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# DAIRY REVIEW

Sacramento Valley

February 15, 2005  
Vol. XIV, No. 2

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## 4th Annual Farmstead Cheesemaking Workshop April 5-7, 2005

Our farmstead cheesemaking workshop is held each spring in Orland, California. The program is sponsored by the University of California Cooperative Extension. Enrollment is limited to 10 participants and the registration fee includes 3 lunches, cheese tastings, class materials, and field trips to 2 cheesemaking operations.

This is a 3-day workshop for novice cheese makers, focusing on commercial cheese making for dairy owners. The course goals are to provide dairy producers with hands-on experience in small-scale cheese production, introduce principles of safe production of a food product on the farm, highlight the demands presented by vertical integration of a dairy business and to give general information on design and maintenance of curing rooms, equipment layout, plant design. The course also covers cost of production analysis and discusses the challenges presented in direct marketing and promotion of your own product.

Hands-on cheese making is done at a local farmstead cheesemaker's facility. Classroom lectures are held at the Glenn County Cooperative Extension Office, both located in Orland, California. The class also includes a field trip to a mid-size cheese plant in the area. Participants make their own lodging arrangements in Orland, Willows or Chico. We usually have at least one informal no-host dinner if participants are interested. The registration fee must be paid in advance to reserve space in the class. Information on the class including an agenda and registration form can be accessed on the internet at <http://ceglenn.ucdavis.edu/> or call our office at 865-1107 for a registration form.

## Dairy Herdsman Shortcourse April 19-21 California State University-Fresno

The dairy herdsman short course is designed for working dairy employees. Its purpose is to provide the people who do the actual work on the dairy the opportunity to receive information about the latest technology and training in all aspects of dairy management.

Personnel from University of California Cooperative Extension, UC School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Riverside and California State University-Fresno will assist in instruction. Simultaneous translation will be available at the sessions to assist Spanish-speaking attendees. The seminar will consist of morning classroom teaching with afternoons providing hands-on training. Notebooks with written handouts will be provided to each participant.



## **Preparing For An Outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, How You Can Help**

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Dairy producers in the region will be contacted this spring by the Center for Animal Disease Modeling and Surveillance (CADMS) in the School of Veterinary Medicine, at the University of California, Davis and asked to participate in a survey. The survey will gather information to help develop the best strategies for dealing with an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease should it ever occur in California. Advisor Reed urges producers to participate in the survey because the information they contribute might one day save their own farm in the event of a contagious disease outbreak.

In 2001 an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the UK resulted in catastrophic economic losses exceeding \$15 billion, including nearly \$1 billion to livestock producers. Because of the epidemic at least 6 million animals were slaughtered. Any outbreak of FMD in the US today where the density of livestock animals is high would likely be as devastating as the one that hit the UK in 2001. The last outbreak of FMD in the US occurred in 1929, therefore specific information on virus transmission and factors that could contribute to its spread through current livestock practices in the US are not available for use in creation of strategic plans. Computer models can predict how an FMD epidemic would unfold in a livestock region for which information are available regarding husbandry practices.

In 1998, researchers from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Center for Animal Disease Modeling and Surveillance (CADMS) in the School of Veterinary Medicine, at the University of California, Davis created a simulation model designed to characterize the size and duration of an FMD epidemic in the Kings, Tulare and Fresno counties of California, which are known for their intensive livestock practices. The model can be used to assess the merit of various strategies to minimize potential FMD outbreaks.

Last November, CADMS along with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) carried out a joint exercise that examined the rapid response team actions and inter-agency coordination at an incident command post during a hypothetical FMD outbreak in Tulare, California. They used the model as a tool to predict how best to contain the outbreak.

According to researchers, "the exercise made it very clear that knowing the precise locations of livestock and the movements of animals, vehicles and people on and off the farm are critical in order to be able to predict where the disease will spread, and the magnitude of the outbreak. The accuracy of this information is what limits the success at which the impact of various alternative control measures can be predicted". Now there are new plans in the works to expand the original model to encompass all of California and ultimately within the next couple of years to a national level.

Dean Tjornehoj, Director of Quality Assurance for Land O'Lakes Dairyman's Division, was also involved in the exercise. Through the results obtained during the exercise Dean realized just how devastating an outbreak of FMD would be. "The model really shows how critical it is to be familiar



with the behavior of the disease and also with the agencies and authorities that would be required to take action should an outbreak occur".

CADMS is collecting information from other states as it becomes available and already has some information from Texas, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Michigan. In order to obtain the necessary information for the model about livestock operations in California, questionnaires will be sent to livestock producers throughout the state. After going over the questionnaires, Dean Tjornehoj believes that all livestock producers will find them simple and short to complete, "it really won't take producers long to fill out this questionnaire, and it is critical to get all livestock producers to fill out the questionnaires in order to be able to have the best model. This will bring increased safety and security to the livestock industry".

The current project is backed by CDFA and USDA as well as the Department of Homeland Security. According to CADMS analysts Ricardo Ertze and Rui Lopes who have been working to create the new questionnaires, producers can expect to "receive the surveys in the mail sometime in March". Producers can be assured that all information is confidential and will only be used for modeling purposes. The bottom line is to develop a model that will provide the best and most effective strategies for protecting California's dairy economy and producers livelihood, should an outbreak of FMD occur.

Ricardo Ertze and Rui Lopes know that their best chance of being able to do that is by having the most accurate and up-to-date information possible. Anyone who has any questions about the questionnaire or project in general should call CADMS (530) 297-4621.

## DHIA Data for January

### January DHIA Averages for N. Sacramento Valley Herds

ROLLING HERD AVERAGE	BREED					Overall Average
	Brown Swiss	Holstein	Jersey	Milking Shorthorn	Other	
# of Cows	48	397	313	16	217	346
Lbs Milk	19918	21179	14914	13910	15010	18857
% Fat	4.1	3.6	4.5	3.1	4.1	3.9
Lbs Fat	817	775	670	436	616	730
% Protein	3.4	3.0	3.6	3.1	3.3	3.2
Lbs Protein	670	636	538	429	496	595
Somatic Cell Count (1,000)	410	330	304	248	306	321
% CULL	49	28	30		13	29
Calving Interval	14.5	14.0	13.9		15.7	13.9
Average Services/Conception	6	3	3		2	2.9
Percent conception at 1 <sup>st</sup> service	31	33	35		43	34
Average days open	208	156	136		185	152
Average Days in Milk at 1 <sup>st</sup> service	65	79	73		108	78

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