



TAD News

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Could you pass Immigration's scrutiny?

Dairymen face challenges every day. On Sept. 14, another unexpected challenge was reported in the news. On Aug. 17, federal agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigated a dairyman in Central Texas to verify employment verification on workers the farm employed.

Manager's Update
John Cowan

The dairyman was alleged to have failed to have all required verification of eligibility for employment, and was later charged in a federal indictment with harboring illegal aliens. Without knowing any details of this situation, I can assure you it will get national attention with the present debate over homeland security and immigration reform in the U.S. Congress.

The timing with this investigation and ultimate enforcement action suggest political motivation. Whether or not that is the case doesn't matter. As dairymen, you need to take heed to this and be sure your employment records are complete and accurate. Keep all records in a safe orderly fashion easily and quickly accessible if requested by the authorities. Maintain consistent hiring practices including filing the appropriate FICA and withholding deductions on each employee.

One source for reference material, "Handbook for Employers," is found at the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service Web site.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Commissioners met in Temple the week of Sept. 25 and renewed a joint memorandum of agreement on TMDLs. This agreement will.
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ICE warning: Make sure your papers are in order

Do you have a proper paper trail for the workers you employ? Dairy producers need to make sure their I-9s and other documents are in order for all workers – federal immigration officials are cracking down on the employment of illegal immigrants, and dairy owners aren't immune.

Yme Klaas Bosma, owner and operator of Bosma Dairy in May, Texas, has been charged in a federal indictment with harboring four illegal aliens. If convicted, he faces a maximum statutory 10-year prison sentence and a \$250,000 fine.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is making more arrests than ever of employers and others who are then charged with violating immigration laws. While those in the country illegally are being deported, employers who are arrested face possible federal prison sentences and large fines.

With heightened interest in the issue of immigration reform turning an even brighter spotlight on the workplace, TAD encourages its members to make sure they are following federal immigration law and thoroughly document their workers.

For more on ICE, visit www.ice.gov. ■

TAD Board Action

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

- Gordon McCool reported on a recent trip to Washington, D.C., where he and other dairymen spoke to congressional leaders on issues including immigration, CERCLA and drought assistance for farmers.
- David DeJong reported that producers who signed up for the EPA Air Consent Agreement would need to submit their agreed settlement payment.
- TAD Consultant Kirsten Voinis reported on a recent meeting with TAD, DairyMax, Southwest Dairy Museum and DMI. The combined groups are developing a new series of communication tools for use with legislators and decision makers.

The next Board meeting will be Oct. 17 at TAD's Grapevine headquarters. Dr. Ed Smith with Texas A&M Extension Service will attend the meeting.

The November meeting will be held Nov. 28 in conjunction with the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show. ■

New hay transport rules start soon

New rules about the transport of hay used to feed livestock, including dairy cows, will take effect in December under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.

The new rules are designed to protect against serious threats to the food supply. They do not apply to those who grow hay solely for use in their own livestock operation.

Farmers will be required to keep specific documentation if they sell, barter, give away or ship hay destined for use as livestock feed off the originating farm. If someone else does the hauling, then the transporter is responsible for record keeping.

Transporter records must include: the source of the hay; recipient of the hay; origin and destination points; dates the shipment was received and released; description of the freight; number of packages; route the shipment followed, including any transfer points; and the name of each carrier involved.

For more information, visit:

www.fda.gov/cvm/hayupdate.htm. ▪

TDA offering drought relief funds

Livestock producers in 216 drought-stricken counties will split \$14.5 million in federal drought assistance funding, disbursed by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

The sign-up period for the reimbursement will be Sept. 29 through Nov. 13. Applications will be available at all TDA offices, the TDA Web site at www.agr.state.tx.us and local Farm Service Agency and Texas Cooperative Extension county offices in eligible counties.

Criteria to qualify for the reimbursement and eligible counties are posted on the TDA Web site.

Individual payments will be limited to \$10,000 and may be used to cover the cost of lost forage, supplemental feeding, relocating livestock to new pastures and emergency water supplies.

For more information, visit www.agr.state.tx.us. ▪

TCEQ commissioner appointed

Martin Hubert of Austin has been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a term to expire Aug. 31, 2011. His appointment is subject to confirmation by the Texas Senate.

Hubert, who was raised in a large farming and ranching family in Kleberg County, was most recently deputy commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture. He formerly served as general counsel for Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee, and was the special assistant and general counsel to then-Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock. ▪

Texas/New Mexico meeting set

The New Mexico/Texas Dairy Highlights meeting will be Oct. 11 at the Clovis Civic Center in Clovis, N.M.

The joint meeting with Texas A&M University and New Mexico State University will feature speakers discussing hot issues such as immigration and using information to make decisions on feed purchases.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., and the meeting will be 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The \$25 registration fee covers lunch and handouts. For more information, call Tamilee Nennich at (254) 968-4144 or visit <http://texasdairymatters.org>. ▪

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allow TMDL implementation plans to consider watershed protection plan concepts in addressing watershed impairments

With this adoption, future TMDLs should consider all potential sources of pollutants rather than targeting regulated entities such as dairies and city wastewater treatment plants.

TAD plans to submit comments on getting designated uses of waters of the state redefined. A dry creek across your place does not support contact recreation and you sure can't float a boat in it. Our work continues on your behalf. ▪



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