria. The best bedding material to use is still good, clean sand. Avoid organic materials such as wood chips, especially green hardwood chips, since organic materials will harbor bacteria.

**3. Milking Procedures**. Avoid milking wet udders. Use a minimum of water to get teats clean and be sure to dry teats thoroughly. The best procedure is to clean and dry the teats; fore-strip one or two streams of milk; then apply a disinfectant pre-dip to the teat ends for 20-30 seconds. Finish by pre-milking routine by wiping off the pre-dip and attaching the milking unit. Avoid over-milking or machine stripping which can cause damage to the inside of the teat canal. Use a commercial disinfectant teat dip recommended by the National Mastitis Council for both pre- and post-dipping. Avoid using commercial disinfectants such as Clorox as a teat dip. Clorox can dehydrate and irritate teat ends causing them to chap and crack and harbor mastitis causing bacteria. Monitor your milk hands on a regular basis. Don't assume they are doing a good job; make sure they are doing a good job and make sure they understand how important their job is to you and the financial security of your investments.

**4. Monitor Individual Cows.** There is absolutely no way to control your BTSCC if you don't know which cows have high cell counts. You can measure cell counts in individual cows using the tried and true cow-side California Mastitis Test "paddle test". This test will give you an indication of which cows have a high SCC but will not give you an exact SCC for each cow nor the amount of somatic cells that are being contributed to the bulk tank by the individual cow. A better alternative would be to get on the DHIA monthly individual cow electronic cell count program. The benefits of monthly individual cow cell counts in managing your BTSCC far outweigh the costs. The cost of DHIA is around $1 to $1.50 per cow per month. Maintaining your BTSCC below 300,000-400,000 will return you several times this amount through higher milk production, less dumped milk, less treatment cost and lower culling rates for mastitis and low production. There are also several additional financial benefits in managing your herd using DHIA. The DHIA program is a very useful management tool ***designed by dairymen*** to assist you in doing a better job managing ***YOUR*** assets and increasing ***YOUR*** net income. Usually no more than 6-10 cows are causing a large majority of BTSCC problems in a herd. Once high cell count cows have been identified, individual cows can be dealt with by either treating, culling or drying them off to get their milk out of the bulk tank until their cell counts have been reduced. Without getting the milk from these high cell count cows out of the bulk tank, it is very difficult to keep BTSCC under control.

Controlling your BTSCC during the hot summer and early fall months has two very substantial benefits for you and for the consumer: (1) Lowering your BTSCC will usually raise your milk production more than enough to offset any additional costs associated with achieving lower BTSCC; (2) Consumers will get a better quality product that has a longer shelf-life.

