



# TAD News

## October 2005

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## Time for TCEQ to stand up to Waco demands

In February 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published CAFO rules that states had to incorporate. Texas adopted state-specific rules for combined animal feeding operations 15 months later.

Now, 30 months later, dairy producers in the Bosque and Leon River watersheds can't be assured they'll get a permit.

Why? The city of Waco, through spokespeople, elected officials and the *Waco Tribune-Herald*, continues to hammer the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on the CAFO rules.

Waco currently is challenging provisions regarding third-party field accessibility – provisions agreed to by then-Mayor Linda Ethridge, City Manager Larry Groth and Assistant City Manager Wiley Stem.

TCEQ reports indicate the Bosque River TMDL is being met. Waco challenges the TCEQ on allowing dairymen to apply collectible manure to land inside the watershed even when dairymen would manage those fields under their pollution prevention plans.

It's time for the TCEQ to stand firm and issue permits for dairies in these watersheds.

What will it take for the TCEQ to realize that the longer it succumbs to Waco's pressure proactive management practices on dairies cannot be utilized?

Waco complains that nothing is being done, but refuses to see that its interference is preventing work on dairies to be done.

TAD will continue working with the TCEQ to get this impasse resolved. ▪

### Manager's Update

John Cowan

## TAD supports state championship dairy judging team's trip to nationals

The Cooke County 4-H dairy judging team placed 13<sup>th</sup> out of 29 teams in the recent 84<sup>th</sup> National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest held in conjunction with the World Dairy Expo.

The team – which won the state's competition in June – traveled to Madison, Wis., to represent the state of Texas.

TAD helped support the team's trip to the national competition with a \$1,000 donation.

The team judged different breeds of dairy cows, with each contestant judging four classes of four cows. After placing, contestants presented their reasons before a judge in five of the 10 classes. Cows were placed according to their body frame, milk production and capacity.

The team placed fourth in Guernseys and eighth in Holsteins.

In individual competition, Cletus Fuhrmann placed ninth overall and earned a membership to the All American Club. Amber Fuhrmann placed eight in the Guernsey division.

This project provides excellent opportunities for these individual team members, their coaches and other family members to learn more about dairy and the agriculture industry. ▪



*Bryan Kammerdiener, representing TAD for the Gainesville area, presented a donation to the Cooke County 4-H dairy judging team. Pictured (left to right) are Kammerdiener, Ben Wyrick, Josh Zimmerer, Cletus Fuhrmann, Coach Michael Becker, Amber Fuhrmann and Coach Wayne Becker.*

## Training opportunities announced

### CAFO Training

Dairy producers can now go online to complete required training for confined animal feeding operations.

Environmental Quality Management of Animal Feeding Operations training can be found at <http://www.peopleware.net/1542>.

Enrollment cost for any one of the 10 one-hour modules is \$40, and additional modules cost \$30. To enroll, contact Jacque Hand of Texas A&M at (979) 845-7692 or at [j-hand@tamu.edu](mailto:j-hand@tamu.edu). A certificate will be issued for the successful completion of each module.

The dairy outreach program area includes Bosque, Comanche, Erath, Hamilton, Hopkins, Johnson, Rains and Wood counties.

### DOPA Training

Dairy Outreach Program Areas (DOPA) training will be offered Nov. 1 at the Southwest Dairy Museum in Sulphur Springs. The program will offer a morning session (8 a.m. to noon) for producers who need to receive their initial continuing education units (CEUs) and an afternoon session (1-5 p.m.) for producers that have completed their initial training.

For more information, contact Tamilee Nennich at (254) 968-4144 or [tdnennich@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:tdnennich@ag.tamu.edu)

## Expo brings ag info, fun to Central Texas

The 15th Annual Texas Ag Expo (formerly named Texas Dairy, Farm & Ranch Show) will be Oct. 28-29 at Lone Star Arena in Stephenville.

This annual event, produced by TriCounty Agribusiness Association, showcases agricultural product and service dealers including equipment, feed, animal nutrition, financial services and more.

Exhibitor's booths will be open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Admission is only \$1, with proceeds benefiting agriculture scholarships and youth programs. ■



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## Court upholds dairy checkoff program

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia recently affirmed the constitutionality of the dairy checkoff program. This marks the formal conclusion of the legal challenge against the producer-funded dairy checkoff program.

The U.S. District Court ruled in March 2003 that the dairy checkoff was constitutional, but the decision was later reversed by the Third Circuit. ■

## Where's the beef? TAHC still testing cattle

The Texas Animal Health Commission has tested more than 1,000 beef herds for TB since April 22, when the Commission sent letters to randomly selected purebred beef producers. The TAHC has finished testing dairy herds.

About two-thirds of the state's beef cattle have been tested so far, and the agency says it is well on its way to meeting its testing goals.

All fee basis testing is expected to be finished by the end of 2005. Testing progress varies by region, and the impact of Hurricane Rita on Southeast Texas has slowed some herd testing in that area.

## TAHC under state lawmaker's microscope

The Texas Sunset Commission is reviewing the mission and performance of the Texas Animal Health Commission, as required periodically under the Texas Sunset Act.

Through its evaluation, the Sunset Commission determines if the agency is still needed and what improvements are needed to ensure that state funds are well spent. Based on its recommendations, the Texas Legislature ultimately decides whether an agency will continue to operate.

For more information or a schedule of the review process, visit the Sunset Commission's Web site at [www.sunset.state.tx.us](http://www.sunset.state.tx.us).

To contribute input, contact the Sunset Commission at P.O. Box 13066, Austin, Texas 78711; phone (512) 463-1300; fax (512) 463-0705; or [sunadmin@sunset.state.tx.us](mailto:sunadmin@sunset.state.tx.us).