

# DAIRY NOTES

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

KINGS COUNTY



**June 2001**

680 N. Campus Drive, Suite A  
(559) 582-3211, ext. 2730

website: <http://cekings.ucdavis.edu>  
email: [ccollar@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ccollar@ucdavis.edu)

Hanford, CA 93230  
Fax (559) 582-5166

---

**Dairy Forum: *The Kings County Draft Dairy Element -  
What is it and how might it impact your dairy?***  
**Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 10 AM to Noon**

Kings County released its draft *Dairy Element and Program EIR* for public review again last month. The purpose of this document is to spell out comprehensive goals, objectives and policies to guide the development, expansion and operation of dairies within Kings County. An earlier review period was cut short last winter when the document was pulled back by the Planning Department for revisions. At this point the dairy element is still a “draft” document. That means it is not finalized, and there are opportunities for people to review it and let the Planning Department know what they like or don’t like about what has been proposed. The current review period will end on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. You can get a copy of the draft *Dairy Element* and Program EIR by calling the Kings County Planning Agency at 582-3211 ext. 2670.

In an effort to help dairy producers in the county better understand what is contained in the draft Dairy Element, **a special meeting has been planned for Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Kings County Ag Center from 10 AM to Noon.** Bill Zumwalt, director of the Planning Department will be on hand to provide background information and an overview of the Dairy Element and program EIR. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Please attend to learn more about developing policies that may affect the way you operate your dairy in the future. You can have input by submitting your comments in a letter to the Planning Department before the public review period ends on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Following the close of the public comment period, responses to all the comments will be prepared. It is expected that the Kings County Planning Commission and then the Kings County Board of Supervisors will consider the Dairy Element later this summer.

## **June is Dairy Month!**

Celebrate by participating in local dairy activities planned for our community. On **June 14<sup>th</sup>** the Thursday Night Market Place in Hanford will be from 6 to 9 PM downtown with the dairy industry as the featured “sponsor”. Come out for milk and cookies at the Kings County Dairy Women’s booth. The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to the Dairy Industry Dinner and Dairy Princess Contest will be on Friday, **June 29<sup>th</sup>** at the Civic Auditorium in Hanford from 6 to 10 PM. (Note the change in location this year – the Fraternal Hall was getting too cramped with the large turnout the last few years...) In addition to

# ***DAIRY NOTES***

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

KINGS COUNTY



selecting a new dairy princess, the dairy family of the year and distinguished dairy couple will be honored. Tickets can be purchased from June Dairy Month Committee members.

## Power is Money!

An incentive program that can provide you with money for using your stand by generator to reduce peak load is being offered by California's Independent System Operator (ISO). The program is administered by Energy Solutions, an energy consulting firm that has contracted with the ISO to "aggregate" peak load reductions to help ease California through the current energy crisis. Payments are substantial enough for you to seriously consider participating. For example, a dairy with a 200 kW load would be eligible for about \$4200 per month during the program which runs from May through October. Dairies who chose to participate will need to have an interval meter installed, but the California Energy Commission is going to pick up the cost of buying and installing them. Dairies are exempt from air quality permitting requirements for generators. For more information contact the guys at Energy Solutions; Greg Allen at 800-270-7007 or Mike Jennings at 559-437-9483.

## Local Dairy Industry Highlights

Following are several charts that provide a picture of the dairy industry in Kings and Tulare Counties. The first chart shows the number of dairy cows (milking and dry) for the last four years. The first thing that is obvious from looking at this chart is that Tulare has more than twice as many cows as Kings County. In 2001, Kings County has 130,443 cows and Tulare has 357,000 cows. You can also see that both counties have continued to increase cow numbers. Kings County added about 6000 cows and Tulare added 20,000 cows comparing the year 2000 to 2001. Chart 2 shows the number of dairies in Kings and Tulare counties for the last four years. Kings County has 147 dairies while Tulare has 303 dairies in 2001. Kings County has remained between 145 to 150 dairies for the last five or six years. The number has crept up only slightly in Tulare. Chart 3 shows the average herd size for the two counties for the same period. The average herd size has increased in both counties which should be no surprise since cow numbers have gone up, but dairy numbers have been fairly static. The average herd size for Kings County is 887 and in Tulare it is 1180 cows per herd in 2001. The last chart shows the distribution of dairies by herd size in Kings County for 2001. This chart gives you a picture of the relative numbers of dairies in different herd size categories. For example, there are 7 dairies that have fewer than 200 cows, and there are 10 dairies that have more than 2000 cows. The category with the greatest number of dairies is the 400 to 599 cows per herd group.