**TOP HERDS BY TEST DAY ENERGY CORRECTED MILK (ALL COWS)**

| NAME | BR | DATE | COWS | DIM | ECM | MILK | FAT% | PRO% | RHA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LSU DAIRY | H | 3/23 | 87 | 181 | 83.7 | 84.2 | 3.8 | 3.0 | 23553 |
| LOUISIANA TECH DAIRY | H | 3/1 | 42 | 132 | 81.8 | 90.3 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 20942 |
| BILLY ANDREWS | H | 3/21 | 105 | 215 | 72.9 | 72.2 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 19762 |
| LADD BLADES | H | 3/2 | 236 | 131 | 72.0 | 75.7 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 19536 |
| LOUISIANA TECH DAIRY | X | 3/1 | 85 | 149 | 70.9 | 73.7 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 18339 |
| CLIFFORD CHAMPLIN | X | 3/13 | 246 | 119 | 70.1 | 75.2 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 21541 |
| SE LA EXP STATION | H | 3/17 | 221 | 153 | 68.1 | 73.5 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 21217 |
| JOHN FAUNCE JR DAIRY | H | 3/7 | 227 | 182 | 66.6 | 69.9 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 18078 |
| RODNEY HOLDEN | H | 2/24 | 53 | 144 | 65.5 | 69.7 | 3.8 | 3.0 | 15557 |
| BROWN DAIRY FARM | H | 3/20 | 196 | 195 | 64.9 | 66.9 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 18920 |
| KIRBY VARNADO | H | 2/7 | 104 | 168 | 63.5 | 68.4 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 21184 |
| GALEN NIGHTINGALE | H | 3/14 | 79 | 197 | 62.8 | 68.6 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 20490 |
| C JOHNSON & W LITWILLER | H | 3/16 | 101 | 232 | 62.6 | 68.6 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 19585 |
| BOBBY GOINGS | H | 3/25 | 103 | 194 | 61.3 | 67.2 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 17990 |
| CIRCLE G FARMS | H | 3/16 | 160 | 169 | 60.9 | 69.3 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 17724 |
| LOUISIANA TECH DAIRY | J | 3/1 | 43 | 166 | 60.1 | 57.1 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 15409 |
| TO-BEV FARMS | H | 3/13 | 180 | 183 | 60.1 | 67.0 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 17130 |
| UDDER FRESH | H | 3/7 | 102 | 185 | 60.0 | 62.6 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 17422 |
| O B MITCHELL | X | 3/6 | 44 | 218 | 59.9 | 58.5 | 4.4 | 3.2 | 17769 |
| BRENT & LAURIE DUNCAN | H | 3/15 | 270 | 144 | 58.7 | 65.0 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 16501 |
| J PAUL ALFORD | X | 3/6 | 116 | 138 | 58.2 | 57.9 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 17126 |
| HOLLIS BANKSTON & SONS | H | 3/29 | 95 | 213 | 58.0 | 62.0 | 3.8 | 3.1 | 16978 |
| MARVIN FLETCHER | H | 3/15 | 163 | 210 | 57.3 | 57.8 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 17116 |
| HILL FARM RESEARCH STATION | J | 3/15 | 72 | 138 | 56.9 | 51.7 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 16417 |
| CLINTON STEVENS | X | 3/8 | 129 | 209 | 56.5 | 56.3 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 15418 |

**TOP HERDS BY TEST DAY ENERGY CORRECTED MILK (ALL COWS)**

| NAME | BR | DATE | COWS | DIM | ECM | MILK | FAT% | PRO% | RHA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LSU DAIRY | H | 4/19 | 80 | 194 | 81.5 | 78.9 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 23716 |
| LOUISIANA TECH DAIRY | H | 4/3 | 41 | 164 | 80.1 | 88.6 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 21761 |
| BILLY ANDREWS | H | 3/21 | 105 | 215 | 72.9 | 72.2 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 19762 |
| CLIFFORD CHAMPLIN | H | 3/13 | 246 | 119 | 70.1 | 75.2 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 21541 |
| SE LA EXP STATION | H | 4/17 | 222 | 173 | 67.8 | 73.1 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 21148 |
| LADD BLADES | H | 4/10 | 230 | 167 | 66.3 | 69.6 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 19745 |
| BROWN DAIRY FARM | H | 3/20 | 196 | 195 | 64.9 | 66.9 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 18920 |
| KIRBY VARNADO | H | 4/11 | 101 | 179 | 64.3 | 71.3 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 21053 |
| C JOHNSON & W LITWILLER | H | 4/19 | 101 | 260 | 62.3 | 64.9 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 19574 |
| BOBBY GOINGS | H | 3/25 | 103 | 194 | 61.3 | 67.2 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 17990 |
| J PAUL ALFORD | H | 4/3 | 115 | 155 | 61.2 | 64.9 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 17052 |
| HILL FARM RESEARCH STATION | J | 4/10 | 67 | 136 | 60.8 | 54.7 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 16394 |
| O B MITCHELL | H | 3/6 | 44 | 218 | 59.9 | 58.5 | 4.4 | 3.2 | 17769 |
| RODNEY HOLDEN | H | 4/12 | 52 | 198 | 59.9 | 65.6 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 15811 |
| JOHN FAUNCE JR DAIRY | H | 4/4 | 227 | 198 | 59.2 | 62.9 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 18089 |
| GALEN NIGHTINGALE | H | 4/19 | 78 | 236 | 58.8 | 68.6 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 20312 |
| UDDER FRESH | H | 4/13 | 102 | 217 | 57.8 | 64.1 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 17755 |
| MARVIN FLETCHER | H | 4/12 | 164 | 231 | 56.8 | 60.7 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 17072 |
| TO-BEV FARMS | H | 4/10 | 180 | 204 | 56.7 | 65.0 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 17384 |
| LOUISIANA TECH DAIRY | J | 4/3 | 44 | 190 | 56.3 | 59.6 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 15929 |
| CIRCLE G FARMS | H | 4/14 | 154 | 188 | 55.8 | 63.1 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 17694 |
| LEESFIELD DAIRY FARM | H | 3/29 | 98 | 186 | 54.8 | 62.9 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 17011 |
| RODNEY HOLDEN | H | 4/12 | 112 | 201 | 54.2 | 60.2 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 15141 |
| RUSSELL AND RUSTY CREEL | H | 3/21 | 98 | 201 | 53.9 | 62.9 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 16644 |
| CLINTON STEVENS | H | 4/5 | 126 | 220 | 52.6 | 57.0 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 15581 |

