Another Program Available to Help
Central Valley Dairy Farms Meet Water Quality Rules

Western United Dairymen (WUD) and the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are partnering in a new project to support dairy producers in the Central Valley. The program is entitled the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and will help producers comply with the Central Valley Water Board’s General Order. This partnership authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill will augment the current EQIP funding, is specifically targeted to dairies, and will be available in Central Valley dairy counties. It will help fund Waste Management Plans (WMPs) and water quality infrastructure improvements for enhanced water quality protection.

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This partnership project will be administered by NRCS through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP.)

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A successful applicant will receive funds to hire and work with a California Registered Professional to prepare a Waste Management Plan for their dairy. Projects to improve manure management will also be eligible for funding. There will be a total of $17,300,000 available over a three-year time period, with $5,800,000 in funding available this year.

This partnership project will be administered by NRCS through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP.)

The application period ends August 28, 2009. Please contact your local NRCS office and make an appointment to apply for this program: In Glenn County (530) 934-4601 and in Tehama and Butte Counties (530) 527-3013 ext. 112.

More information is available at the Cooperative Extension Office in Orland or contact Betsy Karle at (530) 865-1107. Interested producers may also contact WUD staff for more information: Paul Martin at (707) 763-8874, Paul Sousa at (209) 527-6453, or the WUD field representative in your area.

Betsy Karle
Dairy Program Representative