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Update on Water Quality Regulations

Deanne Meyer, PhD

Dairy Industry steps up to get reports submitted:

July 1 was the due date for the first annual report for dairies covered under the General Waste Discharge Requirements. Over 90% of the dairy operators involved in this process submitted reports. This is a phenomenal response. The staff at the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is identifying the non-filers and is busy reviewing submitted documents.

So what happens to those who didn't submit? The Regional Board is working with producers (calling, inspecting) to get reports submitted. They are also drafting a letter (going through legal review) that will be sent to all non-filers identifying the requirements of the operator and that there is a potential for a \$1,000 per DAY fine for late submissions.

In addition to identifying those who have not submitted, staff is also doing their diligence to review submitted documents. Those producers that forgot or neglected to submit specific documents will be notified. Anticipate this letter in the next weeks.

Inspections:

With any formal regulatory process, there are always inspections. Staff from the Regional Board is committed to conducting inspections. Inspectors will spend at least one day a week on farms doing inspections. If there were unusual numbers submitted as part of the PDFA (December 2007), then you may see inspectors sooner than later. Small or negative values for pond storage or very low or very high numbers for nitrogen balance may also earn you an early inspection. Inspectors are looking to see how manure is managed and if the information submitted has backup documentation on farm to support what was submitted. Certainly, inspectors will want to see documentation on daily inspections of the land application area (to be sure nothing is leaving the property) and the weekly (rainy season) or monthly (dry season) reports for the production facility. Of course, monthly pond photos will also be on the list. Keep up the good work with keeping records current and up-to-date.

Pathogen concern letter:

Some producers received a request for information from the Regional Board back in May to identify practices related to land they control that grows

human food. These individuals had identified (in their PDFAs turned in back in December) that manure was placed on crops that ultimately were consumed by humans. The letters from the Regional Board served to follow-up and allow operators to identify practices with manure or the crops to minimize spread of pathogens. This was all prompted by the Department of Public Health.

The Regional Board has established a food safety committee and is working with individuals from UC Davis at the Western Institute of Food Safety and Security, California Department of Food and Agriculture and Department of Public Health to develop literature reviews related to each commodity. Dairy and other commodity industries will be involved as this process proceeds.

Glenn County Resource Conservation District Announces Stakeholder Meeting

The Glenn County Resource Conservation District (RCD) will be holding its annual Stakeholder Meeting at the USDA Service Center, 132 N. Enright Avenue, Suite C in Willows on Monday, August 18 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. The meeting is open to all landowners, land managers and community members in Glenn County.

The goal of the public meeting is to gather information to help prepare for 2009 local conservation priorities. During the meeting, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will be discussed, as well as local resource concerns and priorities brought forward by participants.

This is an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas on natural resource conservation in Glenn County!

For more information, please contact Kandi Manhart, District Manager at (530) 934-4601 x120.

FDA Set to Ban Extra-Label Cephalosporin Antibiotic Use in Food Animals

Michael Karle, DVM

The FDA has issued a notice that it is set to ban all extra-label use of cephalosporin antibiotics in food animals starting October 1, 2008. Their reasoning is that cephalosporin use in food-producing animals and poultry can cause antibiotic resistance in human medicine. There is no scientific evidence as of yet to support this.

The rule means that it will be **ILLEGAL** to use the antibiotics for any disease that is not on the manufacturer's label. It will also be **ILLEGAL** to use the antibiotics in any form, dosage, route or duration that is not on the label. Veterinarians will **NOT** be able to prescribe these drugs in an extra-label manner.

Cephalosporin antibiotics used on dairies include the following mastitis/dry tubes: ToDAY/Cefa-Lak, ToMORROW/Cefa-Dri, Spectramast LC/DC. ToDAY and Cefa-Lak are approved for *mastitis and can only be given twice, 12 hours apart*. Spectramast LC is approved for *mastitis caused by environmental Strep., environmental Staph. and E. coli to be given once daily for 2-8 days*.

Injectable products include Naxcel, Excenel and Excede. Excenel is only approved for *Metritis: 2 mL/100 lbs. body weight SQ/IM for 5 days; Pneumonia: 1-2 mL/100 lbs. body weight SQ/IM for 3-5 days; Foot rot: 1-2 mL/100 lbs. body weight SQ/IM for 3-5 days*. Excede is only approved for *Pneumonia: 1.5 mL/100 lbs. body weight in base of ear*. Naxcel is only approved for *Pneumonia: 1-2 mL/100 lbs. body weight SQ/IM for 3 days; Foot rot: 1-2 mL/100 lbs. body weight SQ/IM for 3 days*. Remember that any use other than **EXACTLY** what is stated above will become **ILLEGAL** if this rule is not reversed.

