

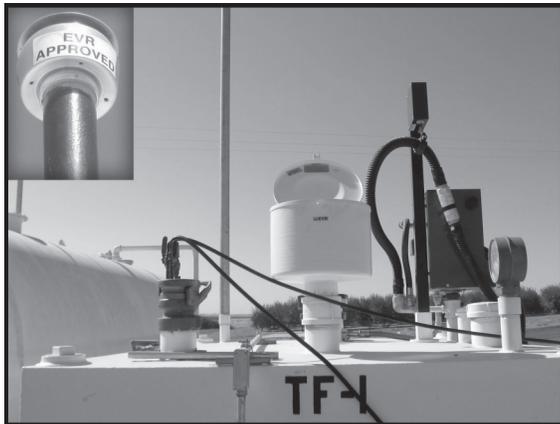


The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) is an industry, government, and academic partnership whose mission is to encourage science-based dairying practices that promote the health of the consumer, the environment and dairy livestock.

## Air quality inspections to include compliance checks for aboveground gas tanks

By D. Denise Mullinax, Assistant CDQAP Director

Dairies with aboveground gasoline storage tanks are required to comply with statewide vapor recovery regulations issued by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). As of April 1 of this year, aboveground gasoline storage tanks may be required to meet CARB certified Standing Loss Control (SLC) measures, with possible additional Phase I required upgrades needed before July 2014.



Gasoline tanks over 250 gallons may require new air quality control measures, such as painting with a certified coating and installing a certified enhanced vapor recovery pressure/vacuum vent valve (top left).

For farms and dairies, the rule applies to gasoline tanks larger than 250 gallons (smaller tanks are exempt). Specific applicability to a given tank is determined by three factors: size, date of installation and how gasoline is used on the farm.

For dairies with existing air permits, all aboveground gasoline tanks over 250 gallons should be assessed for changes that may be needed to comply with the regulations. The control measures include painting with a certified coating and installing a certified enhanced vapor recovery pressure/vacuum (EVR) vent valve.

Dairy farmers can do the above modifications themselves. Specific certified coating materials need to be used depending on the make and model of the tank and receipts/pictures need to be maintained to verify compliance. If pressure/vacuum EVR valves are needed, they can be purchased from certified contractors or fuel suppliers may be able to help operators find a supplier for these valves. Dairy farmers are encouraged to contact their local air district for more information on CARB-certified coating and contractor options available to meet the requirements.

The vapor recovery regulations are statewide and apply to several industries. Each air district will determine how it will work with dairy farmers in their area to ensure compliance. In the San Joaquin Valley, district staff recently sent a letter to all permitted facilities, reminding them of the new requirements and announcing plans to visit dairies to evaluate compliance.

Tank inspections will include tank make/model, coating type and pressure/vacuum valve compliance. Where needed, staff will attempt to aid in outlining options for compliance for tanks needing modifications to meet the July 1, 2014 deadline for Phase I EVR upgrades, with Notices of Violation issued for dairies not in compliance.

For additional information, dairy farmers can contact their trade association field representatives or their local air district staff. Additional information is available at [www.CDQA.org](http://www.CDQA.org).

## Cattle rustling not just a thing of the past

By Billy Redding, Rural Crimes Detective, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department

Time has not stopped the old west mentality of some thieves, with cattle rustling still very much alive in rural California. Today, thieves have a much easier time stealing farm animals, utilizing cars and trucks instead of horses and ropes.

They won't just take cattle either. Thieves also target bales of hay and, of course, your metal. Be very aware of the tactic of some would-be thieves who are so bold as to approach you and ask for your materials. Usually, there is another person with them you don't see, or they are getting a closer look at your property to determine if they will come back later to steal from you.

Here are a few ways you can protect your livestock and property and help law enforcement combat agriculture related theft.

**Maintain flawless records for your livestock.** Keep detailed records of each animal, including photographs and any ear tags, brands or special markings. Keep these records in a safe and secure place, but readily accessible if the information is needed.

**Keep your property secure.** Lock your gates, pens and hutches. And don't forget about your livestock medicine as well. Thieves have targeted iodine and other chemicals when they pick their victims. Video surveillance systems are also a good tool for securing your property, allowing you to monitor your herd or property from any computer or smart phone. If you elect

(See "Cattle Rustling" on page 2)

## FARM Program updates available on CDQAP website

The National Milk Producers Federation has released an updated animal care manual for dairy farmers participating in the National Dairy FARM Program: *Farmers Assuring Responsible Management* ([www.NationalDairyFarm.com](http://www.NationalDairyFarm.com)). Launched in 2009, the FARM Program is a national, voluntary animal care and well-being program designed to bring consistency to and verify best practices used on today's dairy farms.

California's leading dairy cooperatives and processors adopted the FARM program in 2010. Today, about 70 percent of California's dairy farmers have been evaluated according to the FARM Program guidelines, with many

(See "FARM" on page 2)

**...Cattle Rustling** (from page 1)

to use video surveillance, make sure that all activity is recorded onto a hard drive.

**Make note of strangers and unfamiliar vehicles.** Long gone are the days of being complacent about seeing a new or different vehicle driving down your road. Thieves do their homework before striking. They will spend days or even weeks watching and studying your routines to determine when is the best time to commit their crimes.

**Utilize area or neighborhood watch organizations.** Get involved and share information with neighbors and surrounding communities.

**Report any and all suspicious activity to local law enforcement.** Rural crime detectives are part of a much larger organization, the California Rural Crimes Prevention Task Force. This group of statewide law enforcement officers is dedicated to combating rural crime throughout California. Your local brand inspector is another great resource as the Bureau of Livestock Identification receives information from around the state and west of the Mississippi River about current trends.



**...FARM** (from page 1)

preparing for their second program evaluation.

When the FARM Program was first established, CDQAP offered classes and distributed helpful documents, templates and educational videos to

California dairy farmers. **As the second wave of evaluations begin, dairy farmers in the program can continue to rely on CDQAP as a resource for important updates to the FARM Program animal care manual, with new template forms and links to helpful documents and updated reference items at [www.CDQA.org](http://www.CDQA.org).**

Numerous animal care experts and dairy representatives worked together to refine the FARM Program guidelines, focusing on an efficient on-farm evaluation process that prioritizes the most important animal care practices.

Among the updated FARM Program animal care manual highlights is the streamlined on-

farm evaluation process (down from 77 questions to 48). Key changes were also made to guidelines related to medical procedures, animal observations and animal housing. Another new item needed for upcoming evaluations is an animal care agreement, signed by employees, verifying their commitment to providing acceptable care to all animals.

Implementation of the updated guidelines and on-farm survey evaluation is expected by this fall. Dairy farmers preparing for a FARM evaluation should check with their processor field representative for timelines and specific information needs.

**CDQAP Partners:**

*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  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
University of California Cooperative Extension • Western United Dairymen*