



DAIRY NOTES



May 2003

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Environmental Stewardship Short Course for Dairy Producers - Classes offered locally in May and June *Don't miss your opportunity to complete the three classes!*

The ever popular Environmental Stewardship Short Course will be offered again locally this month. To accommodate as many dairy producers as possible, the classes will be offered in two locations. Pick the time and location that is best for you:

Dates:
Class 1 - Tuesday, May 20
Class 2 - Tuesday, May 27
Class 3 - Tuesday, June 3

Time and locations:
10 AM – Noon
Riverdale Memorial Hall
3085 West Mt. Whitney, Riverdale
To RSVP call the Fresno County UCCE office: 559-456-7285

2 – 4 PM
Tulare County Ag Building Auditorium
4437 S. Laspina, Tulare
(Across from the Tulare Farm Equipment Show Grounds)
To RSVP call the Tulare County UCCE office: 559-685-3303.

This course, sponsored by the University of California Cooperative Extension, consists of three, two-hour classes. The program was developed to increase the awareness of dairy operators and associated individuals of the potential impacts manure management practices may have on ground and surface water. If you have attended previous sessions of the short course and missed one of the classes, you only need to take the session that you missed to receive your certification of completion. The program is free and it is only for dairy producers or their employees. Topics to be covered in each of the three classes are as follows:

Class 1 Agenda

- Introduction and Background
- Manure Management Requirements
- Making an Assessment of Your Operation
- How to Calculate Storage Space

Class 2 Agenda

- Review of Space Needed for Liquid Storage
- Discussion of Manure Management
- Introduction to Pollution Prevention Plans
- Begin Developing Pollution Prevention Plans

Class 3 Agenda

- Develop an Emergency Plan
- Sampling Manure Sources for Nutrient Content
- Using Results From Nutrient Analysis to Determine Application Rate
- Manure Fertilizer Equivalent Calculations

Update on the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program

The Environmental Stewardship Shortcourse is just one part of a more encompassing California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP). The CDQAP is a voluntary program that allows producers to become certified in food safety, animal health and welfare, and environmental stewardship. The environmental stewardship program has been available since 1998. The other two modules (food safety and animal health/welfare) are in the final stages of development and should be available soon. Any dairy producer in California can become certified, regardless of marketing or trade association affiliation and the program is offered statewide.

To become certified in environmental stewardship, producers need to attend all three classes of the Environmental Stewardship Short Course, develop an environmental stewardship farm management plan, and successfully complete an on-site evaluation by a non-regulatory third party. Evaluations are conducted by California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) employees specially trained for this purpose. Currently 15 to 20 dairy producers in the South Valley area have completed the process to become certified in Environmental Stewardship. For additional information you can visit the CDQAP website at <http://www.cdqa.org/>

New Insecticide Products for Control of House Flies

The following article was provided by Alec C. Gerry, Ph.D. Dr. Gerry is a newly hired extension veterinary entomologist at the University of California at Riverside. He specializes in the management of arthropod pests of confined livestock and in the control of insect and tick transmitted diseases of animals.

Fly baits have been used by animal producers for many years to manage house flies. When house fly populations are high, these baits are often used to supplement sanitation and manure management for controlling flies. Fly bait granules are scattered on the ground near animal pens and corrals, or the bait is placed in bait stations.

Until recently, all fly baits registered for use in California were similar. All baits contained the fly killing chemical Methomyl and the fly pheromone attractant Muscalure to attract flies. Baits differed only in the size, shape, and color of the bait granules, and perhaps in the composition of feeding attractants added to the granular bait. Recent studies by University of California researchers have shown that house fly resistance to the Methomyl insecticide used in these products is very high in house fly populations in California. This resistance may explain the failure noted by producers of these baits to kill house flies during the last 5-10 years.

Recognizing that the Methomyl baits were no longer performing as well as they had prior to the 1990's, it was clear that new chemical baits were needed. In response, two new fly bait products have become available in California during the last year. The two products are a fly bait strip called "QuickStrike" produced by Starbar and a granular fly bait called "QuickBayt" produced by Bayer Animal Health. Like other fly bait products, these new products contain the fly pheromone Muscalure as well as feeding attractants. What is new about these products is that they both use new chemical insecticides to kill houseflies. Both of these products can be purchased through local farm and feed stores.

