

TAD BUSINESS

Organizational Restructure: The Board of Directors has made some significant decisions in the past few months. First off, they decided to move the main office to Stephenville to enhance producer communication. To facilitate this, Debbie McInroe has been hired to manage the office and coordinate communication. Debbie comes with significant experience as an administrative manager in Fort Worth. Additionally, Dr. Sandy Stokes, Extension Dairy Specialist, will serve as Advisor to the Board in 2002. *If you have questions, please feel free to call Debbie at the office and she will get your question answered or direct it to the right person.* New contact information for the TAD office is:

Texas Association of Dairymen

471 N Harbin Drive, Suite 203
Stephenville, TX 76401

Phone: 254-965-5125 Toll free: 800-460-0382

Fax: 254-965-5135

TAD also entered into a joint venture with Texas Cooperative Extension to develop an environmental strategy. Goals of this venture include:

- ★ Develop an environmental certification program for the dairy industry and communicate efforts to regulatory agencies, watershed groups, and elected officials.
- ★ Increase producer awareness of environmental and industry issues and increase communication with other livestock organizations.

TAD BOARD

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TAD STAFF

Debbie McInroe, *Administrative Manager*
James Terrell, *Public Affairs*



2001 Fundraiser Response: The amount raised at this year's annual fundraiser was \$37,500...many thanks to all who were involved! *Congratulations to Mike Meisse on winning the 2001 Ford Truck!*

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

TMDL Update: TNRCC released the expected TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) program. The Environmental Protection Agency approved standards to reduce the levels of phosphorus in the North Bosque River by 50%, while additional studies of the watershed are conducted. The intent is to develop an implementation plan by the summer of 2002 and open the plan to public comment.

Waco appeals TNRCC Decision to issue CAFO Registration: In a suit filed by the City of Waco protesting a recent CAFO registration, the Office of Attorney General (representing TNRCC) filed a Plea to the Jurisdiction stating that Waco has no standing in this case. Briefing schedules have yet to be set; when assignments are made and responses filed, concerned CAFO groups will establish their direction of support.

DOPA Credits: Producers in DOPA counties needing CEUs can get 2 credits at the Comanche County Silage Shortcourse, scheduled for January 3rd, 2002. Producers are individually responsible for keeping current on these credits. For more information, contact Bob Whitney, Comanche County Extension, at 915-356-2539.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Cooling Ponds: The Texas Department of Health (TDH) has stopped the use of cooling ponds. Ponds are to be drained, filled, or made inaccessible to cattle until they have an 'approved design'. Non-compliance will result in permit suspension. Texas Cooperative Extension is aware of this and is working with TDH on evaluating somatic cell count data from these herds and identifying

proper design specifications. The area of interest is the impact of the cooling ponds on somatic cell counts, since this is a measure of udder health. Dr. Ellen Jordan, Extension Dairy Specialist, has contacted TDH regarding the future use of cooling ponds. Early in 2002, the TDH will begin drafting guidelines regarding the design and maintenance of cooling ponds. Dr. Jordan needs your help in gathering information into the current design, maintenance, use and benefits of the cooling ponds. Producers using cooling ponds are asked for permission to access the herd's somatic cell count data collected by the Milk Market Administrator. This data will be evaluated to determine if certain cooling pond management practices are associated with improved somatic cell counts. *Individual herd anonymity will be maintained and summary information will be presented to the Texas Department of Health and sent to all producers participating in the survey.* Producer cooperation is important: to participate in this survey, contact your

County Extension Agent or Dr. Ellen Jordan (972-952-9212).

Farm Bill Update: Current dairy provisions in S.1731 (2001 Farm Bill) have changed at least twice since passing out of the Senate Ag Committee. Provisions now being considered creates one milk pricing program for 12 Northeastern states and a different program for the remainder of the nation. On December 19th, the Senate failed, for the third time, to limit debate on S.1731. Consequently, the Farm Bill was pulled down and will not be considered again by the Senate until sometime next year.



HAPPY 2002!

Texas Association of Dairymen
471 N Harbin Drive, Suite 203
Stephenville, TX 76401
NEWSLETTER

Please let us know if there is an address change