

## TAD BUSINESS

**Producer contact information:** Debbie has recently sent out a questionnaire to each member to update the membership database; if you have not done so, please return to her as soon as possible. *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:

471 N Harbin Drive, Suite 208

Stephenville, TX 76401

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

Fax: 254-965-5135

### TAD BOARD

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### TAD STAFF

Debbie McInroe, Administrative Manager



**TAD Board Retreat:** Your Board of Directors met for two days in February to redefine their vision, mission, and direction of the organization. Their united vision is for TAD to be “the leading voice of milk producers in the state of Texas”. Additional outcomes from the retreat will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

## ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

**Lagoon Management:** All producers need to be diligent on lagoon management at this time of year to avoid problems with upcoming spring rains. The industry cannot afford to repeat the visibility it had with this last spring. In recent meetings with the City of Waco, they were very forthright that they intend to continue flyovers of the industry and will turn in video footage to TNRCC. With the upcoming Compliance History Program, any violations will have long term consequences with permits.

**Are your lagoons ready?**

## INDUSTRY UPDATE

**Cooling Ponds:** In February, the industry (producers, veterinarians, and allied industry met with the Texas Department of Health regarding the use of cooling ponds in Texas. The outcome of the meeting was a request for continued use of ponds that meet the following criteria:

- Cleaned out at least once annually,
- Water going into the pond originates from a fresh water source (lagoon water not acceptable),
- Provide a minimum of 40 square feet per cow,
- Water depth is maintained a minimum of 3 feet,
- Pond entry and exit constructed to allow cattle entry and exit without becoming dirty,
- Ponds are dynamic, man-made structures rather than depressions and soggy areas filled with standing water, and
- Water exiting the pond and sediment removed from the bottom is handled in accordance with guidelines and regulations for protecting the environment administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board or the Texas

Natural Resource Conservation Commission, depending on the requirements for the individual dairy.

A decision from TDH was requested by April 1<sup>st</sup> to allow producers time to make necessary changes in management practices prior to heat stress beginning. For additional information, please contact Dr. Ellen Jordan, Texas Cooperative Extension, at 972-952-9212.

**Texas loses “Accredited Free” Status for Tuberculosis:** According to the US Department of Agriculture’s Code of Federal Regulations, a downgrade is triggered when a state detects two cattle tuberculosis-infected herds within a 48 month period. In Texas, a beef herd was detected in South-Central Texas in July 2001 and an infected combination beef and dairy operation was found in October 2001. The infected herds have been depopulated. In light of these two cases, federal rules govern the potential downgrade of Texas’ bovine tuberculosis status from “accredited free” to “modified accredited advanced”. In the event of a status downgrade, current USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) rules governing the interstate shipment of cattle from Texas would be implemented. In an effort of unprecedented unity, 10 cattle industry organizations met with federal and state animal health officials to discuss Texas’ bovine tuberculosis status and government officials agreed that industry would organize a task force – known as the Texas Bovine Tuberculosis (and the economic impacts that an official change in status) Working Group – to develop a plan for APHIS’

consideration on implementation of the regulation should and could have on Texas cattle producers as industry and status downgrades occur. The industry task force is composed of representatives of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, Academy of Veterinary Consultants, **Texas Association of Dairymen**, Dairy Farmers of America, Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas, Livestock Marketing Association of Texas, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, and Texas Veterinary Medical Association. Government officials from the Texas Animal Health Commission and the Texas Department of Agriculture will serve in advisory capacities. The charge of the working group is:

- To develop recommendations on potential restrictions on interstate shipments,
- Focus on bovine tuberculosis testing criteria for sexually intact cattle, and
- Identify programs for use in tracking the movement of cattle in interstate commerce.

Questions about the status change should be referred to: Carla Everett, Public Information Officer, Texas Animal Health Commission at (512) 719-0700.



**Texas Association of Dairymen**  
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**Stephenville, TX 76401**

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