**TOP HERDS BY TEST DAY WEIGHTED AVERAGE SCC (MILKING COWS)**

| NAME | BR | DATE | COWS | DIM | ECM | FAT% | PRO% | SCC | RHA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NED SIMMONS | H | 3/17 | 188 | 156 | 49.6 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 123 | 13575 |
| HILL FARM RESEARCH STATION | J | 3/15 | 72 | 138 | 56.9 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 129 | 16417 |
| CIRCLE G FARMS | H | 3/16 | 160 | 169 | 60.9 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 148 | 17724 |
| PHILLIP ROBERTS | X | 3/12 | 314 | 128 | 47.6 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 185 | 15022 |
| FORTENBERRY AND | H | 2/17 | 105 | 177 | 45.2 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 215 | 14069 |
| TO-BEV FARMS | H | 3/13 | 180 | 183 | 60.1 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 229 | 17130 |
| BOBBY GOINGS | H | 3/25 | 103 | 194 | 61.3 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 245 | 17990 |
| DUSTY SCHILLING | H | 3/30 | 103 | 206 | 51.3 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 245 | 16630 |
| HILL FARM RESEARCH STATION | J | 3/15 | 126 | 183 | 49.4 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 251 | 14139 |
| LADD BLADES | H | 3/2 | 236 | 131 | 72.0 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 265 | 19536 |
| UDDER FRESH | H | 3/7 | 102 | 185 | 60.0 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 285 | 17422 |
| BRENT & LAURIE DUNCAN | H | 3/15 | 270 | 144 | 58.7 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 290 | 16501 |
| LSU DAIRY | H | 3/23 | 87 | 181 | 83.7 | 3.8 | 3.0 | 303 | 23553 |
| C JOHNSON & W LITWILLER | H | 3/16 | 101 | 232 | 62.6 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 310 | 19585 |
| RUSSELL AND RUSTY CREEL | H | 3/21 | 98 | 201 | 53.9 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 321 | 16644 |
| BROWN DAIRY FARM | H | 3/20 | 196 | 195 | 64.9 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 326 | 18920 |
| HOLLIS BANKSTON & SONS | H | 3/29 | 95 | 213 | 58.0 | 3.8 | 3.1 | 339 | 16978 |
| SE LA EXP STATION | H | 3/17 | 221 | 153 | 68.1 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 340 | 21217 |
| CLIFFORD CHAMPLIN | X | 3/13 | 246 | 119 | 70.1 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 343 | 21541 |
| MARK WASKOM | H | 2/28 | 84 | 183 | 53.3 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 344 | 16721 |
| ROBERT A. & STEPHEN A. FORNEA | H | 3/24 | 87 | 260 | 40.7 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 349 | 15970 |
| DARYL & MARYJO ROBERTSON | H | 3/10 | 211 | 221 | 53.0 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 350 | 14660 |
| VICTOR WOMACK | H | 3/29 | 118 | 137 | 52.3 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 351 | 14349 |
| M & B DAIRY FARM INC. | H | 3/20 | 144 | 182 | 37.5 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 366 | 15427 |
| BILLY ANDREWS | H | 3/21 | 105 | 215 | 72.9 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 385 | 19762 |
| LOUISIANA TECH DAIRY | J | 3/1 | 43 | 166 | 60.1 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 385 | 15409 |
| CLINTON STEVENS | X | 3/8 | 129 | 209 | 56.5 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 390 | 15418 |

