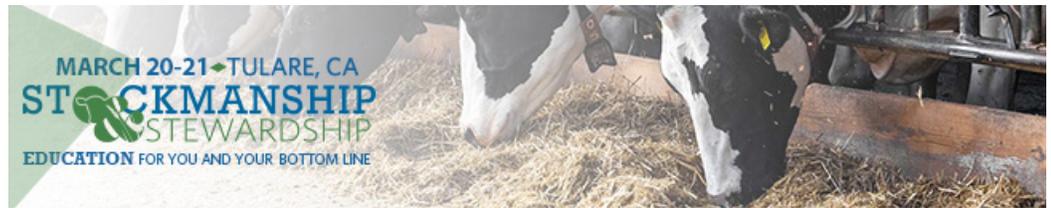


# CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - February 2019

## Free Workshop: Improve Employee Stockmanship & Your Bottom Line



Good animal handling improves production and decreases employee injuries. CDQAP and Beef Quality Assurance are partnering with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Stockmanship and Stewardship program to bring three of the best "cow whisperers" in the business to share tips on training your employees. On **March 20 - 21, 2019** at the **Veterinary Medicine Teaching & Research Center in Tulare**, Dr. Robert Hagevoort, Dr. Ron Gill and Curt Pate will help producers refine their farm's employee stockmanship training programs. This two-day workshop (one afternoon, one morning) offers both multi-media and hands-on sessions and includes both lunch and a BBQ dinner. To see the full agenda and to register, click [here](#). Attendance is free for yourself and/or your herdsman when you use the coupon code *TULARE19*.

## Reviewing Your Mastitis Prevention Program Management tips to boost performance

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

Recent late-winter weather—intermittent rain and sunshine—are perfect ingredients for environmental mastitis. Some dairies may see an up-tick in cases due to coliforms or non-ag strep pathogens. Extra effort in your mastitis prevention program now will likely return big benefits. Research shows that mastitis prevention typically saves between \$3-5 for every \$1 spent. The areas listed below are good starting points for reviewing your mastitis prevention program and ensuring it is in top-notch shape:



**Milk quality** – Make sure key milk quality indicators are on target: less than two cases of clinical mastitis per 100 cows per month and a bulk tank somatic count of less than 200,000. The University of Wisconsin offers additional [performance indicators](#) to help ensure minimal economic losses.

**Equipment maintenance** – Double check that the scheduled service is up-to-date. Liners should be in good repair.

**Pre-milking prep** – Make sure milkers are following your milking [prep protocol](#), including pre-dip contact time, time from stripping to attachment, machine on-time and post-dip coverage. The University of Minnesota offers methods to [check milker performance](#).

**Teat condition** – Monitor for [abnormal appearances](#). Poor teat condition can indicate problems with vacuum level or needed changes in teat dip protocol.

**Managing free-stalls** – Ensure stalls are clean, dry, and [groomed daily](#). Bedding should be deep enough for you rest on your knees comfortably and roll them around. Bedding wet from blowing rain should be replaced.

**Pen management** – Managing pens is more important in winter than any other time. See our accompanying article in this newsletter. Attention to low spots, high-traffic areas, slope, drainage channels, and dirt mounds pays off.

It's always good to ask your vet questions about your mastitis program. For more information about mud management or cost-effective mastitis treatment and prevention, see [CDQAP review articles](#).

## Keeping Flies in Check Corral management is key

By Deanne Meyer, Ph.D., Livestock Waste Management Specialist, UC Davis, Department of Animal Science

It's mud season. Everyone on the dairy is on high alert to reduce flies and mastitis. Manage corrals, feed, and manure storage areas well. Loads of rice hulls, almond shells, road base, or other materials can provide solid footing for cows and heifers, while helping keep corrals dry. Well-placed materials reduce fly breeding areas, helping control fly populations as temperatures rise.

- Knock down and remove fence line manure
- Drain clogged pipes and standing water from corrals, feed, or manure storage areas
- Remove moldy or spoiled feed away from the production facility
- Thoroughly clean curbs where manure or feed accumulate
- Clean out manure around waterers
- Clean out ungroomed area of freestalls
- Dry manure piles as soon as weather permits

Parts of California didn't get the typical winter fly kill. Call your fly control team to be sure you're ready for warmer temperatures.