



DAIRY NOTES

December 2002



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WAKE UP!

Sometimes I think you guys are your own worst enemy. I recently witnessed a scene that can only be described as bizarre and gruesome, compliments of some unknown local dairy. On a trip to Tulare from Hanford one Saturday morning, I was traveling east on highway 198 when I passed a pickup truck on a side street waiting to turn west onto the same highway. Luckily my husband was driving, because what I saw jerked my head around to get a better look at the load in the back of the truck. A large, dead (hopefully) Holstein cow was poorly contained in the bed of the truck. Legs were sticking out at all angles and worse, because of the sheer size and weight of the animal, her head and neck were dangling off the back end, muzzle dragging on the road. By the time she made it to the tallow works (my assumption about where they were headed) she probably only had half a face.

I am a reasonable person. I have worked with and owned farm animals for many years. I've experienced unpleasant events, mid-wifed bovine births gone bad and cleaned up nasty messes that are part of life and death on the farm. We all can get a bit calloused by this. But what I saw that morning made me furious. **The dairy industry is currently challenged by more negative public relations than ever before.** Why do you need to make it worse by *dragging* dead stock down a major highway??

Sure, you can explain it away by saying it wasn't you, it was probably an employee, and shift blame away until you feel better. But the fact of the matter is that it was **SOMEBODY**. With the bad press dairy has been getting lately, **EVERYBODY** needs to **WAKE UP** and pay more attention to the image they are portraying to the public. Dairymen, dairy employees, and

allied industry people all share responsibility. Following is an ancient farm advisor proverb that was handed to me the first day I started my job:

*"Whose job is it? Everybody is sure somebody will do it. Anybody can do it. If nobody does it, then somebody will get angry, because it is **everybody's job**. It can end up that everybody will blame somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done."*

Be a better neighbor. Technically, you aren't even supposed to haul your own dead animals without a special license, but that hasn't been strictly enforced. If you *must* haul them, use some common sense. Contain the load. Take a back road. Better yet, call in the professionals to pick them up. They have the appropriate trucks and the right equipment. If you don't want those trucks driving on your dairy because of biosecurity issues, build a "morgue". A simple shed at the edge of the dairy will isolate dead cow truck traffic to the perimeter of your property, shield the dead from view, and prevent dogs or coyotes from dragging carcasses down the road. A few forward thinking dairymen have even gone the extra mile by including a roof and water for washing – what a concept!

Times have changed. We are growing more urban everyday. The majority of people living all around you in the valley have no concept of dairy farming. They think cows are supposed to live on green hillsides and talk to chickens. We all need to wake up and become more aware of the sensitivities of the milk-consuming public before we lose more grocery store shelf space to soy milk.

For New and Expanding Dairies... **Kings County is Open for Business!**

The long, contentious process of adding a new Dairy Element to the Kings County General Plan was finally completed last summer. Producers wanting to obtain permits for new or expanded dairies within Kings County can now apply at the Kings County Planning Department. There are two ways that an application may be reviewed. If the plans for your dairy meet all the specific policies and standards in the Dairy Element, then your application can be processed as a Site Plan Review (SPR). If your plans for the dairy are different in any way from the standards in the Dairy Element, then your application will be reviewed under the Conditional Use Permit process (CUP). The CUP process will require that you provide additional environmental review for the parts of your dairy that do not conform to the standards in the Dairy Element. The county requires a deposit with these applications to cover the costs associated with the review. If the review takes relatively little time, you may receive a refund of part of the deposit. On the other hand, you may receive a bill for additional payment if the review is lengthy. The application deposit is \$1000 for a SPR and \$2000 for a CUP. Application guidelines are available from the Planning Agency or you can get them from the County's web site at <http://www.countyofkings.com/planning>. Click on the Planning Department, then click on the **Dairy Element** which is prominently displayed in red letters on the left hand side of the screen. From there you can get all the documents pertaining to new, expanding or existing dairies.

Determining existing dairy capacity – If your dairy has a previously issued permit, then you are limited to the herd size spelled out in the permit. Any expansion above that permit level will require either a SPR or CUP. This category would include most dairies established from 1979 to 1999, or older dairies who may have already gone through the permit process for an expansion.

