

# NC DAIRY NEWS

NC State Dairy Extension Newsletter

January 2017

## Upcoming Events:

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### North Carolina Dairy Conference

The 66<sup>th</sup> annual North Carolina Dairy Conference will be held in conjunction with the North Carolina Cattlemen's Conference on **February 23-25, 2017 in Hickory, NC**. New this year, on the evening of **Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, NCDPA is organizing a **Social and Corn Hole tournament in the Trade Show**.

The Trade Show features over 100 exhibitors and is the best single event in NC for interacting with all types of dairy farm allied businesses. Join us to network with dairy farmers, industry affiliates, and other supporters. Come learn about what is going on in dairy in NC and bring back ideas for your farm!

Registration and program information can be found here:

<http://www.nccattle.com/news-events/annual-conference>



This conference is sponsored by the NC Dairy Producers Association. Visit their website below to find out more about becoming a member and sign up to receive the NCDPA Newsletter.

[www.northcarolinadairyproducersassociation.com](http://www.northcarolinadairyproducersassociation.com)

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## Dairy Advantage Travel Scholarships

NC dairy farm owners and employees are eligible to apply for travel funds to participate in the following conferences in 2017:

- Western Dairy Management Conference, Reno, NV, February 28-March 2 ([wdmc.org](http://wdmc.org))
- Southern Dairy Conference, Atlanta, Ga, March 6-8 ([southerndairyconference.com](http://southerndairyconference.com))

Scholarship applications can be found on the home page:

[ncdairyadvantage.com](http://ncdairyadvantage.com)

Applications should be completed and emailed to:

[info@ncdairyadvantage.com](mailto:info@ncdairyadvantage.com).

Estimate your travel costs on the application, and it will be reviewed and amounts awarded on a competitive basis. Applications will be due three weeks prior to the start of each conference. These programs are a fantastic way for dairy producers to learn from top dairy experts and network with other producers.



# Benefits Of Long Days

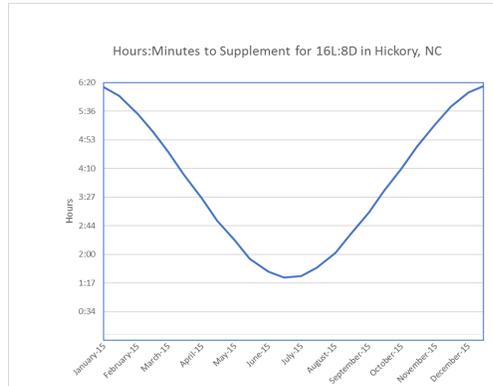
We've survived the shortest day of the year and we are once again headed towards longer daily doses of sunshine. We humans generally know how daylight and sunshine affects us, but have we thought about how it affects our livestock? Although the mechanisms are largely unknown, study upon study have shown the long days typical of summertime (and even longer days than NC summers) increase milk production as compared with short days of wintertime. We also know that this effect is rather short-lived because creatures eventually stop responding to a day-length signal that does not change over time.

How can we use this information to our benefit on our dairy farms? Ideally, we should provide our pregnant dairy heifers and cows with a short-day photo signal of about 8 hours per day. Once they calve, ideally they will see 16 hours of light per day as a long-day photoperiod.

They respond to this fresh long-day signal by increasing dry matter intake and shortly thereafter increasing milk production. The intensity of light they see can be important, but generally speaking, if you can read a newspaper at the eye level of the cattle in question, that is bright enough.

The graph below shows how many hours of supplemental light are required during the year to provide the long-day benefits in North Carolina. Simply keeping lights on 24 hours a day not only wastes electricity and bulb life, but tends to confuse normal circadian rhythms. Since it's tough to be consistent turning lights on and off, simple tim-

ers are the best method to control photoperiod in our livestock facilities.



Some utility providers will provide financial assistance to clients who upgrade their electrical appliances. This could include new efficient LED lights as well as timers, among other things. For those using Duke Energy, the contact person is Larry Airey, Smart Saver Incentive Program, 704-773-7282. Larry has maintained a booth at the NC Cattlemen's Conference in Hickory, where you can likely find out more information this February 23-25.

If you have any questions or would like some assistance, please don't hesitate to contact your Dairy Team.



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## NCSU Dairy Club

The NC State Dairy Science Club recently sent 10 members to the Southeast Dairy Student Symposium, which is hosted by the Georgia Dairy Producers Association during the Georgia Milk Producers Conference. Students were able to network with faculty and other students from the region as well as dairy industry and ag business representatives. This was a great opportunity for our students to learn more about the dairy industry and meet potential employers.



The Club is also gearing up for the ADSA Student Affiliate Division meeting in Baton Rouge, LA Feb 15-19. Students will travel to LA to present original research projects and other topics related to dairy production and dairy foods. They will also participate in a quizbowl and prep for the national meeting to be held in Pittsburgh, PA this summer.

