

TAD News...June/04

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Managers Update

By John Cowan

On Wednesday, June 23, 2004, TCEQ Commissioners voted on staff recommendations and adopted the amended Sections 321.31 thru 321.47 of 30 TAC Chapter 321, Control of Certain Activities by Rule, Subchapter B, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.

These rules now will be used by TCEQ staff to guide the development and completion of permitting confined animal feeding operations throughout the State of Texas. TCEQ will next take up for adoption on July 14, 2004 a State Wide General Permit. Due to statutory requirements, CAFOs located in a watershed and this watershed provides at least 50% of the water feeding a sole source public drinking water supply will be required to have an Individual CAFO permit.

These rules are more restrictive for the Bosque River Watershed. An example of some of the more stringent requirements will be the CAFO owner / operator will have to insure retention storage capacities can contain rainfall from a 25 year 10 day storm event, additional record keeping and retention requirements and additional limitations on land application of beneficial nutrients.

TAD is working with the TCEQ Staff on developing information documents, clearly written in laymen terms as to how these new rules will impact dairymen. Commissioner Kathleen White acknowledged the cooperation and assistance TAD provided TCEQ Staff throughout this very lengthy process. TAD will continue to work and be present on the behalf of Texas Dairymen with the TCEQ and or other state agencies affecting our dairy farmers.

Update on Waco Lawsuit

On April 29th the City of Waco Texas filed suit on 8 Erath County Dairies and then on May 25th another 6 dairies were sued as well. TAD is working with the 14 dairymen and their individual legal advisors on a "joint defense agreement" guided and supported by TAD to help develop legal research in an efficient manner. TAD will continue to work with these dairymen and support them

on the "common causes of the lawsuit" that would affect all dairymen irrespective of their involvement or location.

Statement on FDA Test Results from Washington State Dairy Cattle

The Food and Drug Administration's Forensic Chemical Center (FCC) laboratory in Cincinnati has completed its testing of milk samples from cows exposed to a toxic substance in Washington State. The results of the tests reveal no identifiable risk from this agent associated with the milk from any of the exposed cows.

The FCC lab, which has been working around the clock since Sunday, June 20th, tested samples from exposed animals and animals not exposed. Initial testing was focused on identifying the toxic substance. An ear tag containing a residue of the toxic substance was removed from a dairy cow directly exposed to the toxic agent and tested. Milk from dairy cattle directly exposed to and made ill by the toxic agent was tested, as was milk from an additional group of cattle that came into contact with the toxic agent but did not become ill. In addition, milk samples from unexposed healthy animals were also tested as a control group, for the sake of comparison.

MAKING THE MOST OF COMPOSTED DAIRY MANURE



COMPLETING THE CYCLE

The Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) is hosting four **FREE** Compost Education and Outreach workshops throughout our seven county region.

The workshops will address the uses and benefits of compost and the TCEQ compost incentive program. There will be an opportunity for local governments in the area to speak to manure composters about mutually beneficial arrangements regarding the separate and joint use of composted manure and municipal yard trimmings and other municipal organic matter. Participants will learn about the successful uses of compost including agricultural uses, landscape management, and sports field management.

WE CERTAINLY HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

In order to secure your place, choose the workshop that you would like to attend, and contact the CTCOG at the address listed below. Once they receive your registration form they will send you a confirmation as well as an agenda and directions.

Sponsored by CTCOG and made possible through a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

I would like to attend the following workshop:

____ July 14, 200 City of San Saba, Mill Pond Park
Civic Center
Please return form by July 1, 2004

____ July 21, 2004 City of Temple
Solid Waste Department
Please return form by July 7, 2004

____ July 28, 2004 City of Cameron
Civic Center
Please return form by July 14, 2004

____ August 4, 2004 City of Gatesville
Coryell County Activities Complex
Please return form by July 21, 2004

Workshops will begin around 8:30am and should end no later than 1:00pm.

Please fill out the registration form and return it to CTCOG according to the date noted by your workshop choice. A confirmation notice, agenda, and directions to the facility will be mailed to you once your registration form is received. You may fax or mail your registration. **If you have any questions please call (254)-933-7075 ext. 208 or email lawyer@ctcogmpo.org**

Fax: (254)-939-0885.

Mailing address: CTCOG, Attn: Jennifer, PO Box 729, Belton, TX 76513

Name: _____

Number Attending_____

Representing: _____

Address/City/Zip
Code: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Email: _____

Will you be taking advantage of the free compost offer? _____



Texas Association of Dairymen
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