

# UDDERINGS

South Carolina  
**DAIRY**  
Association, Inc.

## SINE DIE 6/7/07

**The first Session of the 117th South Carolina General Assembly came to a close Thursday, June 7th. While legislators did not agree on much, like DOT Reform, Worker's Comp and the State Budget, they did agree on a Sine Die Resolution that will bring them back later in June to further discuss these issues. Since this is the first session of a two year legislative cycle, all bills will maintain their current position until the next legislative session.**

**H.3438:** Cigarette tax increase... ON THE TOTAL INFLATION ADJUSTMENT, AND TO DELETE REDUNDANT LANGUAGE, AND TO AMEND SECTION 12-21-620, RELATING TO THE RATES OF THE LICENSE TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS, SO AS TO INCREASE THE TAX ON CIGARETTES FROM .35 CENTS FOR EACH CIGARETTE TO ..... Conference Committee

**R135, H3568:** AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL "AGRITOURISM" USES FOR REAL PROPERTY THAT DO NOT AFFECT THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE AGRICULTURAL USE CLASSIFICATION FOR PURPOSES OF PROPERTY TAX.

Section 12-43-233. (A) In addition to and incidental to the uses required for real property to be classified as agricultural real property .....agritourism uses include, but are not limited to: wineries, educational tours, education barns, on-farm historical reenactments, farm schools, farm stores, living history farms, on-farm heirloom plants and animals, roadside stands, agricultural processing demonstrations, on-farm collections of old farm machinery, agricultural festivals, on-farm theme playgrounds for children, on-farm fee fishing and hunting, pick your own, farm vacations, on-farm pumpkin patches, farm tours, horseback riding, horseback sporting events and training for horseback sporting events, cross-country trails, on-farm food sales, agricultural regional themes, hayrides, mazes, crop art, harvest theme productions, native ecology preservations, on-farm picnic grounds, dude ranches, trail rides, Indian mounds, earthworks art, farm animal exhibits, bird-watching, stargazing, nature based attractions, and ecological based attractions. Signed by the Governor.

**S 0668,** A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 40-11-360, TO EXEMPT A PROJECT IF IT IS A METAL FARM BUILDING LESS THAN FIVE THOUSAND SQUARE FEET USED ONLY FOR LIVESTOCK OR STORAGE. Referred to House Labor and Commerce Committee.

**Reform the SCDOT ( S.355)** remains in Conference Committee and has become an obstacle to adjournment of the legislature along with budget and worker's compensation. The SCDOT provisions currently being discussed provides for:

- The Governor will appoint the SCDOT Executive Director
- A six member commission would be appointed by the legislative delegation representing each of the six congressional districts. A point of contention is should

- the delegation appoint or should the legislature appoint which places power in the hands of the House with 124 members and the Senate with 46 members
- A ten member legislative oversight committee will be created to screen candidates for the commission and approve the SCDOT State Highway Plan
  - The commission will hire a Chief Highway Engineer

**Eminent Domain Study Committee** has delayed their report until next year. The proposed bill was being driven by condemnation issues at the national level to condemn for community development purposes which resulted in abuse of personal property rights by developers. The South Carolina Eminent Domain Law does not allow this type of abuse.

**Annexation liberalization** has received the attention of both the House and Senate but bills remain in Committee:

- **H.4105, Representative Doug Smith**, the joint resolution provides for an advisory referendum which would make it easier for municipalities to annex unincorporated areas. The bill passed the House and the Senate referred it to the Spartanburg Delegation.
- **S.201, Senator Ritchie**, this bill would allow a city council to annex an area by Remains in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- **S.202, Senator Ritchie**, this bill would allow an alternate method of municipal annexation. Remains in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- **S.203, Senator Ritchie**, this bill would change current annexation procedures by lowering percent of freeholders and assessed value to be annexed. Remains in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS: "V-SAFE", H,3045**, THE "VOLUNTEER STRATEGIC ASSISTANCE AND FIRE EQUIPMENT PILOT PROGRAM (V-SAFE)" GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER AND COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS. Was Ratified on June 7, 2007 and now awaits the Governor's signature.

**S. 141:** A BILL TO AMEND SECTIONS 14-7-1610 AND 14-7-1630, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, TO ADD CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY OR A PATTERN OF CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY TO THE STATE GRAND JURY'S JURISDICTION; Signed by the Governor.

### **Old Milk Bottle History**

I found an old milk bottle the other day. It was from "Golden Glow Dairies" in Lexington, SC. I wanted any information that I could get. The bottle has no chips and has all of the painted label intact. John Coleman, {803{787-8197), [jrcoleman1963@aol.com](mailto:jrcoleman1963@aol.com)

### **2006 South Carolina Milk Producer Tax Credit Summary**

This tax credit was first available for the 2005 tax year for South Carolina dairy producers. *See* S.C. Code section 12-6-3590. For the 2006 tax year, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture ("SCDA") certified 71 dairies for credit or refund under the program because they produced and sold at least 500,000 pounds of milk throughout the year.

According to SCDA information, \$2,720,000 was available as a refund to dairy producers based upon their annual milk production, which was approximately **251,000,000 pounds** of milk in 2006. The SC Department of Revenue was responsible for issuing all credits and refunds available under this program.

All four quarters of the year qualified for the credit because the USDA Class I utilization price of milk fell below the declared price of \$16.06. SCDA determines the qualifying price based on a formula that considers: a.) avg. price of milk in top 5 states where milk is imported into SC; b.) avg. Transportation cost of shipping in milk from those top 5 areas; and c.) cost of production in SC.

Producers also certified their annual milk production to SCDA, which in turn verified to the SC Department of Revenue that these producers were qualified for the credit/refund when they filed their income tax returns.

Beth Crocker, South Carolina Department of Agriculture, April, 2007

**South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Hugh Weathers**, announces a **“Certified South Carolina Grown”** branding program for SC Agriculture at the State House Market Day on the State House grounds in May. To share the vision for unprecedented home-grown food products, Commissioner Hugh Weathers and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture invited the citizens of the state to the unveiling of the branding program. Contact Maryanne Belser, [Maryanne.belser@cmsg.com](mailto:Maryanne.belser@cmsg.com), (803) 233-2452, for more information about the “Certified South Carolina Grown” branding program.

**“South Carolina Taste”** The Palmetto Agriculture and Food Industry Council, Dairy Association, South Carolina Department of Agricultural, Farm Bureau and twenty other organizations hosted a luncheon at the State House for Legislators, Staff and friends. The luncheon promotes South Carolina agricultural and food products, an annual event scheduled during April or May each year. Come join us next year to promote South Carolina produced and prepared food products. Contact Kelly Smith at 1-800-344-4518 or [kellysmith@as-irmo.com](mailto:kellysmith@as-irmo.com) for additional information about next years event.

### **Dates of Interest**

June 27, 2007	10:30 AM	Dairy Association Annual Meeting Association Office, Columbia, SC
Feb. 29-March 1, 2008		Tri-State Dairy Convention DoubleTree, Charleston, SC

**SC Dairy Association has new website. Check it out at [www.scdairy.com](http://www.scdairy.com).**

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