



TAD News

Holiday Issue 2006



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

TAD takes TCEQ, NRCS on a dairy field trip

We have been very busy as 2006 winds down.

In November, the Texas Association of Dairymen participated in a joint initiative with the Texas Cattle Feeders Association and the Texas Pork Producers Association to take the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the National Conservation Resources Service staff on a field tour of a pork operation, feed yard and a dairy.

Mike Schouten hosted our tour at his Mission Dairy near Hereford (see photo) and did a great job of showing his operation. In the group were TCEQ permit writers and NRCS staff who could observe how the dairy is being managed in an environmental friendly way. TCEQ staff acknowledged they benefited from seeing the dairy. Talking with Mike, they better understand how the farmer is impacted by what they write on paper.

Following the farm tours, the group met at Bushland Research Center to discuss Nutrient Management Plans. Federal EPA will require the nations CAFOs to have an NMP by July 2007; however as that date looms, I suggest EPA will not have their rules on NMPs decided in time for farmers to satisfy that deadline. In view of that concern, I do recommend you work with your environmental consultant, State Soil and Water Conservation District office or the NRCS as soon as you can to get an NMP in place for your farm.

On a national front, the Coalition for Clean Air & Water, supported by a host of agriculture groups including TAD, has been working on clarifying that animal waste (manure) is not a hazardous substance under CERCLA.

(Continued, "Update," page 2)

Manager's Update

John Cowan

TAD Board Action

The Texas Association of Dairymen Board of Directors took the following action during its November meeting in Grapevine:

- Heard a report from TAD Manager John Cowan about the CAFO permitting status with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
- Heard a report from the Dairy Image Working Group (*see separate story in this newsletter*).
- Discussed a possible new appointment to the TAD Board of Directors. Based on December production totals, the Board's membership alignment will be reviewed and possibly adjusted in January.

The next Board meeting will be Jan. 25 at TAD's Grapevine headquarters. New Board officers will be elected at the meeting.

A legislative day at the Capitol in Austin is being planned for February – watch for details in an upcoming newsletter. ■

Legislature readies to convene

By Shayne Woodard

November was a busy month in Austin with elections and the start of bill filing for the 80th legislative session, to begin Jan. 9. Bill filing deadline is March 9.

High on the list of priorities for TAD this session will be making sure the Legislature appropriates the \$11 million earmarked for the Dairy Center at Tarleton State University.

A number of bills already have been filed that are of interest to the dairy industry. Among those TAD is monitoring: HB 28 (Berman) – would prohibit an individual born in the United States to illegal parents from being able to receive any state benefits, licenses etc.

HB 147 (Phillips) – would allow a municipal-owned utility facility to use any portion of a penalty assessed by the TCEQ to be applied towards the deficiency in fixing the facility.

HB 153 (Phillips) – requires the local appraisal office to provide timely information to a property owner upon request with explanation of property appraisal value if less than three sales of similar property were used in assessing the value of said property.

(Continued, "Bills," page 2)



Mike Schouten explains dairy operations to TCEQ and NCRS staff.

“Update,” continued from page 1

It now appears that the issue will not be taken up by the U.S. Congress this year. The coalition worked very hard to gain support from House and Senate members; however the results of the general election in November changes the makeup of the leadership of both houses, making it prudent to regroup the efforts of the coalition. Over the next few weeks, renewed strategies will be considered in preparation for the new Congress next year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the TAD board for its work this year. They are a great group of folks to work with as we all strive to represent Texas dairy farm families.

From my family to each of you, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Great New Year. ▪

“Bills,” continued from page 1

HB 190 (Callegari) – caps residential appraisal value increases at 5 percent rather than the current 10 percent.

HJR 12 (Solomons) – Constitutional amendment would change the eminent domain proceedings for private property owners.

HJR 13 (Paxton) – Constitutional amendment would require a two-thirds vote by both legislative chambers for any increase in the franchise tax rate.

SB 73 (Lucio) – creates an interagency obesity council.

For more bill information, visit www.capitol.state.tx.us. ▪



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

Group working to boost dairy image

Plans are well underway by a coalition of dairy interests to reassure the public about the environmental practices of the growing number of dairies in the Texas Panhandle and eastern New Mexico.

The Dairy Image Working Group – TAD, New Mexico Dairy Producers, DMI, DairyMax and the Southwest Dairy Museum – have been meeting since summer to develop economic data, consumer research and public messaging that all the organizations can use when interacting with the public and with decision makers.

The goal is to use the research and messages to develop fact sheets, a public relations plan and other tools by the time both states’ legislatures convene in January.

“By working together and speaking with a unified voice, our organizations can be more effective as we advocate for the dairy industry,” said TAD Manager John Cowan.

Messages are being developed to address consumer concerns on water quality, water usage and air quality. These concerns were identified in phone surveys and focus groups held during the fall in Amarillo and Clovis, N.M.

The research found that although about three-fourths of residents in each location generally see dairies as an asset to their areas, they do worry dairy impact on the environment.

The messages will be translated into billboards, fact sheets, brochures, Web site information and media materials by TAD and the dairy promotion groups.

The working group hopes to have economic data on the impact of the dairy industry developed by January. ▪

Producer record keeping simplified

As part of the Environmental Compliance Training, TAD and Texas Cooperative Extension have worked together to develop a desk calendar to assist all dairy producers in Texas with the record keeping requirements associated with manure and nutrient management.

The calendars, which are being sponsored by TAD, will be on their way to your dairy soon, so be sure to watch for your calendar. ▪