Chart 1

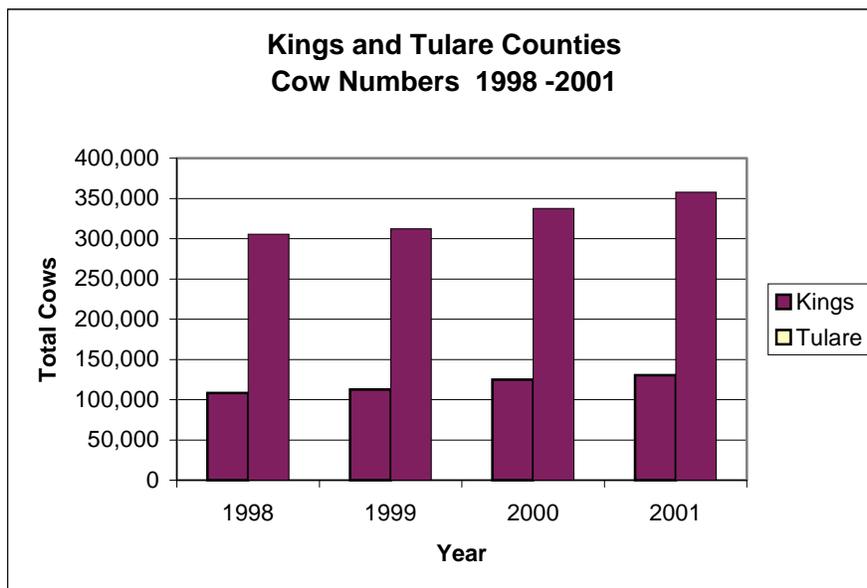


Chart 2

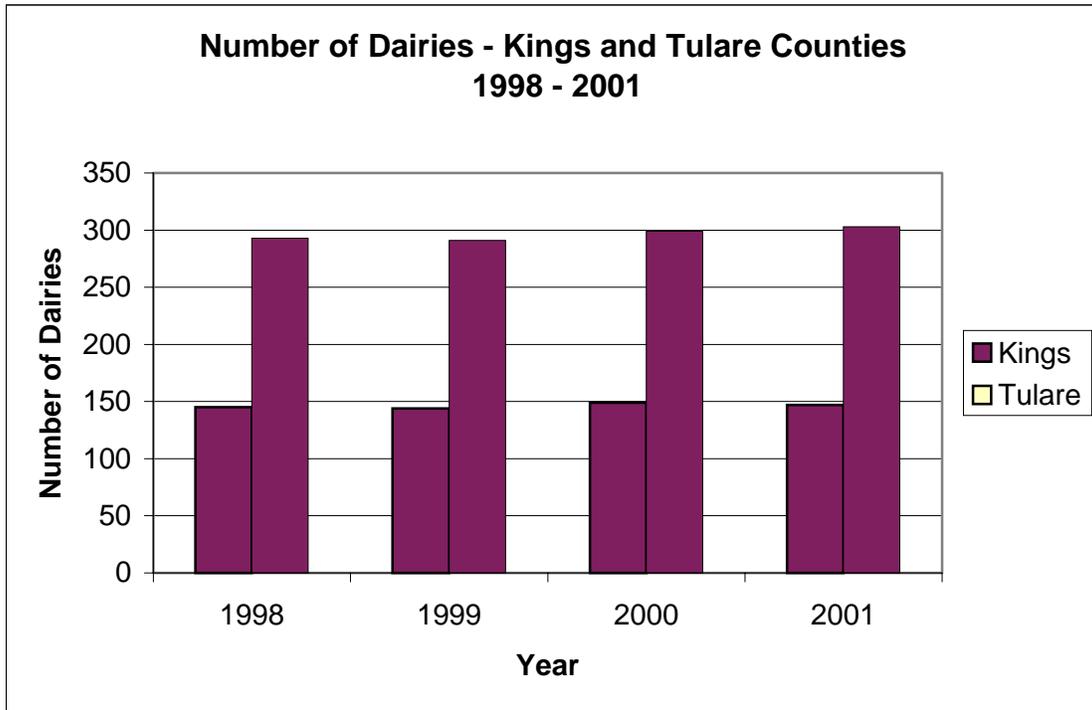


Chart 3

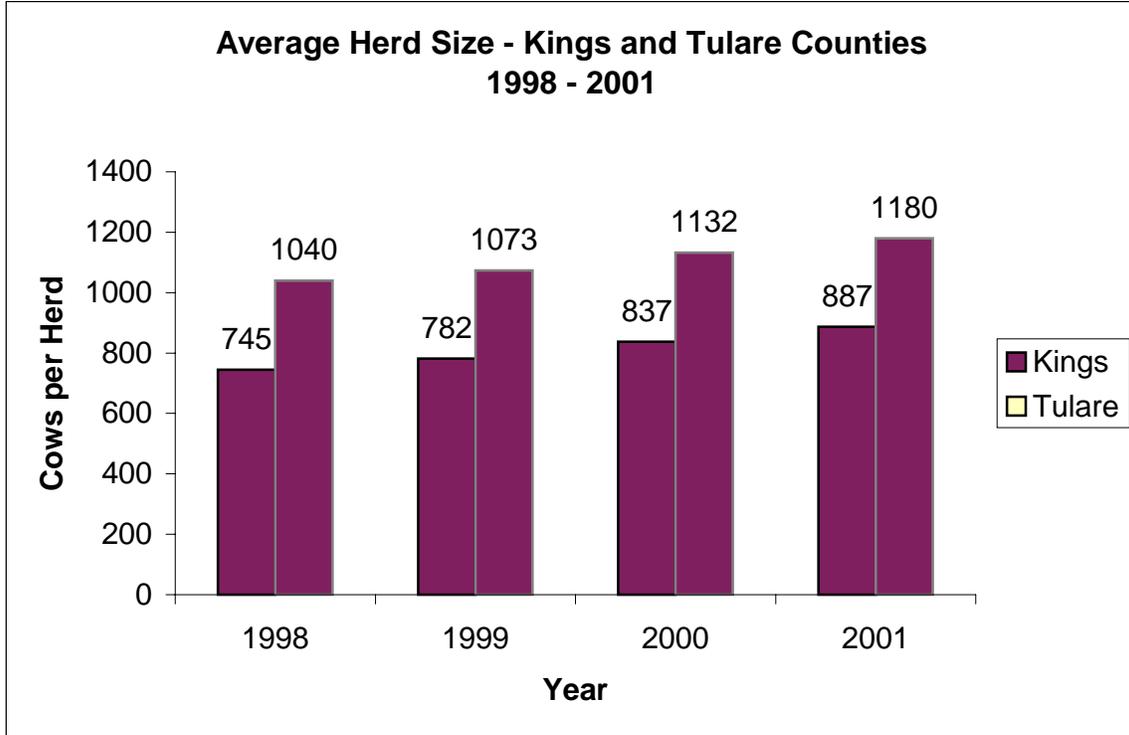
