CALIFORNIA DAIRY Quality Assurance PROGRAM

A Program of the California Dairy Research Foundation

CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - June 2018

There's An App for That!

By Betsy Karle, UC ANR Cooperative Extension Dairy Advisor

Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) continues to pose a challenge to the dairy industry as it is difficult to detect and can affect calves' future productivity. To help address this challenge, researchers at UC Cooperative Extension and UC Davis teamed up to develop a mobile app that provides a simple way for producers to identify and track calves with BRD. The app can be used to estimate BRD prevalence in preweaned calves before and after implementing new management practices to evaluate effectiveness and monitor herd progress. The app is also convenient for veterinarians and consultants who can store data from several client herds.

Download the App

www.vmtrc.ucdavis.edu/laboratories/epilab.cfm

Coming Soon: CDQAP Farm Security Workshops

- **Chino - August 20**
- **Tulare - August 21**
- **Modesto - August 23**
- **Stockton - August 23**
- **Rohnert Park - August 24**

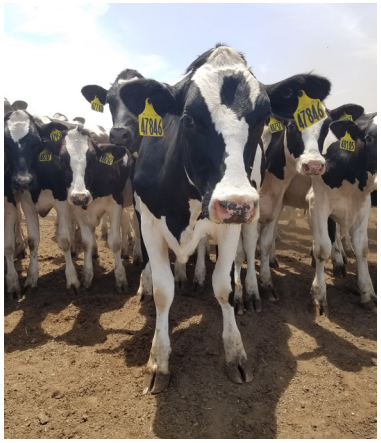
Watch your mailbox for the flyer, or call Dr. Mike Payne at (530) 304-9306 for more information.

When You Research the Bull, You Could Get Rid of the Horns

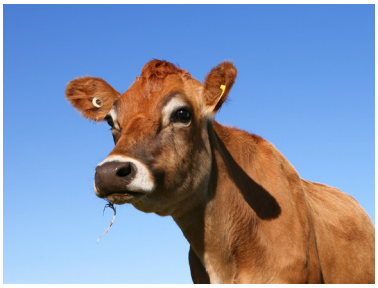
New Research on Dehorning and Polled Genetics

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

Veterinarians and cattle experts agree removing horns is important in avoiding risk of injury to animals and humans. For nearly 10,000 years, we've been dehorning and breeding polled animals pretty much the same way. New techniques and science, however, are helping make the chore less stressful for the calf and hold promise of potentially eliminating the need for the practice altogether.



Recommendations for disbudding/dehorning were recently updated to reflect new research. The National Dairy FARM program best practice is to conduct disbudding/dehorning at the earliest age possible, before 8 weeks of age. The American Association of Bovine Practitioners advises that if hot-iron disbudding occurs while the horn base is less than 1-inch in diameter, even as early as the first 24 hours of life, calf stress, complications, and cost are minimized. For producers using caustic paste, application within the first 24 to 48 hours after calving paired with the use of petroleum jelly applied around the site has been shown to greatly diminish complications. In either practice, for just pennies per calf, dairy employees can mitigate pain by performing a local anesthetic nerve block or administering anti-inflammatory medication.



In the future, polled dairy sire semen may provide new opportunities. Currently, there are only a few polled dairy sires that have sufficiently high genetic merit to meet important economic indexes, such as Lifetime Net Merit (NM$). While the availability of polled sires with higher genetic merit is gradually improving, concerns about limited genetic potential and inbreeding have kept the approach from being widely adopted. The substantial gap in genetic merit between polled and horned sires could be addressed through gene editing. Through gene editing, the polled gene could be introduced into lines of existing horned sires with high genetic-merit. Two artificially-polled bull calves have been bred using this technique and are being cared for at the University of California. If the calves prove healthy and fertile, this research could pave the road for more polled sires with high genetic merit.

Learn more

www.cdrf.org/2016/01/06/5046

Check out **CDQAP's Dehorning & Economics webpage**. Explore an expanded menu of other animal care topics.

CALIFORNIA DAIRY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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