May 18, 2011

7:30 Registration, Welcome, and Introductions

8:15 Load Buses and Depart for Seven Oaks Dairy

10:00 Arrive at Seven Oaks Dairy (Waynesboro, GA)

Dr. Richard Watson, Owner

Natural Dairy, Inc.

Learning objectives:

1. Manipulation grazing behavior and forage intake

2. Tracking forage growth rates and availability

3. Feed wedge budgeting

4. Incorporating wildlife into the farm plan

5. Body condition scoring

6. Breeding objectives and considerations for pasture-based dairies

12:30 Load Buses and Depart for Extension Office Facility (Waynesboro, GA)

1:00 Lunch at Extension Office Facility

1:45 Load Buses and Depart for Pineland Dairy, Inc (Waynesboro, GA)

2:30 Arrive at Pineland Dairy

Mr. Beryl Landis, Owner

Pineland Dairy and Milky Way Dairy

Learning objectives:

1. Conversions from row crop to pasture

2. Hybridization of pasture-based and TMR-based dairy models

3. Minimizing Labor

4. Utilizing winter annual legumes for grazing and N fixation

5:00 Load Buses for Aiken, SC

6:30 Supper on your own

May 19, 2011

8:00 Meet at Newberry Hall, Aiken, SC

8:15 Conventional and Pasture-Based Dairying in the Southeast

Dr. Mary Sowerby, Extension Dairy Specialist, Univ. FL

8:45 Economics of Pasture-Based Dairying

Mr. Joe Horner, Extension Dairy Economist, Univ. MO

9:15 Forage Species and Systems for Pasture-Based Dairies

Dr. Nick Hill, Professor, Forage Management, Univ. GA

9:45 Environmental Observations from Pasture-Based Dairies

Dr. Miguel Cabrera, Professor, Soil Sciences, Univ. GA

10:15 Break

10:30 Influence of Grazing Management on Forage Efficiency and Persistence

Dr. Lynn Sollenberger, Professor, Forage Management, Univ. FL

11:00 Supplementation on Pasture-Based Dairies

Dr. Tony Rickard, Extension Dairy Specialist, Univ. MO

11:30 Business and Beyond: Lifestyle, Family, and Societal Implications

Mr. Tom Trantham, Pasture-based dairy producer: Happy Cow Creamery, Pelzer, SC

Al and Desiree Wehner, Pasture-based dairy producers: Green Hill, Grassy Flats, and Jumping Gully Dairies, Pavo, GA.

Question and Answer session moderated by Dr. John Andrae, Assoc. Prof., Forage Extension Specialist, Clemson Univ.

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Paddock Sizing and Design Considerations

Dr. Dennis Hancock, Asst. Professor, Forage Extension Specialist, Univ. GA

1:15 Planning and Implementing Grazing Systems

Dr. Dennis Chessman, Grazinglands Specialist, USDA-NRCS, Athens, GA

1:45 Nutrient Management Concerns and Containment Facility Design

Ms. Melany Wilson, Animal Waste Specialist, Univ. GA

Mr. Jeff Bellflower, Research Asst., Univ. GA

2:15 Research Highlights from the Center for Environmental Farming Systems Pasture-Based Dariy Project

Dr. Steve Washburn, Extension Dairy Specialist, NCSU

2:45 Break

3:00 Closing Session: Helping Pasture-Based Dairy Producers: Combining Educational Programs, Consulting, and Peer-to-Peer Networks

1. Addressing Research and Extension Needs: The Missouri Approach

Dr. Tony Rickard, Univ. MO

2. Keys to Successful Grazing Networks

Dr. Woody Lane, Lane Livestock Services

3. Panel Discussion

Tony Rickard (Univ. MO), Mary Sowerby (Univ. FL), Joe Horner, (Univ. MO), Steve Washburn (NCSU), Pete Hetherington (LIC/Ag Advance LLC), Woody Lane (Lane Livestock Services). Moderated by Dennis Hancock (Univ. GA)