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

Hosted by the University of Georgia, the 2018 Southeast Dairy Youth Retreat will be held July 8th – 12th in Covington, GA. This annual event is a tremendous opportunity for youth ages 8 to 18 with an interest in learning more about the dairy industry, agriculture in the Southeast, and building new friendships with youth from across the region. During the retreat, youth participants from numerous southeastern states will interact with dairy industry professionals during hands-on learning activities, have the opportunity to network and participate in teambuilding activities, as well as tour dairy operations in Georgia.

This year's activities will include:

- Touring a large, crossbred herd that milks in a rotary parlor and whose owner was named the 2017 Georgia Farmer of the Year.
- Visit a small, farmstead operation that makes numerous products on site and whose Chocolate Milk won the 2018 Dairy Foods Taste of Georgia award
- Go behind the scenes at Zoo Atlanta
- Participate in hands on learning workshops – have you ever explored the inner workings of the udder? Do you know how to make your own butter? Have you seen the inside of a cow's stomach?

The cost is \$200 per youth participant and includes lodging (4 youth per room), events, and all meals from Sunday evening through Thursday breakfast (all breakfasts will be at the hotel).

We are looking forward to a great group of youth from across the Southeast and cannot wait to show off just what Georgia agriculture has to offer! All young people attending can expect to leave with a greater understanding of the dairy industry, a few more long lasting friendships in agriculture, and quite possibly how to call the DAWGS (that's the UGA BULLDAWG)! Please distribute information to your youth members and let me know if you have any questions.

Attached you will find all necessary forms for registration. These forms may also be accessed at the link below:

<https://site.extension.uga.edu/dairy/2018/04/georgia-set-to-host-2018-southeast-dairy-youth-retreat/>

Registration materials (forms and payment) are due by May 30th, 2018.

Georgia Registrants Only: 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. Please email me directly if you are interested in serving as a chaperone for the Georgia delegation. We will waive the registration fee for a certain number of designated chaperones who are willing to assist with hosting the retreat.

georgia4h.org

I truly hope you will take advantage of this tremendous event. Few others are offered that are anything like it! Following receipt of registrations, I will be providing a more detailed schedule. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 706-207-6614 or by email to jfain@uga.edu

Look forward to seeing you all in Georgia!!

Sincerely,



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

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