



New regulatory process for dairies

Deanne Meyer, Livestock Waste Management Specialist, UC Davis

On May 3, 2007 the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted the new Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for existing dairies. A few key items to note about this new regulatory process:

- All existing dairies in the Central Valley will be regulated through this process. There are no exemptions based on facility size, or age.
- An existing dairy is one that submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) in October of 2005 and is within 15% of the cow numbers listed in that ROWD.
- Dairies that are more than 15% larger than the ROWD numbers will need to be permitted through a separate process (most probably individual WDR) and will need to address CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) requirements.
- A staged process was adopted. Producers will have to complete various components of both waste and nutrient management plans over the next 5 years.
- All dairies will need to conduct and submit a Preliminary Facility Assessment by December 31, 2007.
- All dairies will need to submit annual reports beginning July 1, 2008.
- Numerous changes have occurred altering the ability of producers to land apply manure. A maximum amount of total nitrogen application is identified.
- New requirements are in place for development of dairy lagoons.
- New requirements are in place for mortality management (off-site management now mandatory unless a state of emergency is declared).
- Sampling of manure, source water, and soil must begin within 12 months after adoption of the order.
- The Executive Officer has the authority to require 100 to 200 facilities a year to install groundwater monitoring wells.

These are only a few of the items. The California Dairy Quality Assurance program will be delivering workshops for compliance assistance in the fall. Dairy producers and interested parties will receive notification of these workshops through their milk processor and the Dairy Quality Assurance Program.

The tentative WDR is available at

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/tentative/0705/index.html#10>

There were a few late revisions to the document. A final WDR will be posted and should be available from the Central Valley website under adopted orders.

GOT HELP?



DON'T PANIC

Fall workshops on the way to assist dairy operators with new water quality regulations

By now, most dairy producers have probably heard that new water quality rules are in place for all Central Valley dairies. The new regulations will be phased in over the next several years with the first reporting deadlines coming this December (2007). The regulations will ultimately require a whole new level of nutrient management, with additional reporting and monitoring requirements.

You don't need to face this challenge alone. Help is on the way through the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program. CDQAP has already launched efforts and is planning **Fall 2007 workshops in all dairy counties across the Central Valley**. Workshops are being scheduled for October and November (CDQAP will announce exact schedule and locations when planning is complete). The workshops will cover:

- ♦ 'Plain English' summary of the new rules and what is required
- ♦ Overview of the schedule for phasing in the new rules
- ♦ Suggestions for Best Management Practices
- ♦ Assistance and tips for completing reports and forms for the **first key deadline on December 31, 2007. The necessary paperwork can be completed and turned in right at the workshop.**

Similar to air and water quality workshops CDQAP has held in past years this fall's workshops will be one-stop shopping. CDQAP will bring all the experts and tools necessary to assist you to a location near you, so that you can get your questions answered and complete the process as smoothly and quickly as possible.

This valuable assistance is free to all dairy producers, thanks to a cooperative effort of dairy industry organizations, the University of California Cooperative Extension, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and various other CDQAP partners.

Watch your mailbox, trade association and UCCE newsletters for a complete schedule of these important workshops.

