

TAD News... August 2004

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Managers Update By John Cowan

The Texas Dairy Industry Presents:

- Lesson 1 - The Dairy Industry
- Lesson 2 - Dairy Cow Lifecycle
- Lesson 3 - Happy Cows
- Lesson 4 - A Dairyman's Life
- Lesson 5 - Dairy Related Agencies
- Lesson 6 - Environmental Issues
- Lesson 7 - Dairy Technology
- Lesson 8 - Dairy Product Nutrition
- Lesson 9 - Production Dairy Food Safety
- Lesson 10 - Future Of The Dairy Industry
- Video Resources
- Online Resources
- Project Credits
- Media Requirements
- Bonus Material

Brought to you by:

The image above is one of the many visual images contained on a Compact Disc titled "The Texas Dairy Industry Presents". TAD, along with Southwest Dairy Museum and Dairy Max commissioned Tarleton State University's Department of Agricultural Services & Development to produce a Dairy Curriculum for Vocational Agriculture Teachers. This began as a vision of Dr. Kyle McGregor professor at Tarleton State University and David DeJong a dairyman from Hamilton County Texas. David brought this idea to the TAD board of directors in early 2004 and the concept and idea took off from there. "Look at the opportunity we have to educate young people with this project," said David and the TAD board agreed.

According to Dr. McGregor, there are approximately 90,000 agriscience students and approximately 2,000 agriscience teachers in Texas. Leanna Shores, a graduate student of Dr. McGregor, did a great job of putting the lesson plans together, and she also will be heard narrating the visual tours on the CD. The plan was put in place where the team would present this curriculum product at a Professional Development Conference for State Vocational Agricultural Teachers in Abilene Texas on August 3rd through August 5th. TAD board members Bryant Fisher and Steve Vanden Berge attended the conference and were available to speak with Ag Teachers from across the state

as they came by the TAD / Tarleton booth. Wayne Setzler, representing the Southwest Dairy Museum also worked tirelessly visiting with the many teachers who came by.

The three-day conference was expected to attract over 1,200 agriscience teachers. Approximately 600 curriculum CD's were given to teachers at the conference. Names of teachers and their schools who received the CD were recorded and those who did not receive the CD will obtain a copy through the mail. Forty-five teachers attended a special workshop by Leanna Shores and Dr. McGregor highlighting how to best utilize the curriculum in their classes. Dr. McGregor said, "I believe the curriculum effort at the conference to be a total success! If you have the ability to offer ready-to-use materials to agricultural science teachers they are excited and will typically use them extensively". The curriculum itself contains eleven lessons, complimenting Power Point presentations and quizzes for each. The CD also contains online resources and eleven videos, which include a video tour of a modern dairy. "The ability to hand deliver over 600 CD's to teachers was extremely powerful and the project will reach the remaining teachers in Texas via U.S. Mail" said Dr. McGregor. jc



Steve Vanden Berge and Bryant Fisher Visiting with an East Texas Ag Teacher about the Dairy Curriculum CD

TCEQ UPDATE

I am getting several calls from dairymen across the State, concerned with how the newly adopted Texas CAFO Rules and General Permit affects them. In addition, I also have received calls from some dairymen who have had site inspections by TCEQ staff with concerning results. As many of you know, the TCEQ adopted new statewide CAFO rules on June 23, 2004 which then became effective on July 15, 2004. "Well, that doesn't affect me, because I am not a CAFO", some dairymen may say, and that is a true statement to some extent, except, you need to remember, the TCEQ has jurisdiction over state water quality. This is the point of concern for animal agriculture producers, more specifically dairy farming with the implementation of the new CAFO Rules. Today, if a dairy has some type of event where animal manure (waste) leaves their farm and gets into the waters of the state, the TCEQ has jurisdiction to enforce that dairy from allowing any further discharge of waste to the state waters. This can and will be an issue for many of our dairy farmers who do not fall into the category of an AFO or CAFO based on the number of animals in their operation. On the other hand, producers not regulated by the TCEQ has the opportunity to work with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) along with seeking assistance from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a best management plan for your dairy. I encourage any of you who may fall into this category to call your local NRCS or TSSWCB office and let them tell you what they can do. You can also call the TAD office in Grapevine and I will do what I can to assist you. (817-410-4576).

USDA – APHIS UPDATE

August 4, 2004

STATEMENT BY APHIS CHIEF VETERINARIAN JOHN CLIFFORD ON PROTOCOL FOR BSE RAPID TESTING

"The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service began an enhanced bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program on June 1. Since then, rapid tests on over 28,000 samples have been conducted. These rapid tests are run once, and, if reactive, run again in duplicate.

"According to manufacturer's instructions, if either of the duplicate tests is reactive, the test is deemed inconclusive and confirmatory testing is performed using the immunohistochemistry (IHC) test--the gold standard test for BSE. During the initial few months of our testing program as participating laboratories gained proficiency in using the tests, APHIS declared a test inconclusive on the basis of the results of only the first test. To date, two samples have been declared inconclusive for BSE, but have proven to be negative for the disease according to IHC testing.

TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION UPDATE

According to Dr. Dee Ellis, there are about 50 Texas Dairy Herds who have not gotten their herds tested for Bovine Tuberculosis as of early August. As you know, there is financial assistance from USDA APHIS for dairymen who have their herds tested by the end of August 2004. If you have not already tested, you need to get with your veterinarian and schedule your herd today.



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