Please talk to your veterinarian if you have any further questions. There is a comment period until September 2, 2008. I would encourage everyone write the FDA with their comments. The Federal Register notice is at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-15052.htm>. The comment link is at <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=SubmitComment&o=0900006480653961>

Recommendations for Dealing with Heat Stress During an Emergency

Michael Payne DVM, PhD

The best tools available to livestock producers dealing with heat stress are adequate and accessible drinking water, shade and water-cooling.

Dairy producers should be sure that they can milk, water and cool their cows, even in the event of rolling blackouts or power failure.

Many producers have back-up generators for their milking parlor, which should be inspected to ensure operational condition. Emergency power should also be available for fans and well pumps.

Misters, soakers and fans should be checked to ensure they are operational. Shade structures (especially shade cloths) should be in good repair.

During a heat wave emergency, producers have used a variety of temporary cow-cooling methods:

- Fire hoses can be connected to water trucks and used to soak the cattle.
- Strings of cows can be cooled in sprinkler pens, if they are not in constant use for milking.
- Temporary soaking lines can be devised using flexible landscaping hose and high volume emitters positioned over the cattle.
- Industrial fans have been rented to augment these water-cooling methods.
- Temporary shade structures have been erected.

In general, working cattle should be avoided except in the early morning.

If producers are experiencing difficulties or delays in having dead animals picked up by rendering companies, they should immediately contact their local office of emergency services or office of environmental health and make them aware of situation.

Local officials are in a position to assist with alternate methods of disposal, including evaluating the need for a declaration of a local emergency

Partial List of Extension Web Pages on Dairy Heat Stress

<http://www.metermall.com/THI/THI6.htm#general>

<http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/live/g1582/build/g1582.pdf>

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/lvstk2/mf2319.pdf>

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/dairy/404-200/404-200.html>

<http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/articles/ExEx4024.pdf>

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/ope/enotes/showarticle.cfm?id=11>

How to Help Prevent Overwhelming the Animal Disposal System

Michael Payne DVM, PhD

Background:

Heat accelerates the rate at which carcasses decompose. Carcasses begin to decompose as soon as animals die. The degree of decomposition affects rendering; the more decomposed it is, the harder it is to render. Once decomposition reaches a certain point, carcasses cannot be loaded onto trucks and cannot be rendered. Decomposed carcasses are difficult to collect and transport, take longer to process and are harder on equipment. Processing decomposed carcasses can create a log-jam, slowing down the entire system.

Suggested actions to help:

- Call for pick-up as soon you have the first "dead" rather than waiting for an accumulation
 - Although you may pay more for services, you will have fewer environmental and disease issues and you will help lessen the chance of overwhelming the carcass disposal system with stoppage of pick-ups.
 - Encourage your fellow producers to call right away too
- Consider being on a routine pick-up schedule
 - Routine customers will be serviced first, lessening the risk of your animals not being picked-up
 - Call-for-service-customers are added to the route if there is capacity and time
 - Providing the exact number and type of animals to pick up will aid with route assignments
 - If you are not on a route you may need to try several services to get assistance and this takes time, increasing carcass deterioration
- Reduce summer casualties by doing the following
 - Cull early, before the cow is a problem (dead or downer)
 - § Culling early is probably less expensive than the cost of dealing with her later
 - § Culling early is a good animal care practice and helps to keep your industry in good standing with the public
 - § If you need to euthanize an animal, coordinate the rendering pick-up service, so they arrive soon after euthanasia.
 - Cool cattle=fewer losses
 - § There are a number of options to try but their success depends on your management practices and your facility design
 - Work with your veterinarian, nutritionist, farm advisor or other experts to determine what will work for your facility
 - § Things to consider evaluating/implementing include:
 - Shades, Fans, Sprinklers/misters
 - Increasing moisture in feed
 - Assuring you have clean, sufficient, readily available water at each pen
 - Have a good foot care program because lame cows are more vulnerable to heat since they may not get to the water trough as frequently as they should
 - Pay special attention to sick cattle, particularly their feed and water needs

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