Six members of the club will also be traveling to Visalia, CA to participate in the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge and Dairy Academy. Students will get the chance to evaluate large dairy operations and meet other dairy industry representatives from all over the country.

## Dairy Extension Team



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# NC DAIRY YOUTH ACTIVITIES

2016

## 4H Dairy Judging

The National 4H Dairy Judging Contest was held at the 50th World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI. The NC 4H team traveled there in early October after many weekday and weekend practices at dairy farms in and around North Carolina. The team stopped for final practices along the way to Wisconsin and did a great job at the contest. We are very proud of our youth and the way they represent our dairy industry in North Carolina. This team was coached by Melissa Staebner, Nancy Keith, and Brittany Heizer. This team had a great time learning about dairy conformation and each other along the way. Team members were: Baylee Fox (Chatham); Stephen Walker (Davie); Chloe Bolick (Rowan); and Macy Burrelson (Rowan). The official placings for the team were: Ayrshire (21); Brown Swiss (25), Guernsey (22), Holstein (14) and Jersey (25). The overall reasons score was 24th and overall team placing was 23rd.

Members of the NC 4H Dairy Judging Team B traveled to the NAILE in Louisville, KY in November. The team consisted of Madison Sifford (Snow Camp, NC); Emily Holland (Olin, NC); Mycai Brooks (Graham, NC); and Layken Doub (East Bend, NC). These students spent lots of hours on the road visiting dairy farms for practices and learning the best way to deliver reasons and place classes. These students did a great job representing the NC dairy industry at this competition and then got to have a little fun too! Visits to the Louisville Slugger museum and Churchill Downs kept them...and their coaches...entertained.

Official placing for the team were: Ayrshire (10); Brown Swiss (13); Guernsey (15); Holstein (13); Jersey (11); Reasons (14); Overall (13). Individual placings were: Madison Sifford- Ayrshire (14), Brown Swiss (6), Guernsey (47), Holstein (33); Jersey (18), Reasons (36), Overall (14); Emily Holland- Brown Swiss (34), Jersey (27); Mycai Brooks- Ayrshire (20), Guernsey (44), Holstein (16); Layken Doub- Ayrshire (35), Guernsey (38), Jersey (35).



## SE DAIRY YOUTH RETREAT

This year the SEDYR was hosted by Tony McGaha, Stephanie Parkins, and the folks in Haywood Co. More than 130 youth from all over the SE region came to Maggie Valley to learn more about the dairy industry and experience Mountain hospitality at its finest. On the schedule this year was a trip to Biltmore Jersey Farm, Sunburst Trout Farm and Dollywood! The schedule was also packed with educational events that focused on reproduction, nutrition/forages, and other dairy production topics. There was plenty of time for relaxation as well, as youth members and their families got to know one other or visited with some of their oldest friends.

## NATIONAL 4H DAIRY CONFERENCE

The National 4H Dairy Conference was held during the 50th Annual World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI. Each year two youth delegates are chosen to represent North Carolina at this conference. This year Mr. Zachary Ross and Ms. Sarah Smart, both from Haywood County, traveled to Madison with Dr. Stephanie Ward. During the conference, the delegates learned about developing career paths, opportunities to further their education, and were able to network with other youth delegates from all over the country. Also, Zach and Sarah got to learn about exciting new research being done at U of Wisconsin, spend a day at the World Dairy Expo, and tour the National Dairy Shrine. The trip was topped off with an outstanding visit to the Crave Brothers Farm in Waterloo, WI. Demonstrations of manure management, nutritional evaluation, and housing were held followed by a great night of square dancing, fellowship, and fun.

## QUIZ BOWL

The 4H Quiz Bowl was held during the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. A team of 4 students from Faith Christian School traveled with their coaches, Marjie Grubb and Marti Day to compete at the NAILE after winning the state competition. While in Louisville, students also got to explore Churchill Downs, The Louisville Slugger Museum, and some other sightseeing around the city. While these students did not place in the top 4 teams, we are very proud of their effort and wish them luck in future competitions.



## Farmer2Farmer

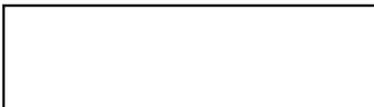
- Dairy farming family in search of dairy farm with house in good living condition to lease or lease to own. Iredell, Rowan or Stanly county. [518 369 7823](tel:5183697823) (Anne)

To share information here, email: [shward@ncsu.edu](mailto:shward@ncsu.edu) (put Farmer2Farmer in the subject line)

**NC STATE**

EXTENSION

**Empowering People | Providing Solutions**



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HERE

