



CDQAP Quality Assurance Update May, 2018 Newsletter

Dairy GO Annual Report completion tips...

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Corn is already growing. In the Central Valley that means Annual Reports are due shortly (by July 1) to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Information submitted in Annual Reports from 2016 and 2015 resulted in over 400 letters requesting additional information from dairy producers. To avoid follow-up needs, carefully review your report before you sign and submit it.

Be sure you've included results for: solid and liquid manure, plant tissue and soil (20% of fields) analyses. Also, manifests for any manure transported off-site. Carefully read through your crop yields and your nitrogen applied to nitrogen removed ratios. Any nitrogen ratio less than .6 or greater than 1.4 should have an explanation in the Notes section of your Report.

Remember to include comments in your Report's Notes section to explain any unusual, abnormal or odd-looking data.

Preparing for Summer Heat: Protecting your Employees and Cows

Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine & Director CDQAP

The weather is heating up and now is good time to ensure protections are in-place to prevent heat stress.

For Employees: An employee working in moderately warm weather can lose about 3/4 quart of water -- 1% of his body weight -- per hour. Heat stress may impact different employees differently depending on age, physical and medical conditions, exertion, acclimatization and water consumption. All employees should be encouraged to drink water frequently, about one cup every 15 minutes. Managers should try to schedule hot jobs for the cooler part of the day. New employees should be acclimated to high-heat conditions over about two weeks. For employees working in the sun- provide shade and scheduled breaks. Signs of heat exhaustion start with fatigue, headache, dizziness and nausea and progress to confusion, slurred speech and fainting. Provide medical aid promptly; for serious cases the most effective emergency first aid treatment (while awaiting medical services) is continuously soaking the patient's body with running water, such as from a hose. California employers are required to provide employee training on heat illness prevention and have a written plan. Cal-OSHA's heat illness prevention webpage provides considerable information including video links, pocket guides in English and Spanish and a calendar of training courses.

For Cows: Cows can also become stressed from the heat. Even at low humidity, production suffers when temps hit low 80s. Simple low-cost preparations for livestock that can be made now include making sure all water troughs are working and clean, this is particularly important for troughs at the exit from the milking parlor, where cows consume half their daily water intake. In general shade is the most cost-effective heat-stress mitigation available, reducing heat load of cattle by 30 to 50%. The recommended shade area per adult cow is 40 to 50 square feet. You'll also want to check nozzles on sprinklers/soakers and fans for proper function, volume output and direction. It takes roughly a quart of water to soak a cow's back but water running onto the udder is wasted and can predispose her to mastitis. Finally, be sure to sort cattle during cool morning hours and schedule vaccinations when temperatures drop. Detailed information on management of both routine and emergency heat stress prevention in dairy cattle can be found by linking to CDQAP's heat stress page or by visiting CDQAP home page at www.cdqap.org and searching under animal care topics.

FARM SECURITY TIPS: There has been an increase in unauthorized persons on dairies over the last several weeks. A few easy steps can increase the general security of your dairy.

Signage: Post "No Trespassing" signs at all road entrances and at three signs per mile to include property corners. This elevates trespassing charges from a \$75 infraction to a misdemeanor (up to \$1000 fine/6 mos. of jail time) and may deter unwanted visitors. Many local Farm Bureaus have signs available.

Perimeter Gates: Other than the main gate, secure all perimeter roads with gates, chains or cables to hinder vehicle access. This will also help deter some property theft.

Employees: Train and empower employees to investigate anyone they don't recognize and immediately call the Sheriff's office. Trespass occurring in the presence of law enforcement is easier to prosecute. Recording on your cell phone, explain law enforcement is in route and ask trespassers to leave, but do not otherwise engage.