QuickStrike is a bait strip with the fly bait material housed within a plastic strip frame. QuickStrike contains the fly killing chemical Nithiazine which offers a fast knockdown of flies that eat the bait. The bait strip can be placed near animal pens and corrals (out of reach of the animals!) and is best placed low to the ground and near areas where flies congregate.

QuickBayt is sold as a granular bait containing the fly killing chemical Imidacloprid (the same chemical used to control fleas on dogs). Imidacloprid offers a fast knockdown of flies that eat the bait. QuickBayt can be scattered on the ground or placed into a bait station near animal pens and corrals. QuickBayt can also be mixed with water and painted onto surfaces to kill resting flies. Painted surfaces should be cleaned or repainted after 2-3 weeks to prevent flies from rapidly developing resistance to the Imidacloprid chemical. The best use for this granular bait is scattering on the ground

in the vicinity of animal pens where flies tend to congregate.

Although these new products have not been tested by University of California researchers to ensure that they work, it is presumed that they will outperform the old Methomyl products since flies should not be resistant to the new chemicals. As with all chemical products, read the label prior to use and follow label instructions for use and storage. Also, keep in mind that chemicals are the means of last resort for management of house flies. Strict attention to sanitation and manure management is essential to keep house fly populations low through most of the year.

Confined Spaces:

A Safety Issue for Dairies?

Friday, June 13th - 9 AM to 1 PM

Kings County Ag Center Multi-Purpose Room

What is a confined space, what are the hazards and safety concerns of confined spaces and what are the current regulations you need to know about for your dairy operation? An informational program on confined spaces will be presented by Jorgensen Company at the Kings County Ag Center in Hanford on Friday, June 13th. The introduction and overview will provide answers to these questions and will include demonstration of fall protection and other safety equipment. There is no fee to attend and lunch will be provided, but you must RSVP to Jorgensen Co. no later than June 11th. You can fax your RSVP (indicating your name and the number of people from your farm attending) to 559-268-5239. Or you can just call them with this information at 800-481-3473.

Dairy Wage Survey USA - 2003

We are collecting wage data for milkers in the USA. We have had a good response so far, but need hundreds of dairy farmers to fill out a brief on-line survey. **The survey can be found at:**
<http://tinyurl.com/b8xk>

Every single completed survey will make a huge difference. You will be asked to choose one milker at your dairy operation and answer questions 1- 7 with this milker in mind. If at all possible, answer questions with data for April 2003. Report GROSS wages before any deductions.

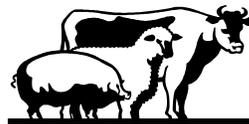
Round Up Ready Corn Trial Results

Last season I conducted a variety trial in Hanford to evaluate 7 different Round Up Ready corn silage hybrids. Information on yield, feeding value and other agronomic attributes for these hybrids is too lengthy to include in a general mailing, but it is summarized and available on my website at <http://ceking.ucdavis.edu>. Results for a conventional corn hybrid variety trial conducted in Tipton are also available. If you would like to have copies mailed or faxed to you, give us a call and provide us with your address or fax number.

Special thanks to cooperator **Bill Longfellow** for his time and interest in making the trial possible. Thanks also to **Netto Ag** (Mel's crew!) for the extra time that it took from their busy season to harvest the 28 plots. I truly appreciate the local ag community's support of all my applied research efforts! This season we are planning a local chemical treatment trial for control of corn leafhoppers, insects that carry corn stunt disease. I am also looking for a cooperator for a brown mid-rib sorghum-sudan trial. Give me a call if you are interested.

Budget woes...

Much has been said in the media about the sorry condition of the state budget. **The University of California Cooperative Extension is slated to take a 30% permanent reduction** in funding from the State of California in the next budget year. Unless the legislature acts to reduce the cuts, the loss of funding will severely effect UCCE programs. Office closures, staff layoffs and elimination of core Extension and research programs in agriculture, natural resources and 4-H youth programs will occur. If UC Cooperative Extension, ag research and the 4-H program are important to you, please send that message to your state legislators. Contact information for those with key leadership positions and for those on budget committees is available on the web:
<http://ucanr.org/internal/budget/legcontacts.shtml>



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