

**CDQAP Quality Assurance Update  
August, 2017 Newsletter**

**Water Quality Workshops  
Coming in September  
for SF Bay Area  
Producers**

CDQAP will offer workshops in the SF Bay Region to assist dairy producers in completing fall regulatory deliverables. Grazing and Waste Management Plans as well as the annual report are due this November 30<sup>th</sup>. These one-stop-shopping workshops will assist producers with understanding requirements and best management practices, identifying plan sections still needing attention and completing template forms. Workshops will be held at the following dates and locations:

**Point Reyes Station**

1:00 — 4:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 26**

Marin County Farm Bureau  
Conference Room  
520 Mesa Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA

**Petaluma**

9:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 27**

NRCS Large Conference Room  
5401 Old Redwood Highway,  
Petaluma, CA

\*\* These classes also satisfy three hours of the six-hour water quality education requirement for producers interested in becoming CDQAP Environmentally Certified.

**Can Stockmanship training improve your bottom line?**

By Dr. Michael Payne,

UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine and Director, CDQAP

Among other changes, your next FARM evaluation requires documentation of annual stockmanship training for employees. Certainly low-stress cattle handling has been around for decades, with pioneers like Bud Williams and Temple Grandin describing basic behaviors like flight zones and point-of-balance. With employee training time at a premium however, producers may justifiably wonder “Does stockmanship training pay for itself?” Some newer, more sophisticated research provides some important clues into the potential damaging effects of rough handling on production. Some studies indicate that milk yield can be reduced by as much as 10% when rough handling is used during cow movement. Excessive noise (shouting and slamming of metal gates) not only increases heart rate and anxiety in cattle, but can be comparable to the use of an electric prod. An intriguing study of cow recognition demonstrated that cows not only remember rough-handling employees, but exhibited a 70% increase in residual milk when milked in their presence. An Australian study observed that forceful handling accounted for about 16% of the differences in annual milk yield between participating farms. This recent accumulated research suggests that low-stress animal handling training for new employees and annual refresher training for all employees could be valuable. Dairy employee attitudes and practices are critical for providing proper animal care and cow productivity. It’s for this reason that CDQAP partnered with the [California Beef Council](#) on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to offer a pilot train-the-trainer workshop in stockmanship training plan development on the Durrer family dairy in Modesto. The workshop’s goal was to introduce producers and herdsman to resources and techniques they can use to tailor stockmanship training to their own farm. Dr. Ron Gill from Texas A&M University used slides and videos to highlight important concepts that producers may wish to include in their own training programs. A review of training [videos](#) and [documents](#) available on-line as well as on-farm drill demonstrations of moving cows and heifers with low-stress techniques were also provided. The day finished with a discussion of the pilot workshop held over lunch served alongside the cows. The course slides and handouts are being collected for CDQAP’s [animal care & economics webpage](#) to be available soon and additional workshops may be offered in the future.



CDQAP is a program of the California Dairy Research Foundation