



The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) is an industry, government, and academic partnership whose mission is to encourage science-based dairying practices that promote the health of the consumer, the environment and dairy livestock.

## California continues to lead the way in hoof-and-mouth disease preparedness

By Michael Payne, DVM, Ph.D.

Each year, about \$1.5 billion is spent globally to control and eradicate hoof-and-mouth disease (HMD) in countries that were previously HMD-free. While the U.S. has not had a single case of HMD in 85 years, outbreaks in the United Kingdom in 2001, Japan and Korea in 2011, and current cases in Turkey and India serve as reminders about the impacts HMD can render in a country.

There is good news here in the U.S., as a unique state-and-federal collaboration continues planning to effectively handle an HMD outbreak. Here are four reasons why the dairy community can appropriately manage an HMD event.



Collaborative research between CAHFS and USDA has yielded a first-of-its-kind test that can detect HMD in milk.

**1. Real-time testing:** Researchers at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) are finalizing a bulk-tank milk test. This test has the potential to detect HMD from a single sub-clinical cow in a 10,000-cow bulk-tank. With additional funding provided by the California Dairy Research Foundation, CAHFS has the potential to test 2,000 samples a day, allowing crisis managers to identify infected herds more quickly than previously possible.

**2. Shipping milk during a response:** Under a new state-and-federal program, dairy farmers and processors with activated pre-approved biosecurity plans will be permitted to ship and receive milk in the event of a state-wide outbreak.

**3. Vaccination:** The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has already completed test drills to practice vaccine distribution, and work continues to assure that adequate supplies will be available. According to current draft policy, producers who are CDFA gold medal pre-certified will have priority for receiving vaccines in areas where they are designated for use.

**4. Public trust:** Teams from USDA and Dairy Management, Inc. are ready to communicate with the public about the safety of milk and milk products during

(See "HMD" on page 2)

## First online CDQAP class coming soon

CDQAP is finalizing its first electronic education class for dairy farmers, which will allow them to get up-to-date information about environmental compliance issues with just the click of a button.

The online class, expected to be available later this summer, has 11 segments ranging from 3 to 16 minutes. Each segment focuses on a unique topic, walking dairy farmers through practical information needed for compliance with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Dairy General Order.

With its online availability and short segmented packaging, dairy farmers now have the flexibility to obtain important compliance information at their convenience. They can complete the entire two-hour curriculum at one time or view a single segment wherever there's an internet connection.

The segments can also be a useful tool for dairy farm employees. CDQAP recommends that each person on a dairy charged with collecting samples or using records associated with water quality compliance participate in the online training. Individuals that complete all 11 segments of the class will receive two hours of CDQAP education credit in Environmental Stewardship.

## Tips for reviewing your WDR Annual Report prior to submittal

By Denise Mullinax

The dairy community has done an excellent job at meeting regulatory submittal requirements for water quality in the Central Valley. With the July 1 Waste Discharge Requirements Annual Report deadline close, it's time for a quick review to ensure accuracy before submitting your report.

### Items to review:

- ✓ Confirm that your general facility information is current (facility address, phone numbers, cow numbers and signatures);
- ✓ Compare field and crop information (acres, crop types and application details) to your Nutrient Management Plan;

(See "Tips" on page 2)

**...HMD** (from page 1)

an HMD outbreak. It's important to note that HMD is an animal health issue only. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization agree that HMD is not a threat to food safety or public health, and does not affect the safety of pasteurized milk.

Point number two is the most important for dairy farmers. With effective emergency biosecurity plans in place, they will be able to stay in business while the disease is being stamped out. Dairy farmers and processors with pre-approved response plans should be able to ship milk virtually without interruption. However, companies without existing plans will have to wait for the next available inspector to assure that their plan is adequate and equipment is available. CDQAP has developed a workshop that helps producers develop their own plan and is making the workshop available to processors for company-wide delivery.

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**...Tips** (from page 1)

- ✓ Are all fields with manure application included? *All cropland acres should be included either in your WDR or as part of your local Irrigated Lands Coalition.*
- ✓ Are sample application and harvest results paired properly with analysis information?
- ✓ Are solid and liquid manure applications and crop removal rates reasonable for the herd size?
- ✓ Do the nitrogen balance ratios appear to be reasonable and in the expected range for the crop? Excessively high or low ratios may indicate input errors for application amounts of irrigation water-wastewater-solid manure, units of measurement (percentage versus milligrams per liter, milligrams per kilogram, or

parts per million), or harvest data.

- ✓ Attach necessary documents (supply well sampling results and manure manifests and/or **new** third-party agreements).

2014 marks year seven since the adoption of the Dairy General Order by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Water Board staff is utilizing Annual Reports to assess facility compliance with water quality regulations, with a focus on overall manure nitrogen generation vs. on-farm utilization.

Farming is not an exact science and differences during a given year occur due to weather conditions, planting dates and water availability. When large variances from the nutrient

budget or the normally accepted range for application and removal data occur, it is important to note and explain the specific situations to promote better understanding of the information.

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**Important reminders!**

- ❑ July 1, 2014 is the deadline for submitting your WDR Annual Report to the Water Board.
- ❑ Drought meetings coming up in June and July. Watch your processor and trade organization communications for dates and locations.
- ❑ Drought information available at [www.CDQA.org](http://www.CDQA.org).

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California Dairy Campaign • California Department of Fish and Wildlife • California Department of Food and Agriculture  
California Environmental Protection Agency • California Farm Bureau Federation • California Milk Advisory Board  
California Dairy Research Foundation • California Resources Agency • Milk Producers Council  
State Water Resources Control Board • Sustainable Conservation • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
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