

TAD BUSINESS

Producer contact information: If you have not returned your questionnaire please mail, fax or email your contact to Debbie. She is trying to update the membership database. *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.* Contact information for the TAD office is:

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TAD Board Update: At the last TAD Board meeting, the Board voted to change their structure from officer positions to committee chairs, with the intention of more fully involving the entire board. Below are the new committees, listing both chair and members. If you have questions about a specific area of concern, you can contact any of the members of that committee.

TAD BOARD COMMITTEES

Environmental Committee

Alan Vander Horst (Central TX), *Chair*
Keith Broumley (Central TX)
Frans Beukeboom (Central TX)

Finance Committee

Steve Vanden Berge (Central TX), *Chair*
Mark Hannan (East TX)

Image Enhancement Committee

Pete Schouten (Central TX), *Chair*
John Crawford (North Central TX)
John Cowan (Associate Member)
Debbie McInroe, Administrative Manager

Legislative Oversight Committee

Willy De Jong (Central TX), *Chair*
Reed Mulliken (West TX)
Mark Hannan (East TX)

Membership Committee

Leeann Moos (Central TX), *Chair*
John Crawford (North Central TX)
Brian Boehning (West TX)
Scott Opitz (East TX)

TAD STAFF

Debbie McInroe, Administrative Manager
Jack Fickesson, Public Affairs



ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

DOPA Credits: East Texas Dairy Conference, May 22, 2002 at the Hopkins County Regional Civic Center. Program will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. There will be 2 DOPA credits given for the morning sessions.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
9:30	Registration	
10:00	TNRCC Update	Darrell Williams
11:00	Being a Good Neighbor	Dr. Sandra Stokes
12:00	Catfish Lunch	
1:00	Johne's disease Update	Dr. Buddy Farries
2:00	Cooling Pond Update	Dr. Ellen Jordan

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Cooling Ponds: The Texas Department of Health stated it would allow cooling ponds that meet the recommended operational guidelines in Texas. For information on these guidelines, please contact Dr. Ellen Jordan, Texas Cooperative Extension, at 972-952-9212.

Farm Bill Update: *Quoted from the Conference Summary:* "The Dairy provision maintains a permanent \$9.90 Milk Price Support Program and established a 3 1/2 year National Dairy Program to provide assistance to all U.S. producers. The program will provide a federal payment each month equal to 45 percent of the difference between \$16.94 and the Boston Class I price. Payments are made on up to 2.4 million pounds of production for a producer annually."

While there is nothing about changing the "tilt" in the summary of the new bill, many dairy producers have heard that it will change and are wondering what that means. The tilt very simply is the influence a supported commodity has on the support price. The \$9.90 is derived from the prices that the USDA will pay for butter, non-fat dry milk, and cheese. If the price paid for one of these commodities is changed, but the support price stays the same, the USDA will have to change either the

price it pays for other supported commodities, change the make allowances, the sell back provisions, control the amounts of each product purchased or change the conversion factors that determine product yields from milk. Prices paid for the supported commodity by the USDA do influence the cash prices of these products and those prices in turn do influence the Class prices in Federal Orders and the price paid for non-regulated milk.

Bud Schwart, Texas A&M University

Farm Bill Approved-With Reservations: The Senate approved the Farm Bill on May 8th of this week. President Bush signed a 10-year, \$190 billion farm bill Monday that expands subsidies to growers, turning aside criticism from fellow Republicans who called the measure a budget-busting step backward in agriculture planning.

TAD Website: The TAD website is now up and running. The site address is: <http://www.milk4texas.org>
Please let us know what you think of it and what we can do to improve the site.



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