



## DAIRY NOTES



November 2007

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### Get Help with Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Reports

Existing dairies through out the Central Valley region are now regulated by a new Waste Discharge Requirement that was adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) last May. The WDR sets forth new and more stringent requirements that regulate the handling and discharge of dairy waste. The WDR also requires submitting specific information to the RWQCB over the next five years according to a schedule spelled out in the document. The first item required is an **Existing Conditions Report**, which includes a **Preliminary Dairy Facility Assessment**, due on **December 31, 2007**. This report must be completed using on-line software which is available at:

<https://www.co.merced.ca.us/EnvironmentalHealthWM/>

#### *Need help with on-line report completion?*

Assistance will be available on **Tuesday, November 27th in Hanford** for dairy producers who need help completing their Existing Conditions and Preliminary Dairy Facility Assessment (PDFFA) Report. UC Cooperative Extension and California Dairy Quality Assurance staff will be available at the Kings County Office of Education computer lab from **9 AM to 4 PM** (address follows). The computer lab is equipped with 16 computers and a printer. Producers may work on their PDFFA on-line at their own pace with help as needed from the attending staff. Those who complete their report can print a copy for mailing to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (deadline is Dec. 31.). You must bring your completed PDFFA Report Worksheet to the help session. Drop-ins are welcome, however, appointments are recommended. Without an appointment, assistance will be provided on a "first come, first served" basis. Please call Carol Collar, UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor in Hanford at 559-582-3211 ext. 2730 to request an appointment. Following is the address for the computer lab in Hanford:

#### **Kings County Office of Education Computer Lab 1144 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford**

Directions: The computer lab is in a portable building in the parking lot for the "Round Building" (an easily recognized, Office of Education, red brick building on the NW corner of Lacey Blvd. and Campus Drive). To park, turn north on Campus Drive from Lacey, then turn west (left) on South Dr. and then left again into the parking lot. The entrance to the computer lab is on the east side of the portable building which faces Campus Drive. It is next to the Kings Adult Day Care Center and it is well marked with a sign by the door.

***Other "last resort" on-line assistance opportunities next month***

In addition to the Hanford opportunity on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, on-line assistance will also be offered for one day from 9:30 to 4 PM in Fresno, Tulare and Modesto. Contact Trish Price at UC Davis (530)574-0524 if you would like to attend one of the following:

**December 12<sup>th</sup> in Fresno** – Fresno County UCCE Office, 1720 S. Maple Ave., Fresno

**December 13<sup>th</sup> in Tulare** – UC Vet Med Teaching & Research Center, 18830 Road 112, Tulare

**December 14<sup>th</sup> in Modesto** – Stanislaus County Ag Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto

***Recently completed workshops were well attended***

The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) staff and partner groups held a series of more than 20 workshops for dairy producers throughout the Central Valley in October and November. Approximately 1400 people attended these programs to receive information about compliance with the new WDR, also known as the "General Order". If you were unable to attend a workshop in your area, you can still access useful materials that were handed out during the workshops. Worksheets and record keeping tools are available at the CDQAP website <http://www.cdqa.org/> or from your local UC Cooperative Extension office, or from Western United Dairymen or California Dairy Campaign field people.

***Seek help if you have questions***

Please call me if you have any questions about the new requirements. The role of UC Cooperative Extension is research and education. We are not a regulatory agency. UC Cooperative farm advisors like me are working together with the CDQAP to provide dairy producers with tools and information that can help in understanding and complying with the new rules

***RWQCB staff in the Kings / Tulare area***

If you have not met them yet there are two RWQCB inspectors in Kings County and one in Tulare County. Following are their names and phone numbers in the event that you need to contact them:

Jorge Baca, Jr. - phone: 445-6076 - Area assigned is north Kings County (north of Jackson Ave)

Kerry Elliot – phone: 445-6126 - Area assigned is southern Kings County and Kern County

Ken Jones – phone: 488-4391 - Area assigned is Tulare County

RWQCB branch office - 1685 E. Street, Fresno - phone: 445-5116

RWQCB website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

**2007 California Alfalfa and Forage Symposium – Dec. 17-19<sup>th</sup> in Monterey**

This annual event sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension and the UC California Alfalfa Workgroup is focusing on "Back to the Basics". The program begins on Monday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> with a pre-symposium tour of vineyards, transplanting operations, the National Steinbeck Center/Ag Museum and artichoke harvests. A full slate of alfalfa related topics planned for Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> will include industry trends (economics, dairy situation, and the environment), and everything from A to Z about producing alfalfa – agronomic techniques, managing pests, and quality issues. Finally on the 19<sup>th</sup>, several speakers will present information in a session on Round Up Ready and Genetically Engineered Alfalfa (what is the future??). The symposium concludes with a round table discussion on this topic just before noon on the 19<sup>th</sup>. You can find a complete agenda and registration materials at the California Alfalfa Symposium web site:

<http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu/2007AlfalfaConference/>

## **New Web Resource for Dairy Producers - DAIReXNET**

DAIReXNET is a national, extension web resource designed to meet the educational and decision making needs of dairy producers, allied industry partners, extension educators and consumers. Goals of the site include providing relevant, cutting edge information and learning opportunities that are science based and peer reviewed, and also to provide collaboration among dairy industry professionals and to be a resource that responds promptly to requests for new information. The site was officially “launched” at the World Dairy Expo last month.

DAIReXNET currently offers the following resources:

- Answers to “Frequently Asked Questions.”
- Access to top experts in the field of dairy production. If an answer to a frequently asked question is not available, then the question is directed to “Ask the Expert,” where dairy professionals provide the requested information.
- Resources of science-based, peer-reviewed articles on over a dozen critical dairy-related topics.
- Newsletters including state and regional dairy newsletters which can be searched or received via a RSS feed.
- News including latest news releases, and highlights from across the country.
- Events upcoming at local, state, regional, and national levels.

. If you have not already done so, please take this opportunity to visit this web site:  
[http://www.extension.org/dairy\\_cattle](http://www.extension.org/dairy_cattle)

*Carol Collar,  
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