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Congratulations Dairy Producers!!

When faced with significant new water quality regulations, dairy producers in the North Valley rose to the occasion and delivered. Over 96% of producers in the Central Valley met the December 31 deadline for reports due to the Regional Water Quality Control Board! In Glenn County, producers beat the average with a 98% compliance rate! I appreciate and respect dairy producers for their foresight and am certain that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Storm Water Monitoring

As we are in the midst of the rainy season, please remember the following requirements for dairies covered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board General Order for Milk Cow Dairies:

- Discharges of manure and process wastewater from the **production area** (dairy barns & corrals) are prohibited (page 10, General Order). If such a discharge occurs, it must be reported to the Regional Board within 24 hours and sampled daily.
- Obtain samples from storm water discharge from 1/3 of the **land application area** (crops and pasture), rotating the sample areas each year. Samples should be collected for the first significant storm of the season and during the first hour of discharge for a significant storm event during the peak storm season (usually February) that was preceded by at least 3 days of dry weather. According to the General Order, a significant storm event is defined as a precipitation event that results in continuous runoff of storm water for a minimum of one hour, or intermittent discharge of runoff for a minimum of three hours in a 12-hour period.
- During and after each significant storm event, perform visual inspections of manure ponds and record all information included on the "Production Area Significant Storm Event" form.
- Continue to record **weekly** manure pond inspections on the "Dairy Production Area Visual Inspection Form." Be sure to photograph each pond showing the current freeboard on the **first of each month**.

Keep in mind that an analytical laboratory may require special bottles and delivery times to analyze water samples for the required constituents. Sample kits for field analyses can be purchased from a variety of retailers and I am available to help you determine which sample kit would best serve your dairy. Copies of all forms are available in the CA Dairy Quality Assurance Program binder (Tab 6), online at <http://www.cdqa.org/wdr/binder.htm> or from the Cooperative Extension office. If you need assistance with any of these requirements, please contact me at 865-1156 or bmkarle@ucdavis.edu.

Management Plans Need to be Started Soon

The General Order also mandates that each dairy will complete a certified Nutrient Management Plan and a Waste Management Plan. Both of these documents require the expertise of a trained and **certified** professional. According to Attachment B (found in the back section of the beige General Order book), the portions of the **Waste Management Plan (WMP)** that are relate to *facility and design specifications* must be prepared by, or under the responsible charge of, and certified by a **civil engineer** who is registered pursuant to California law or other person as may be permitted under the provisions of the California Business and Professions Code to assume responsible charge of such work. The first deadline that requires such consultation is July 1, 2009 (see page 27 of the General Order).

The **Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)** is described in Attachment C and requires a specialist who is certified in developing nutrient management plans. A certified specialist is a Professional Soils Scientist, Professional Agronomist, or Crop Advisor certified by the American Society of Agronomy (see <https://www.agronomy.org/certifications/>) or a Technical Service Provider certified in nutrient management in California by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (see <http://techreg.usda.gov/CustLocateTSP.aspx>). The Sampling and Analysis Plan item of the NMP requires such a specialist and is due July 1, 2008- a fast approaching deadline!

It is important for dairy producers to be certain that the specialists they are consulting with hold the proper certifications, so be sure to ask when interviewing potential consultants.

EC Meters Available for Purchase

Glenn County Cooperative Extension still has some electrical conductivity (EC) meters available for purchase. The price is \$65 and includes the handheld meter and calibration solution. Meters may be purchased at the office, Monday-Thursday, 8:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-5:00 p.m. or by contacting me at 865-1156.

CDQAP Waste Discharge Requirements Workshop

The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) and Cooperative Extension will hold another educational workshop regarding the Regional Water Quality Control Board General Order for Milk Cow Dairies on **March 7, 2008** at the Kountry Kitchen in Orland. There will be two sessions: 9:30-12:30 and 1:30-4:30. May 3 and July 1, 2008 are significant deadlines and reporting requirements are much more detailed this time around. Producers should make every effort to attend one of these workshops. CDQAP has worked very hard to make the regulations understandable and this is one of the few opportunities available to get free help from experts who are incredibly informed on this issue.

In fact, in November, CDQAP was the recipient of California's highest and most prestigious environmental honor, the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award. The CDQAP received the award in the category for "Environmental and Economic Partnerships", having demonstrated exceptional leadership in building public-private collaborations helping conserve California's resources and protecting and enhancing the environment. The CDQAP comprises 17 regulatory agencies, dairy organizations, environmental advocacy groups and the University of California. The partnership offers classroom and on-farm assistance in meeting regional, state and federal environmental regulations. Making sense of these complex regulations and providing outreach to the state's nearly 2,000 family dairy farms requires leveraging financial, personnel and technical resources of each of the partnering organizations. With new air and water regulations being promulgated or modified, the CDQAP has responded by offering a variety of courses, some statewide in scope and some specific to particular regions. Producers frequently take more than one class. Since the program's formation in 1997 some 2,400 producers or dairy advisers have attended one or more CDQAP classes for a total of more than 8,400 classroom contacts. (CDQAP, Nov 27, 2007)

Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles Survey

The California Air Resources Board is gathering information about heavy-duty diesel vehicles and their operations. This data will be used to better understand the age and use of diesel vehicles used in different operations such as

long-haul, local delivery, and other types of operations. If you choose to fill out the survey, you will be asked for your contact information, your company information, and information about your fleet vehicles. You may keep your company information confidential by checking the box at the top of the Company Information table.