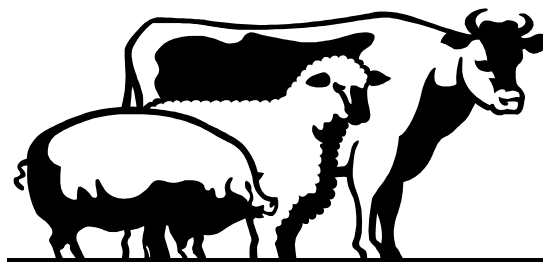
Dairies that were established *before* 1979 in Kings County do not have zoning permits. For these older dairies, expansion is allowed up to the calculated capacity without triggering the need for an SPR or

CUP. The calculations are based on the land that was owned, leased or under control of the dairy as of July 30, 2002 (the date of adoption of the new Dairy Element) and also the physical limits of the facility related to lagoon capacity, corral capacity etc. In order to have this determination made, you need to request a **Dairy Review Letter** from the Kings County Planning Department. Guidelines, application forms and checklists for making this request for a Dairy Review Letter can be found on the web site listed above. There is currently no cost for this service. The information will be used for two purposes:

- To establish your dairy's baseline capacity (what you had on July 30, 2002)
- To determine how much your herd can grow (up to the calculated capacity) before your expansion would require a new permit.

So if you have fewer animals than your calculated capacity, then you can expand up to that point. If you want to grow *above* the limit of your calculated capacity, then you will need to apply for a SPR or a CUP. **What if you already have more animals than your calculated capacity?** Then before you can ever add any *more* cows, you will need to get a SPR or CUP for the number of cows that already exceed the capacity and for the additional cows that you want to add. For more detailed information, check out the web site or call the Planning Department at 559-582-3211 extension 2670.

Carol Collar
Farm Advisor - Dairy, Livestock and Forages
UC Cooperative Extension - Kings County





Please Join Us For...
Dairy Day Programs



University of California Cooperative Extension and Co-Sponsor Allied Dairy Industries of Central California announce the following meetings:

SOUTH VALLEY DAIRY DAY

Tulare County Ag Building Auditorium
 4437 S. Laspina, Tulare
 (Across from the Tulare Farm Equipment Show Grounds)
 Tulare, California
Tuesday, January 21, 2003

MID-VALLEY DAIRY DAY

County Ag Center
 Crows Landing and Service Road
 Modesto, California
Thursday, January 23, 2003

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. 12730
Merced County	(209) 385-7403
Tulare County	(559) 685-3303

Program

- 10:00 a.m.** **UCCE Research Update**

Current Research in Air Pollution Related to Dairies
Frank Mitloehner, Ph.D., Environmental Quality Specialist, UC Davis

Effects of Cooling Dry Cows on Subsequent Milk Production
Jose Urdaz, DVM, VMTRC, Tulare

Effect of Dry Lot Exposure on Free Stall Housed Dairy Cattle
Jorge Vanegas, DVM, VMTRC, Tulare

Updates from Local UCCE Dairy Advisors
- 11:00 a.m.** **Those Environmental Straps...Who are They and Why are They so Tough to Treat?**
John Kirk, DVM, MPVM, Extension Veterinarian, Tulare
- 11:30 a.m.** **Milk or Move? What New Regulations will Mean**
Deanne Meyer, Ph.D., Livestock Waste Management Specialist, UC Davis
- 12:00 p.m.** **Implications for Bull Management in Dairy Herd Reproduction: A Producer Survey**
John Champagne, DVM, MPVM, Tulare
- 12:30 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m.** **Issues that Interfere with Family Business Transitions**
Carrie Lou Berry, Owner, Next Step
- 2:00 p.m.** **"How does he do it? ..." Surviving the Financial Highs and Lows of the Dairy Business.**
John Ellsworth, Owner, Success Strategies

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Corn Stunt Disease Meetings
Tuesday, January 7, 2003

TULARE COUNTY

10 am to noon
AG AUDITORIUM
Ag Building
4437 S. Laspina St
Tulare
(559) 685-3309

KINGS COUNTY

2 pm to 4 pm
KINGS COUNTY AG CENTER
Multi-Purpose Room
680 N. Campus Drive
Hanford
(559) 582-3211 ext 2730

Please join us to learn the latest about this disease that has challenged local growers. The same meeting will be offered at each location. Research results from last winter and through the corn season will be presented. This work included monitoring and mapping corn leafhopper activity, evaluating diagnostic tools for determining presence of the stunt pathogen, and insecticide trials. Management strategies for the 2003 season will also be discussed. Speakers will include Dr. Charlie Summers, U.C. Entomologist stationed at Kearney Ag Center; Dr. Dan Opgenorth, CDFA Plant Pathologist from Sacramento; Carol Collar, UCCE Farm Advisor, Kings County, and Carol Frate, UCCE Farm Advisor, Tulare County.