

CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - April 2020

Dairy Security Recommendations

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



California producers were shocked this month to learn of early-morning robberies of employees on two separate Merced County dairies. Both robberies were tragically violent, with the April 15th incident involving a knife attack and the April 20th crime resulting in a homicide. The Merced County Sheriff's Office believes the incidents are related and an [arrest has been made](#).

State and county law enforcement agencies provide these recommendations for dealing with robbery and assault on farms.

Discuss Security With Employees - Training can occur independently or as part of regularly scheduled OSHA workplace training. Employees should be encouraged to immediately report suspicious people or vehicles. If employees are uncomfortable calling 911, they should be empowered to contact the dairy owner or manager and have them request a sheriff deputy be dispatched. Many ag thefts are committed by people familiar with a farm's operations including things like equipment storage, staffing and pay-day schedules. Have employees report persons asking security-related questions. It's useful to ensure that a shift supervisor has access to an office land-line phone to report robberies, in case employee's mobile phones have been stolen. In the event that Smart Phones are stolen, prior installation of a "Find Your Lost Phone" app may lead law enforcement directly to the robbers.

Facility Considerations - Producers can consider installing security cameras in the main parking lot, positioned to record license plates. Consider limiting night access to the single main parking lot by securing side roads with chains or gates. Conspicuous signage saying the barn is under video surveillance can be

Continued on next page

Sample Forages: No Pass with COVID-19

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

Wow what a difference a month makes. For many, the last weeks have been a blur. Shelter-in-place! How do we get milk supply managed? Who counts as essential workers? Will my employees get hassled coming to or leaving work? What kind of personal protective gear is needed and how long will it take to get here? The list of questions goes on.



With spring comes harvest and ground preparation for the summer corn crop. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's regulations remain unchanged

Continued on next page

Congratulations to Deanne Meyer!

Dr. Meyer was recently awarded the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's 2019 Water Quality Stewardship Award for her leadership in advancing the science and practice of pasture-based dairy operations on the North Coast.



Through CDQAP, Deanne and a team of the partners have provided ongoing classes and support to North Coast dairy producers, as they have worked to comply with changing water quality regulations. Her leadership and hard work has been invaluable in helping producers understand the regulations, develop required monitoring plans, and implement water quality protection practices. We are pleased to see that Deanne's efforts have been recognized, along with the overall improvements that North Coast dairy producers have made in environmental stewardship.

Dairy Security Recommendations (continued)

posted. While “No Trespassing” signage is helpful making court cases against activists, they will probably be of limited use preventing robberies. While extensive perimeter fencing is often cost prohibitive, lighting is viewed by some law enforcement experts as the best deterrent, making a real difference when installed on farms, ranches and dairies. Most sheriff departments are happy to perform a free on-site security assessment of the farm, tailoring recommendations to the facility.

During and After a Robbery - Employees should comply with robbers’ instructions at all times. After the criminals have left, employees should immediately call 911. Describe the assailants, the vehicle they used and the direction they were traveling. Reassure employees that their immigration status won’t be effected by assisting the sheriff department in the investigation. Producers can discuss posting a reward for information with the sheriff’s department.

Most dairy security information previously provided by CDQAP has focused on dealing with animal [activist trespass](#) and the non-violent [theft of materials](#) such as copper wire, fuel or tools. In light of these recent attacks, CDQAP and its law enforcement partners are developing additional materials.

Sample Forages (continued)

with COVID-19. It’s important to continue to sample your forages (one sample from each field where manure was applied). Also, remember to take quarterly samples of liquid manure or your regular solid manure samples as they are land applied. Labs remain open for business. You’ll want to call ahead to identify how samples get dropped off while maintaining social distancing obligations.

It’s important to remember to track all applications of manure to land (for dairies in Regions 1, 2, and 5).

Water Quality Control Board inspectors were out in March (North Coast) and continue to do inspections (Central Valley).

Increased enforcement in the Central Valley has resulted in Cease and Desist Orders issued to dairies. Application of manure to land is acceptable when done within the parameters of Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) budgets. However, over application of manure, resulting in crop stunting or death, is not in line with an NMP. This over application is also a violation of Waste Discharge Requirements. Notices of Violation that continue to occur focus on over application of nutrients. In fact, a few Cease and Desist Orders were issued. A Cease and Desist Order is a huge deal for producers. If you end up on the receiving end, you’ll be spending quality time with your lawyers. One recently settled for \$108,000. Another is in negotiation, and more are on the way.

How do you avoid Notices of Violation and Cease and Desist Orders? Use your NMP. Follow your nutrient budget. Take all required samples and maintain required records. Implementing your NMP generates required record keeping documentation. You want to be sure you have all of your documentation in order and up-to-date. Be sure to export manure off-site if you have more manure than land available for application.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

