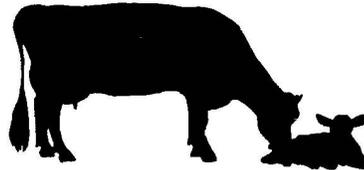




# SUPERIOR CALIFORNIA

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# DAIRY REVIEW

Sacramento Valley

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## New Date for North Valley Dairy Day

## News on Waste Discharge Waiver Issue

## New Date for North Valley Dairy Day

The NEW date for North Valley Dairy Day is Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. The location is the Kountry Kitchen and the program will focus on reproductive management. With the low milk prices, a dollar saved is a dollar earned. Improving dairy herd reproductive performance can help.

## News on the Waste Discharge Waiver Issue

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Region 5) has proposed “conditional waivers” for dairy producers instead of requiring formal waste discharge permits. If adopted as proposed, the policy would give producers an alternative to federal or state permits for waste discharges. The Regional Board is expected to act on the staff recommendations on Dec. 6.

The conditional waiver process establishes the procedures for application of manure water and dry manure to dairy property cropped acreage (activities the state defines as “discharges”) after January 1, 2003.

Under a policy enacted in 1982, most producers had been allowed to operate without formal permits, under a blanket waiver policy. That blanket waiver policy expires at the end of 2002 because of a new provision of the water code. With the end of the blanket waiver, the Regional Board must either require formal permits or adopt new waivers and conditions.

If adopted, the conditional waivers will require producers to notify the state regarding their intent to either seek a federal or state permit, or seek a waiver by certifying through California Dairy Quality DQAP.

Those seeking a waiver will have to submit:

1. A \$2,000 filing fee,
2. A completed Report of Waste Discharge (a brief form detailing the dairies’ herd size, layout, estimated water and manure produces, acreage and how much manure and water is applied to crops)
3. A schedule for certifying their dairy
  - a. by the end of 2005 (+1000 animal units)
  - b. by the end of 2006 (less than 1000 animal units)

Barbara Reed  
Farm Advisor

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To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism.

The proposed waiver is similar to the state-issued permits: both require fees and annual reports. However, the reporting requirements related to conditional waivers are simpler for producers and Regional Board staff. In both cases, part of the application fee is refundable depending on processing time needed.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Regional Board meeting that is scheduled for:

Date: Friday, 6 December 2002  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
3443 Routier Road, Suite A  
Sacramento, CA 95827

Persons wishing to comment on this noticed hearing item must submit such comments in writing to the Regional Board no later than **2 December 2002**.

All interested persons may speak at the Regional Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony will be limited in time by the Regional Board Chair. A timer may be used and speakers are expected to honor the time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

Any person planning to make a presentation to the Regional Board that requires the use of visual aids (such as overheads, slides, or video projector) should contact the Regional Board at (916)255-3000 to make arrangements before the meeting date in order to avoid unnecessary delays during the meeting.

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