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IDEAS WANTED FOR NORTH VALLEY DAIRY DAY

I have scheduled the 13th annual North Valley Dairy Day for Tuesday, January 25th, 2005 at the Kountry Kitchen Restaurant, 729 Fourth Street, in Orland. This meeting is co-sponsored by the University of California and dairy allied industry. It is free of charge, open to the public, and includes an industry-sponsored lunch. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Right now I do not have any specific topics or speakers scheduled. I would like to hear from dairy producers about what your needs and interests are. I have always tried to bring in speakers and present topics that give you the information you need to be competitive in the dairy business. This year will be no exception. Call 865-1156 now to make it your program. Please call my direct line to let me know what you would like to see on the meeting agenda.

REVIEW OF DRAFT NPDES PERMIT

The Regional Water Quality Control Board will be meeting on December 3, 2004. At that regularly scheduled meeting, they will review the Draft NPDES General Permit for Dairies. The exact agenda for the meeting has not yet been set, but should be announced soon. If you wish to make comments on the Draft Permit, this meeting is the place to do that. It is best to write down what you want to say and read it during the comment portion of the meeting, and then give a copy of your comments to the board so it can be included in the minutes of the meeting. The Regional Water Quality Control Board is located in Sacramento off of Highway 50. Their address is: 11020 Sun Center Dr #200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

The Board is made up of citizens of California. Here is the current Board composition and the information from the web site. The positions are appointed.



Region 5 Board Members

Robert Schneider	Chair	Davis	Water Quality	9/18/2006
Karl E. Longley	Vice Chair	Fresno	Water Supply	9/30/2005
Vacant - -			Irrigated Agriculture	9/30/2004
Alson Brizard		Groveland	Water Supply	9/18/2006
Christopher Cabaldon		West Sacramento	Municipal Government	9/30/2007
Vacant - -			County Government	9/30/2007
Vacant - -			Recreation, Fish, or Wildlife	9/30/2004
Cher A. Kablanow		Modesto	Industrial Water Use	9/30/2004
Lucille Palmer-Byrd Newman		Newman	Undesignated (Public)	9/30/2005

Brief Biographies: More information is available online at the RWQCB website.

Alson B. Brizard, of Groveland, is semi-retired and owns a 17-acre walnut farming operation in Patterson. He also is the chairman of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Water Committee, a member of the Water Advisory Committee of the California Farm Bureau Federation, and is the co-founder of the San Joaquin Valley Water Coalition

Christopher L. Cabaldon, of West Sacramento, is Mayor of the City of West Sacramento and President of EdVoice, a statewide education advocacy organization making schools better for kids. Mr. Cabaldon is also a member of the state's Delta Protection Commission and co-chair of the Environmental Justice Subcommittee of the CALFED Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee.

Cher A. Kablanow, of Modesto, is the President and CEO of Geological Technics Inc., a geological and environmental evaluation and remediation firm. She previously served as the Chairman of the Board and as the Chief Financial Officer for Geoanalytical Laboratories Inc., a lab which services the hazardous waste assessment and environmental industries.

Karl E. Longley, of Fresno, was appointed to the Board in December 1999. He is currently dean of engineering and computer science at California State University, Fresno. From 1993 to 1996, he

served as the chair of the Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region. He is a member of the American Water Works Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the International Association for Water Quality, the Nature Conservancy, and the Water Environment Federation.

Lucille Palmer-Byrd, 51, of Newman, has been a business agent for the Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons Local 300 since 2001. Previously, Ms. Palmer-Byrd was the vice president of the Plasterers & Cement Masons Local 300 from 1997 to 2001, and the executive board vice president of the Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 300 from 1996 to 2001. She has been the secretary-treasurer of the Stanislaus & Tuolumne Counties Central Labor Council since 2002, and the secretary-treasurer of the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Mariposa Counties Building & Construction Trades Council since 2003. 1985.

Robert H. Schneider, of Davis, was appointed to the Board in December 1999. He has an extensive background in environmental policy, which includes experience working with developers, farmers, hunters and the environmental community. He is currently a partner at Verve Enterprises, an environmental consulting firm. He has also served as a working partner at 5th and G Plaza, Inc. since 1994. Mr. Schneider is the president of Tuleyome and Cache Creek Wild environmental groups in the Putah-Cache Creek bioregion.



FIELD EVALUATION OF FOOTWART VACCINE

John H. Kirk, DVM, MPVM, Extension Veterinarian

Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis (also known as foot warts or hairy foot warts) is a contagious, painful condition of the feet of cattle. The lesions are often seen at the back of the foot near the space between the claws. However, it can be located in the front of the foot or near the dewclaws.

Early on the lesions are about the size of a dime with clearly marked borders. These lesions are moist, with hair sticking up and may have a strawberry-like surface. Later on the lesions become larger and are raised with long hairs and tissue projecting from the surface giving it the "wart-like" appearance.

The cause of footwarts is believed to be *Treponema* spp., which is a spirochete bacteria. Environmental conditions including poorly drained pens or alleys, the presence of manure and abrasive conditions are risk factors associated with foot warts.

Footwarts may be treated with antibiotics or chemicals. These may be applied to the lesions with or without removal of the affected tissues. In some cases the lesions are wrapped after treatment. On some dairies, topical treatment is applied to the lesions using sprayers. Because there are concerns about treatments affecting food safety and the environment, an effective preventive vaccine would be very desirable.

A study¹ conducted by the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory examined the effectiveness of a commercially available foot wart vaccine. The controlled trials were conducted on five commercial Central Valley California dairies with both dry lots and free stalls. The prevalence of foot warts ranged from 8 to 29% on these dairies.

Two treatment strategies were tested. On two dairies, dry cows and springing heifers with no apparent lesions were enrolled in the winter months.

Treatment timing would prepare these animals for the high risk months of spring and early summer. In three dairies, all cows in the milking herd with or without lesions were enrolled. One dairy used both protocols.

After treatment with a vaccine or placebo, the cows' feet were examined during milking for lesions for 5 to 8 months. Lame cows were further examined individually on a foot trim table. Overall there was no statistical difference in foot wart lesions between the vaccinated and the placebo groups. However, on one dairy, there were fewer lesions in the first lactation cows at 2 and 3 months after vaccination.

Interestingly, between 21 to 65% of the cows had been previously exposed to foot warts as indicated by the presence serum antibodies in their blood at the beginning of the study. The vaccine did stimulate an increase in serum antibodies in cows that were not previously exposed to foot warts.

The investigators concluded that the vaccine had no consistent preventive effect when used either during the close-up dry period or as a single herd vaccination. Other vaccination schedules need to be evaluated to determine if there is a more effective means of using the vaccine to prevent new foot wart infections, or for the prevention of infections in heifers before they are exposed to the disease.

¹Field evaluation of a vaccine against Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis (PPD; Footwarts) in dairy cattle. 2003 Annual Report, California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory System. School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California Davis. September 2004, pp. 23-24.

