January 2001 – Happy New Year!

Kings County releases draft Dairy Element for public review

Most communities have a formalized plan to help guide growth and development. The Kings County General Plan serves that purpose in our community. The plan contains various elements that focus on different aspects of community development. For the last 18 months, the Kings County Planning Agency has been drafting a Dairy Element to be included in the General Plan. The purpose of the draft Dairy Element is to spell out comprehensive goals, objectives and policies to guide the development, expansion and operation of dairies within Kings County. It has two distinct purposes. The first purpose is to ensure that the dairy industry of Kings County continues to grow and contribute to the economic health of the County. The second purpose is to ensure that the standards established in the Dairy Element protect public health and safety and the environment. The County has determined that the best way to accomplish these goals is to adopt a separate general plan element that establishes these policies for the local dairy industry.

Before the draft Dairy Element can become a part of the General Plan however, it must go through a period of public review during which citizens have an opportunity to comment on its content. You can get a copy of the draft Dairy Element by calling the Kings County Planning Agency at 582-3211 ext. 2670. The public review period for the draft Dairy Element will last for 45 days. It started on December 21st, 2000 and will close on February 5th, 2001 at 5 PM. If after reviewing the document you have any questions or comments about it, you can submit written comments (a letter) to the Planning Agency. The letter must be delivered by 5 PM on Feb. 5th. You can also attend a public meeting in the Board of Supervisor’s Chambers (Kings County Administration Building) on February 5th at 1:30 PM where you can voice any concerns you may have about the draft Dairy Element.

Kings County Dairy Forum on January 25th at 10 AM in Hanford

Local issues of importance to dairy producers, including the draft Dairy Element will be discussed on Thursday, January 25th at the UC Cooperative Extension Multi-Purpose Room, 680 Campus Drive in Hanford. The program will begin at 10 AM and lunch will be served. Other issues that will be discussed include cattle thefts, trespassing laws and environmental issues. Please come to learn more about what is happening in the local dairy community and share in the discussion. This forum is a joint effort by UC Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau and the Rural Crimes Task Force in Kings County.
Valley Dairy Day Programs

**Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Sponsor Recognition</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Strategies to Improve Employee Relationships</td>
<td>Gregory Billikopf, UCCE Personnel Management Farm Advisor, Stanislaus/Merced Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Where Does Money Come from on the Dairy?</td>
<td>John Fetrow, DVM, University of Minnesota School of Veterinary Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Dairy Outlook 2001</td>
<td>Marit Arana, PhD, UCCE Area Dairy Advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Dairy Financial Management</td>
<td>Robert Burroughs, CPA, Genske, Mulder &amp; Co., LLP, Modesto</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch (sponsored by Allied Industry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Current Outlook for BVD and Neospora Control</td>
<td>Mark Thurmond, DVM, PhD, Dept. of Medicine &amp; Epidemiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Lameness Prevention and Hoof Health</td>
<td>Steven Berry, DVM, Dairy Extension Specialist, UC Davis</td>
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<td>2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Demonstration on Functional Hoof Trimming and Healing Lame Cows</td>
<td>Steven Berry, DVM</td>
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University of California Cooperative Extension and Co-Sponsor Allied Dairy Industries of Central California announce the following meetings:

**SOUTH VALLEY DAIRY DAY**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2001**

Edison AgTAC
(Across from the Tulare Farm Equipment Show Grounds) Tulare, California

This meeting is free of charge. For more information and making luncheon reservations, call one of the following Cooperative Extension offices:

- Fresno County: (559) 456-7285
- Madera County: (559) 675-7879
- San Joaquin County: (209) 468-2085
- Stanislaus County: (209) 525-6800
- Kings County: (559) 582-3211 Ext. 2730
- Merced County: (209) 385-7403
- Tulare County: (559) 733-6363

**MID-VALLEY DAIRY DAY**

**Thursday, January 25, 2001**

Stanislaus County Ag Center
Crows Landing & Service Roads, Modesto, California

This meeting is free of charge. For more information and making luncheon reservations, call one of the following Cooperative Extension offices:

- Fresno County: (559) 456-7285
- Madera County: (559) 675-7879
- San Joaquin County: (209) 468-2085
- Stanislaus County: (209) 525-6800
- Kings County: (559) 582-3211 Ext. 2730
- Merced County: (209) 385-7403
- Tulare County: (559) 733-6363
Other upcoming events:

*Milking Systems and Parlors- Planning and managing for quality milk and profitability.* Jan. 30, 31 and Feb. 1. Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. The 2 ½ day agenda includes sessions on milking parlor efficiency, milking systems, testing and trouble shooting, using data to improve performance, milking management, milker training and communication and more. To view the complete program and register online visit the NRAES website at [www.nraes.org](http://www.nraes.org). Or call my office and I’ll copy it for you.

National Mastitis Council 40th Annual Meeting. Feb. 11- 14, Reno, Nevada. After more than a decade, the NMC is holding this annual educational event in the West! The program starts off on Sunday the 11th with a special symposium on somatic cell counts. Facts about what SCC’s are, what it means when their levels in milk increase, how to interpret SCC reports and the impact of high SCC on product quality will be presented. Other sessions will cover managing cows during the dry period, challenges of breeding for low SCC, bulk tank bacteria counts, environmental strep mastitis, organic dairies, and robotic milking. For complete program information and to register online go to the NMC website at [www.nmconline.org](http://www.nmconline.org). Or you can give me a call and I’ll send a copy to you.

Environmental Stewardship Shortcourse. February 28th, March 7 and March 14, Hanford, CA. The next offering of this three part class will be from 10 to Noon on three consecutive Wednesdays at the UC Cooperative Extension Office, 680 Campus Drive in Hanford. If you have taken one or two of the classes in previous offerings, you can make up the session(s) that you lack. When you have completed all three sessions of this shortcourse you will receive a certificate of completion and be eligible to have your dairy evaluated for compliance with environmental laws by an independent third party for certification under the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program. A complete listing of Environmental Shortcourses offered throughout the state can be accessed from my website and will be published in the next Dairy Notes.

Forage Notes

A winter forage trial was planted on December 12th near 4th and Excelsior on the Kings/Tulare county line. Eight varieties of wheat and one triticale variety were planted in 20’ strips with 4 replications of each throughout the field. The wheat varieties entered in the trial include Bonus, Brooks, Express, Eldon, Kronos durum, SSk, Yecora Rojo and Zancor. The triticale is Trical 111. If you’d like a copy of the plot map so that you can go to the site to see how the different varieties are doing, you can access it from my website, or I can send you a copy if necessary. Yield and feeding value results of the trial will be available at the end of the season. Results of last summer’s corn silage variety trial will be published in the next newsletter but if you are buying seed early and want to see the information sooner, you can access it from my website.

Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with peace and happiness!

Carol Collar  
Farm Advisor, Dairy, Livestock and Forages