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DAIRY REVIEW

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Dairy Development In Kenya

For part of August and September I will be in traveling to Africa to assist dairy farmers in Kenya. I will spend a month at an Agricultural Training Center near Nairobi working with local extension and agribusiness trainers to develop a new "Farming as a Business" training curriculum. Kenya is about the size of Texas and has about 1.5 million dairy cattle. The dairy production system runs the spectrum of all grazing dairies to "zero grazing" confinement systems. Cattle are both *Bos indicus* (Brahma type) and *Bos taurus* (European breeds).

While I am gone, calls coming into the office for dairy related questions will be referred to advisors in other parts of the state. Please call the front office, instead of my direct line and they will assist you in getting your questions answered. I will be gone from August 13 to September 19. I will be sure to share information I have learned with you all when I return.

Dairy Herdsman Shortcourse - October 18-20

The Dairy Herdsman Shortcourse is returning to the north state and will be held in partnership with Chico State at the University Farm on October 18-20. Look for more information in Dairy Herd Management and Western Dairy Business.

The Dairy Herdsman Shortcourse spans 3 days, with lectures in the mornings and hands-on laboratories in the afternoons. Because many dairy workers are Latino, the short course presentations are simultaneously translated in Spanish. Participants receive a packet that includes a notebook with the lectures and presentations, a California Mastitis Kit, a stethoscope and one colostrometer per dairy.

The short course covers dairy management, basic dairy husbandry, and the latest in dairy practices. The management sessions include using herd-management software as well as labor management, from selecting to disciplining to evaluating employees.

The husbandry lectures include reproductive anatomy and management; milking management, such as troubleshooting milk quality problems; and herd health, such as nutrition and diagnosing diseases such as mastitis and Johne's disease. The husbandry labs include assessing cow health from heart and lung sounds; proper hoof trimming; and a calf autopsy.

Save The Date(s)

The Professional Dairy Heifer Growers Association will be holding its annual meeting in Visalia March 22-24, 2006. You can go to their web site for more information <http://www.pdhga.org/>

The next Cheesemaking Opportunities Meeting will be held at the Sonoma Valley

Inn on March 7 and 8, 2006. This is one of the best places for networking and technical discussions for farmstead cheesemakers on the West Coast. For more information go to http://www.sheanadavis.com/education_classes.htm
 This class is co-sponsored by UC Dairy technology Specialist Moshe Rosenberg.

DHIA Data For June 2005

June DHIA Averages for N. Sacramento Valley Herds

Rolling Herd Average	BREED				Overall Average
	Brown Swiss	Holstein	Jersey	Other	
# of Cows	47	401	329	122	354
Lbs Milk	19815	21302	15832	14318	19342
% Fat	4.0	3.6	4.5	3.7	3.9
Lbs fat	782	777	710	532	744
% Protein	3.4	2.8	3.6	3.2	3.1
Lbs Protein	671	634	569	461	605
Somatic Cell Count (1,000)	436	341	241	263	312
% Cull	42	28	31	12	29
Calving Interval	14.1	14.0	13.7	13.5	13.9
Average Services /Conception	7	3	3	1	3
Percent Conception at first service	24	33	38	43	35
Average days open	226	154	125	180	149
Average days in milk at 1st service	65	79	71	106	77

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