

**The Southeast U.S. Celebrates World School Milk Day 2015**

School children and teachers throughout the Southeast learned about the benefits of milk and how it makes its way from farm to table all over the world during the 16th annual World School Milk Day (WSMD) on September 30. The Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc. (SUDIA) promoted the observance throughout its nine-state region, providing local farmers and staff to schools in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

SUDIA staff assisted with WSMD celebrations at numerous schools, where children were able to interact one-on-one with real dairy farmers, witness live milking demonstrations, and even pet young calves. For many students and teachers, it was their first time interacting with a live cow. Students participated by wearing milk mustaches and cow masks and teachers and school nutrition workers wore cow-inspired outfits or dressed up as cows themselves. By establishing a connection with dairy farmers, school children and staff gained a greater appreciation of milk, cows and dairy production.

Scott Glover of Glo-Crest Dairy shows a dairy cow to a group of students at White County Intermediate School in Cleveland, Ga. during a World School Milk Day event.

A key component of WSMD is classroom learning. This year, SUDIA staff distributed 1,148 WSMD activity kits to teachers across the Southeast. These kits contained various items including WSMD lessons plans, morning announcement templates, activity sheets, coloring pages, pencils, inflatable cows, games, and posters. Teachers this year were given access to more online teaching materials than last year, and new Spanish-language items were added to help extend outreach effort among Hispanic populations.

Kentucky dairy farmer Greg Goode (right) teaches children about different types of dairy cows from around the world during a World School Milk Day event at Walnut Hill Elementary in Liberty, Ky.

More than 80 schools in the region shared photos from their own WSMD celebrations, which will be posted on [www.southeastdairy.org](http://www.southeastdairy.org) shortly. Thanks to the creativity and hard work of farmers, school officials and SUDIA staff as well as Michael and the FAO, WSMD 2016 was a fun and educational experience for students of all ages!

Students at Gautier Elementary School in Gautier, Miss. enjoy milk during their lunches on World School Milk Day.

