



TAD News

June 2006 – Dairy Month

3500 William D. Tate Ave.
Suite 100
Grapevine, TX 76051
(817) 410-4576
(817) 410-4541 (fax)
www.milk4texas.org

John Cowan
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Gordon McCool, President
David DeJong, 1st Vice Pres.
Scott Opitz, 2nd Vice Pres.
Greg Mitchell, Secretary
Frans Beukeboom, Treasurer
Richard DeVuyst
Harry DeWit
Bryant Fisher
Larry Hancock
Neil Hoff
Brad Johnson
Jerry Spencer
Pete Schouten

No summer break for TAD's initiatives

The TAD Mission Statement states "The Texas Association of Dairymen is to be the advocate, with a unified voice, for Texas dairy producers." That statement sets a high standard for us to reach, and rightly so, for any goal worth reaching requires effort and planning.

Manager's Update
John Cowan

Who coined the phrase "lazy days of summer"? They must not have worked for the Texas Association of Dairymen! Several very important activities are being worked on by TAD, your directors and I this month.

The board will meet in Amarillo on June 27 and 28, and key elected state officials have been invited to attend and meet with the board. In addition, state Sen. Todd Staples, candidate for the Texas Agriculture Commissioner, will meet with the board in Amarillo to discuss issues important to Texas dairy producers.

Texas Agriculture Extension Dairy Specialist Tamilee Nennich and I met on June 8 in Temple with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to gather input on a draft dairy producer environmental compliance information program we have developed (*see separate story for more information*).

On June 21, TAD Director Bryant Fisher of Yantis and I will attend a Brucellosis Eradication Working Group meeting in Austin at the Texas Animal Health
(Continued, "Update," page 2)

TAD Board elects new treasurer

The TAD Board of Directors met May 30 and elected one of its own to the position of TAD Treasurer – Frans Beukeboom of Dublin.

Beukeboom also will chair the TAD Finance Committee, which also welcomed Board member Richard DeVuyst as a member of the committee.

In other action, the Board voted to:

- Send a cheese gift basket to state lawmakers and statewide elected officials in appreciation and in recognition of June as National Dairy Month.
- Share the cost of Bosque River water quality monitoring over a two-year period, now that the lawsuit with the City of Waco has settled.
- Retain legal counsel for CAFO permitting and legislative assistance through May 2007.

The next Board meeting will be June 27-28 at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo (*see Manager's Update for more details*). ▪

Environmental training in planning

How well is your farm meeting state environmental regulations? Do you know what's required?

An education program to help both permitted and nonpermitted producers better understand and comply with the numerous environmental rules they must follow is being developed by TAD and Texas Agriculture Extension Dairy Specialist Tamilee Nennich.

The program will be customized to address the needs of dairymen in different parts of the state, regardless of their requirement for a CAFO permit or Water Quality Management Plan.

A draft of the program was presented for input from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Once the program is finalized, the first stop on the education tour will be East Texas. Other educational seminars will be held at a number of locations in North, Central and West Texas.

Watch future TAD newsletters for further details. ▪

Dairy center gets state approval

A new dairy center is one step closer to reality after the Texas Legislature, in its recent special session, authorized the issuance of \$11.1 million in tuition revenue bonds to build the center at Tarleton State University.

When the Legislature convenes next in spring 2007, it still must approve debt service for the bonds.

Planning could begin this fall on the center, which will have missions in teaching, research and outreach and possibly a visitors' center.

To ensure that the facility is properly designed to accomplish its multiple missions, Tarleton State University announced it will be inviting representatives from diverse stakeholder groups to assist in various phases of the planning process. ▪

Two training programs scheduled

An employee management training class for producers and a Spanish language school for feeders will be held June 29 at the United Cooperative Service meeting room at 1200 Glen Rose Highway in Stephenville.

The schedule includes: Employee Management for Dairy Producers, 10 a.m. to noon; Lunch, noon to 1 p.m.; and Training in Spanish for Feeders and Feed Managers, 1-3 p.m.

The classes will be taught by Jorge Estrada of Estrada, Simmonds & Assoc. The program is sponsored by Diamond V Yeast Culture.

Register by June 21 by contacting Robert Scott (254) 965-1460 or rj-scott@tamu.edu. ▪

Study predicts future vet shortage

A projected shortage in food animal veterinarians could impact food safety and the country's ability to handle outbreaks of animal diseases, according to a recent study released by Kansas State University.

The study predicts a major shortfall in these vets by 2016.

Dr. Lyle Vogel, director of the Animal Welfare Division of the American Veterinary Medical Association, told the Associated Press "Not having enough veterinarians in rural communities, out in the field, to do adequate disease surveillance threatens our food security. For the first time, this study has scientifically documented there is a shortage and shown the shortage is going to get worse."

The study found that while demand for food animal veterinarians is projected to increase 12 to 13 percent over the next decade, four out of every 100 jobs will go unfilled.

The shortfall is also expected to affect government agencies like the U.S. Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. ▪

"Update," continued from page 1

Commission. We are working to gain status for Texas as a brucellosis free state.

I, along with several dairymen from the Texas Panhandle will meet June 22 with the Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium in Amarillo to provide information on important issues facing dairymen.

Then, on June 23, I will attend a meeting to evaluate current public relations needs and concerns we have in the southwest. Dairy promotion organizations attending will be DPNM, DairyMax, Southwest Dairy Museum, DMI, TCE, Cooperatives and TAD.

An ongoing TAD activity concerns the push on the TCEQ to issue individual CAFO permits in the Bosque River watershed. Not a single one has been issued, as of mid June. The TAD board in May voted to hire a lawyer to help resolve this problem.

TAD also continues to work with the NRCS at every opportunity to achieve compliance with the Bosque River Watershed required CNMP development and EQIP conservation practices. ▪



Texas Association of Dairymen
3500 William D. Tate Ave., Suite 100
Grapevine, TX 76051-8734