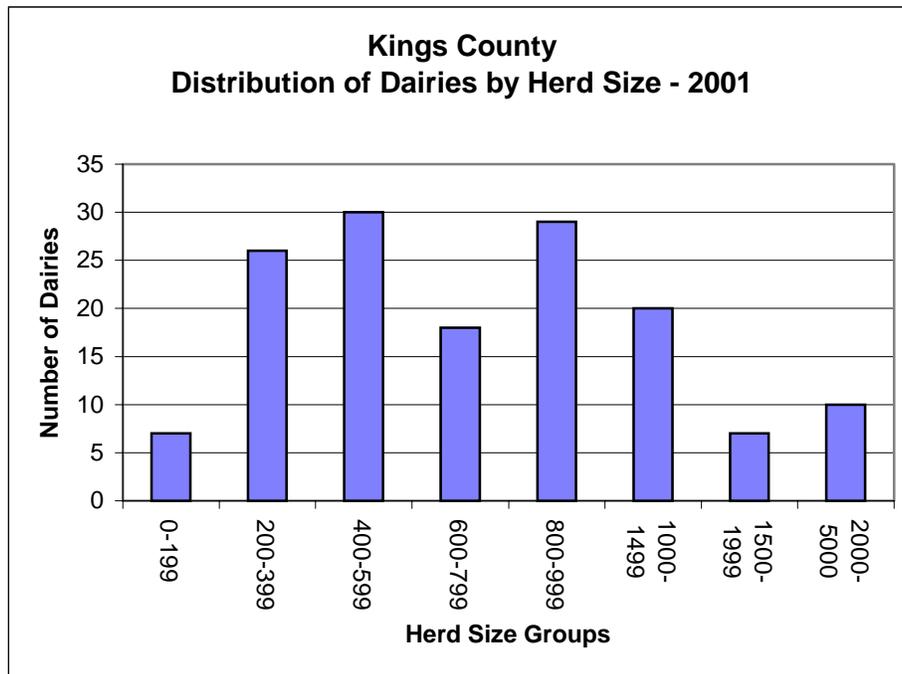


Chart 4



*Carol Collar – Farm Advisor  
Dairy, Livestock & Forages  
UC Cooperative Extension – Kings County*