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May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

4-H Agents, FFA Advisors, Youth Leaders and Parents,

The 2017 Southeast Dairy Youth Retreat will be hosted in Bradenton, FL July 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. This annual event is a tremendous opportunity for youth ages 8 to 18. During the retreat, youth participants from seven southeastern states will interact with dairy industry professionals during hands-on learning activities. This year's group will visit a wide variety of farms in Florida, ranging from a minimal input, grazing dairy milking 5,000 cows to a large agri-tourism herd that produces their own milk and cheese. The group will also make an outing to Adventure Island and get involved with interactive workshops and tours! The cost is \$200 per youth participant and includes lodging (4 youth per room), events, and all meals (Sunday evening through Thursday breakfast) except lunch on Wednesday at Adventure Island. Group transport will be arranged by UGA Extension and will depart from Athens, GA on Sunday. You will be provided more information following receipt of your registration materials.

We are looking for young people from Georgia to attend this tremendous event where they will gain a greater understanding of the dairy industry while building long lasting friendships in agriculture! Please distribute information to your youth members and let me know if you have any questions. Please visit the URL below to find all forms and information regarding the 2017 retreat.

<http://www.ads.uga.edu/extension/dairycattle/index.html>

Registration materials (forms and payment) are due by May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. On the payment form, you will see that contact information is REQUIRED for the "county coordinator". This person will be contacted to verify registrants. Each youth registrant MUST have the signature (recognizing support of youth member) of a county coordinator. The county coordinator may be an Extension Agent or FFA Advisor.

If you have any trouble with the link, please e-mail me at the address above and I will get you to the correct forms.

I hope that youth from your county will take advantage of this tremendous event! There are few others offered that are anything like it. As a final note, we will need chaperones. If interested in chaperoning the event, please contact me directly via e-mail to [jfain@uga.edu](mailto:jfain@uga.edu) and know that we will waive your registration fee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jillian Bohlen".

Jillian Bohlen, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor and State Dairy Extension Specialist