



# SUPERIOR CALIFORNIA



# DAIRY REVIEW

Serving the Northern

Sacramento Valley

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## Eleventh Annual North Valley Dairy Day Tuesday, February 4, 2003 Kountry Kitchen • 729 Fourth Street • Orland, Ca 95963

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University of California Cooperative Extension and Dairy Allied Industry

This program is free of charge.

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#### Eleventh Annual North Valley Dairy Day

#### Dairies Need to File Paperwork With Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2003

Barbara Reed  
Farm Advisor

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- 9:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 10:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**  
*Barbara Reed, UC Farm Advisor, Glenn County*
- 10:10 a.m. **Use of Records in Pinpointing Dairy Herd Reproductive Problems**  
*Anna Silveira, DHIA Provo*
- 10:45 a.m. **Reproductive Programs for Fresh Cows**  
*Michael Overton, DVM, MPVM  
Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center, Tulare*
- 11:20 a.m. **Using Timed A.I. Programs in Dairy Reproduction**  
*John Kirk, DVM, MPVM  
Extension Veterinarian, UC Davis*
- 12:00 a.m. **Break**
- 12:10 a.m. **Use of Natural Service Bulls in a Dairy Reproductive Program**  
*Michael Overton, DVM, MPVM  
Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center, Tulare*
- 12:40 p.m. **Update on County and State Regulatory Issues**  
*Barbara Reed, UC Farm Advisor, Glenn County*
- 1:00 p.m. **Reducing Cost of Production Through Intensive Grazing Management - Martin Dairy Case Study**  
*Barbara Reed, UC Farm Advisor, Glenn County*
- 1:15 p.m. **Producer Survey: What Are Your Priorities?**
- 1:30 p.m. **Industry Sponsored Lunch**

Call the Glenn County Extension Office at (530) 865-1107 to make your reservation. If you have any questions, or if you need help with wheelchair accessibility or other accommodations, please call the number above.



## **All Dairies in Region 5 Will Need to File Paperwork With the Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2003**

The Region 5 Board voted on December 6<sup>th</sup> to approve a new policy that allows the option of “conditional waivers” for dairies and other confined animal facilities – as an alternative to other state-issued permits – for producers who agree to certify their operations through environmental stewardship programs, such as the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP).

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Region) approved the waiver policy on a 5-1 vote. The policy impacts 2,000 animal facilities from Redding to Bakersfield, 1,700 of them dairies.

The decision gives dairy producers three options:

1. Apply for a state-issued permit, also known as Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). The specifics of this item will be determined by the Regional Board at the January 30, 31 meeting. Once the WDR is adopted, producers will have a clear understanding of all 3 options.
2. Apply for a Conditional Waiver of WDRs, and agree to meet a deadline for CDQAP certification.
3. If the dairy is over a certain number of animal units (to be determined by federal rules out next week), apply for a federal discharge permit, known as an NPDES permit.

The waiver option may be the most attractive to producers, with less paperwork, lower costs and potential for a partial fee refund. Large dairies (over 700 mature cows unless that number changes in the new federal rules) must decide which option to pursue by March 31, 2003. Smaller dairies will have until June 1, 2003 to decide.

Because new federal discharge permit requirements are likely to phase in over a number of years, waivers or WDRs may also be needed for larger operations, even if they eventually plan to seek federal permits (see next article).

The new state policy sets a timetable requiring larger dairies seeking waivers to complete CDQAP certification by end of 2005, with other benchmarks completed earlier.

Smaller dairies will be staggered a year behind, but these producers will also need to meet progress benchmarks.

The Regional Boards will be contacting every dairy in the state. The University of California Cooperative Extension will be providing some educational information to dairies to help them through the process.

## **Changes in Federal Laws Announced: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Released its CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) Rules**

The rule sets new permitting requirements and regulations for the nation’s livestock operations. While industry analysts are still analyzing the 400-page document, most California dairies will be required to seek a federal NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit. They will do this through the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The rule defines all dairies with more than 700 milk cows or more than 1,000 heifers as “large CAFOs” that must apply for an NPDES permit. In turn, the permit requires annual reporting, record keeping, and a “nutrient management plan”. Producers are required to fully comply with the regulation no later than Dec. 31, 2006, though they must apply for permits earlier.

Many details remain to be worked out, and the State of California will play a large role in implementing the program. A key issue is how the state permitting/waiver system will interact with the federal rules. UC Cooperative Extension, CARES, Western United Dairymen and others plan coordinated communications in January and thereafter to help producers clearly understand their obligations and options under the new state and federal rules. Those wanting to learn more about the CAFO rule and how it affects dairies may wish to review the brochure “What are the Federal Requirements for Dairy Cow and Heifer CAFOs?” available along with the complete rule and other information at [www.epa.gov/npdes/cafo](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/cafo).

A printed copy of the Federal Summary can be obtained from our office for those of you who are not online.