

GOT CERTIFICATION?

Environmental Stewardship classes offered in Hanford

*Free classes are first step for producers interested in certification
to receive fee discounts or meet other requirements*

The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (see reverse side of this flyer for more information about CDQAP) is offering free classes in environmental stewardship. The two-part series of classes (three hours each), known as the Environmental Stewardship Short Course, will be taught by Dr. Deanne Meyer, livestock waste management specialist at the University of California, Davis. The classes total six hours, taught in two, three-hour segments (see schedule). **This will be the only 6-hour class offered in water quality by CDQAP this year.** 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 to meet the education requirements. The classes cover environmental issues, regulatory requirements and management practices for dairy producers.

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 a necessary step for producers desiring to achieve CDQAP Environmental Certification. 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

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 1 (Class 1)

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 2 (Class 2)

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Kings County Ag Center
Multi-purpose Room
University of CA Cooperative Extension
680 Campus Drive
Hanford, CA 93230**

**You must attend both classes to
complete the water quality education
requirement, unless you have previously
received credit for attending CDQAP
water quality courses.**

- ◆ 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.

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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. Depending on the size of your dairy, this can result in savings of several hundred to several thousand dollars per year.

In addition, certified dairies are presented with an attractive roadside sign that proclaims the dairy is “Environmentally Certified.” As always, 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 the dairy is in compliance with all environmental regulations and therefore is at a greatly reduced risk of facing enforcement action by environmental agencies. Producers with additional questions can call the CDQAP toll-free, 1-866-66CDQAP.

Are the classes required by law?

No. Both class attendance and certification through CDQAP are voluntary (however, your milk processor may require certification as a business requirement).

May 2011

California Dairy Quality Assurance Program partner representatives have worked closely with regulatory agencies to develop curriculum for this workshop

The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) is a partnership of government, educators and the dairy industry, working together toward a single, shared goal: helping California dairy producers understand and comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations. CDQAP partners include:

*California Environmental Protection Agency - California Department of Food and Agriculture
California Farm Bureau Federation - California Milk Advisory Board - California Resources Agency
California Dairy Campaign - Milk Producers Council - State Water Resources Control Board - Sustainable Conservation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
University of California Cooperative Extension - Western United Dairymen*