Any person, business or corporation that owns or is leasing, for twelve months or more, any diesel powered truck, bus, pickup, or other vehicle should complete this survey. The survey may be completed online or hard copy. Visit http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/onrdiesel/onroad_survey/index.php for details.

Dairy Herdsman Shortcourse to be held in Tulare

A shortcourse for dairy herdsman is scheduled for **April 15-17** in Tulare. 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, 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. Registration fee for the shortcourse is \$240. Companies and/or dairies with more than one participant will be \$240 for the 1st participant and \$200 thereafter. Students will be charged \$160. Enrollment in the shortcourse will be limited to 40 participants. If you need further information, visit <http://cefnresno.ucdavis.edu/Dairy/> or contact Gerald Higginbotham, Dairy Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension at 559-456-7558.

New Website for Dairy Information

DAIReXNET, the national, eXtension website on information related to dairy cattle, was launched at the World Dairy Expo. DAIReXNET is designed to meet the educational and decision-making needs of dairy producers, allied industry partners, extension educators, and consumers. If you have not already done so, please take this opportunity to visit this web site at http://www.extension.org/dairy_cattle.

DAIReXNET currently offers the following resources:

- 1. ANSWERS to “Frequently Asked Questions.”**
- 2. ACCESS to top experts in the field of dairy production. If an answer to a frequently asked question is not available, then the question is directed to “Ask the Expert,” where dairy professionals provide the requested information**
- 3. RESOURCES of science-based, peer-reviewed articles on over a dozen critical dairy-related topics.**
- 4. NEWSLETTERS including state and regional dairy newsletters which can be searched or received via a RSS feed**
- 5. NEWS including latest news releases, and highlights from across the country.**
- 6. EVENTS upcoming at local, state, regional, and national levels.**

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program

FSA RESCHEDULES SIGN-UP FOR DAIRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Source: USDA-FSA Press Release- Friday, February 01, 2008

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that it is postponing sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) until the agency publishes final regulations in the Federal Register. Sign-up for DDAP-III was scheduled to resume Feb. 4, 2008.

Unlike other disaster programs, FSA was forced to delay DDAP-III sign-up because of Paperwork Reduction Act and other regulatory requirements mandating that there had to be the issuance of a proposed rule for public comments on the program. FSA is currently finalizing its review of the numerous comments received from the proposed rule and expects to publish final regulations for DDAP-III within the next few weeks.

Details of the program are available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or by contacting your local FSA service center.

Bovine Tuberculosis Detected at Fresno County Dairy

Source: CDFA Press Release- Friday, February 01, 2008

A detection of Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) has occurred at a dairy in Fresno County. State and federal animal health officials are working closely with the dairy farmer and his veterinarians to implement control strategies to eradicate the disease.

The diagnosis of TB was made after a cow with suspicious lesions was found during routine slaughter inspection. This week, CDFA and USDA veterinarians completed tests on some herds that may have been exposed based on animal tracing records and determined that, to date, TB is present in just one herd. The tracing of related animal movement will continue, as will TB testing.

Bovine Tuberculosis does not threaten the quality and safety of milk and meat products in California. Almost all milk sold in California is pasteurized, which destroys organisms that could be harmful to humans, including TB organisms. The state's two raw milk dairies are regularly tested for TB. All cattle processed for meat are inspected for signs of TB infection and rejected for consumption if they show signs of the disease.

Tuberculosis is a chronic, slow-spreading disease that can remain undetected for years. Infected animals, even those that appear healthy, can spread infection to other animals. The state of California has been involved in TB eradication programs since 1917. The last known case of Bovine TB in California was in 2003.

The best way for farmers and ranchers to prevent bovine tuberculosis is to follow animal import regulations, require TB testing of new cattle before purchase, maintain permanent identification of animals, keep records of animal movements into and out of their herd, prevent contact of breeding cattle with cattle of unknown origin, and cooperate with government officials on TB investigations.

Dates to Remember

February 12-14, 2008 World Ag Expo, Tulare

March 7, 2008 CDQAP Workshop for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR), Kountry Kitchen, Orland

March 25-26, 2008 Chico State Organic Dairy Field Days

May 3, 2008 Last day to begin monitoring process wastewater, manure, plant tissue, soil, and irrigation water as required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board WDR General Order for Milk Cow Dairies.

July 1, 2008 Annual Report, Specified items in Nutrient Management Plan & Waste Management Plan, Identification of backflow problems, and Interim Facility Modifications as required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board WDR General Order for Milk Cow Dairies due.