Environmental Stewardship classes set for April in Hanford

Free classes are the first step for producers seeking CDQAP certification

The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) is offering their annual in-person classes on environmental stewardship in Hanford this year (see schedule at right). The two classes are:

- **The two-part series of water quality classes** (three hours each), known as the Environmental Stewardship Short Course, taught by Dr. Deanne Meyer, the Livestock Waste Management Specialist from the University of California, Davis

- **The air quality core class.**

The classes cover water and air environmental issues, regulatory requirements and management practices for dairy producers. For **producers interested in certifying their facility, the same person from the dairy facility must attend all six hours of water quality education. Producers can attend all or part of the Short Course, as needed, to meet the water quality education requirements for CDQAP Certification.**

Alternately, producers may complete water and air education online to meet the CDQAP Certification education requirements. Producers interested in taking online classes should email cdqap@cdrf.org for more information.

**Why attend the classes?**

These classes offer "one-stop shopping" with a comprehensive overview of water-quality related environmental regulatory requirements for California dairy producers. The classes provide a straightforward, clear, up-to-date approach to the sometimes confusing world of environmental regulations. Producers completing the classes will better understand the regulatory requirements and how to comply, reducing their risk of facing unnecessary enforcement actions, fines and other penalties. Completion of environmental education classes is also required for producers desiring to achieve CDQAP Environmental Certification.

**WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

**Water Quality Classes**

- **Wednesday, April 6, 2016**
  - **Class 1:** 9 a.m. to 12 noon
  - **Class 2:** 1 to 4 pm
  - Kings County UCCE Office “classroom”
  - 680 N. Campus Dr., Suite A
  - Hanford, CA 93230

**Air Quality Class**

- **Thursday, April 7, 2016**
  - **9 a.m. to 12 Noon**
  - Kings County UCCE Office “classroom”
  - 680 N. Campus Dr., Suite A
  - Hanford, CA 93230

To complete the water quality education requirement, a producer must attend both class 1 and 2 unless you already have class credit.

To be certified, a producer must:

- **Attend environmental stewardship education classes** (6 hours of water quality and 2 hours of air quality);
- **Create and implement on-farm management plans** (these are consistent with requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District for producers in the Central Valley); and
- Successfully complete an on-site evaluation of the dairy to assure compliance with all environmental regulations. **Water quality classes must be completed PRIOR to the on-farm evaluation.**
What if I’ve already attended some of the classes in the past?

Past and partial attendance hours can be credited. Producers who need three or fewer hours of water quality education may attend just one of the two classes offered here. If attending only one class, it is recommended that producers attend the first class because it contains a current regulatory update and other important matters of interest to producers. Producers who have attended previous CDQAP water quality courses and want to check on whether they have completed enough hours may call (530) 574-0524.

What are the benefits of Environmental Certification?

There are several benefits to certification – the State Water Resources Control Board offers a 50 percent reduction on annual water quality permit fees to Environmentally Certified dairies.

Certified dairies are presented with a certificate of accomplishment and an attractive roadside sign that proclaim the dairy as “Environmentally Certified.”

The ultimate benefit is peace of mind for the dairy producer, who will know that he or she has taken concrete steps to assure that their dairy is in compliance with all local, state and federal environmental regulations; is at a greatly reduced risk of facing enforcement action by environmental agencies; and doing their part to protect the environment.