



News Release

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"Connecting Cows, Cooperatives, Capitol Hill, and Consumers"



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 2, 2009

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CWT FINISHES LATEST HERD RETIREMENT ROUND, REMOVES 101,000 COWS

ARLINGTON, VA – Cooperatives Working Together has now finished the farm audits of its seventh herd retirement round since the program was started in 2003, removing 101,040 cows that produced almost two billion pounds of milk.

At the completion of the on-farm auditing process at the end of June, CWT removed 367 herds in 41 states, comprised of nearly 101,000 cows that produced 1.96 million pounds of milk. These figures reflect the final number of dairies that successfully were audited in the herd retirement process in May and June.

CWT had received 538 bids from 41 states during the bidding process in April. As has been the case with its previous herd retirement rounds, most of the cows removed were in the western regions of the country. This round also removed 818 bred heifers.

"Even though this was by far the largest of CWT's seven herd retirement efforts, we were able to move quickly in May and June to audit the participating farms," said Jim Tillison, Chief Operating Officer of CWT. "The national dairy herd will be noticeably smaller this summer as a result of CWT."

CWT auditors were sent to each of the farms whose bids were accepted. Once the information submitted by the farmers with their bid was verified, each of the cows had a special CWT ear tag applied, and the farmers were a brief amount of time to sell their cows for processing. Once the sales receipts for the animals are verified and ear tags are returned to CWT by the processing plants, farmers are issued payment, and their names are posted at www.cwt.coop.

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Tillison said some farmers' names have yet to be posted online from this seventh round, but will be in coming weeks as they are sent their payments.

He added that additional CWT herd reduction activities are likely in 2009, given the depressed state of milk prices and the continuing imbalance between supply and demand.

The totals for each region in the Spring 2009 herd retirement round include:

Region	Northeast	Southeast	Midwest	Southwest	West	Total
Total Farms Audited	41	52	125	63	86	367
Total Cows Retired	5,121	6,400	8,153	43,121	38,245	101,040
Total Milk Removed	104.3 million pounds	107.2 million pounds	147.3 million pounds	844.4 million pounds	759.9 million pounds	1.96 billion pounds

Cooperatives Working Together is being funded by dairy cooperatives and individual dairy farmers, who are contributing 10 cents per hundredweight assessment on their milk production through December 2010. The money raised by CWT's investment is being apportioned between two supply management programs that strengthen and stabilize the national all milk price. For more on CWT's activities, visit www.cwt.coop.