**TOP HERDS BY TEST DAY WEIGHTED AVERAGE SCC (MILKING COWS)**

| NAME | BR | DATE | COWS | DIM | ECM | FAT% | PRO% | SCC | RHA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NED SIMMONS | H | 4/21 | 186 | 174 | 48.3 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 137 | 13813 |
| JACKSON BRUMFIELD | H | 2/28 | 65 | 143 | 13.9 | . | . | 190 | 12175 |
| CIRCLE G FARMS | H | 4/14 | 154 | 188 | 55.8 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 235 | 17694 |
| PHILLIP ROBERTS | X | 4/26 | 151 | 149 | 43.8 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 238 | 14338 |
| HILL FARM RESEARCH STATION | J | 4/10 | 124 | 186 | 51.6 | 4.5 | 3.4 | 241 | 14114 |
| PHILLIP ROBERTS | X | 4/26 | 301 | 158 | 46.0 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 245 | 15017 |
| ROYCE SALLEY | X | 4/23 | 306 | 163 | 39.0 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 267 | 12745 |
| BANKSTONS UDDERWISE DAIRY | H | 4/18 | 58 | 189 | 41.1 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 277 | 12969 |
| SE LA EXP STATION | H | 4/17 | 222 | 173 | 67.8 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 280 | 21148 |
| H3 FARMS | X | 4/15 | 49 | 192 | 40.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 301 | . |
| ANDY HERRING | H | 4/24 | 301 | 198 | 49.7 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 310 | . |
| LSU DAIRY | H | 4/19 | 80 | 194 | 81.5 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 313 | 23716 |
| JEFF & MARY ADDISON | J | 4/11 | 64 | 212 | 44.3 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 324 | 13151 |
| LOUISIANA TECH DAIRY | H | 4/3 | 41 | 164 | 80.1 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 331 | 21761 |
| ROBERT HUTCHINSON JR | H | 4/23 | 119 | 185 | 16.5 | . | . | 331 | 14386 |
| CLIFFORD CHAMPLIN | X | 3/13 | 246 | 119 | 70.1 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 333 | 21541 |
| CLINTON STEVENS | X | 4/5 | 126 | 220 | 52.6 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 338 | 15581 |
| MARLYNN FARMS | B | 4/3 | 125 | 190 | 48.5 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 345 | 14155 |
| ROBERT A. & STEPHEN A. FORNEA | H | 3/24 | 87 | 260 | 40.7 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 348 | 15970 |
| TO-BEV FARMS | H | 4/10 | 180 | 204 | 56.7 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 356 | 17384 |
| C S GOTTSCHALCK | H | 4/17 | 133 | 174 | 13.3 | . | . | 360 | 13870 |
| C JOHNSON & W LITWILLER | H | 4/19 | 101 | 260 | 62.3 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 378 | 19574 |
| J PAUL ALFORD | X | 4/3 | 115 | 155 | 61.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 381 | 17052 |
| RUSSELL AND RUSTY CREEL | H | 3/21 | 98 | 201 | 53.9 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 382 | 16644 |
| BRENT & LAURIE DUNCAN | H | 4/12 | 269 | 171 | 51.4 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 383 | 16487 |

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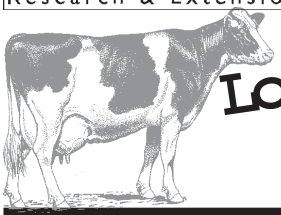

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