



TAD News

October 2007

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Next TAD Board Meeting:
1 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 31
Grapevine, Texas

“Good neighbor” policy can deter problems

This month my goal is to raise your awareness and concern about how people view you and your dairy farm. This is not an attempt to meddle. Much of my time over the past year has been spent working to resolve matters between former friends and neighbors of agriculture.

If only one message comes through loud and clear in this month's Update, it's that it's up to you to ensure your neighbors are kept informed about your operations.

I find, in many instances, that problems with complaints that get blown out of proportion or lead to an environmental enforcement action could have been prevented if the dairy owner/operator had done their neighbor relations work ahead of time.

The day is long gone when rural folks can believe that they can do whatever they want on their own place. True, you own the land, but what you do and how you manage your farm may determine how others view how well you do your job.

The buzz phrase today is “be proactive.” What does this mean? As mentioned earlier, most concerns I work with across the state possibly could have been prevented or at least lessened if only the dairy owner had taken some preventative steps early on.

The farm's appearance is one of the most overlooked but easiest implemented good neighbor practices.

Keep your frontage clean, grass and weeds mowed and don't leave animals in distress or dead in view of the public roadway. Follow prescribed management practices for handling animal waste and utilization of beneficial nutrients and prevent spillage on public roadways.

Understand and follow all required rules. Respond immediately, and in a positive way, to any concern or complaint from a neighbor, and get ahead of the curve by getting involved with the community.

The old saying is true – “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” The entire dairy industry may be judged by the actions of a farm with the most problems. ■

Manager's Update

John Cowan

State adopts new TB rules effective Oct. 13 for dairy and beef cattle

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), striving to protect Texas' hard-earned cattle tuberculosis (TB)-free status, has adopted new cattle entry, testing and movement rules, effective Oct. 13. The TAHC tightened regulations after TB infection were found recently in two New Mexico dairies, a Colorado bucking bull herd and an Oklahoma beef herd.

Texas achieved cattle TB-free status in 2000, only to lose it in 2002, after two infected cattle herds were detected. In October 2006, Texas regained its TB-free status, after testing cattle in the state's 818 dairies and 2,014 beef herds.

The new TAHC regulations include:

- Lowering the TB test-eligible age from six to two months for sexually intact dairy cattle entering Texas. These animals also must have been officially identified individually and be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection stating they tested negative for TB within 60 days prior to entering Texas. Sexually intact cattle

less than two months of age must have an entry permit and be held at a designated facility until they are tested negative at age two months. Forgoing TB testing on out-of-state dairy cattle delivered to an approved feedlot in Texas for finish feeding for slaughter only, unless the animals are from TB-infected herd. These dairy feeder animals must be identified and have a TAHC entry permit and certificate of veterinary inspection.

- Identifying all Texas dairy cattle – regardless of age – with an official or TAHC-approved identification device prior to movement within the state.
- Requiring TB tests for Mexican-origin (or "M"-branded) steers that are recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock, and entering Texas from other states. These steers must have had a negative TB test within the previous 12 months, and have a certificate of veterinary inspection issued within the previous 30 days. ■

Seminar explores future of High Plains ag

As dairy cows and other livestock continue to move into the Texas Panhandle, what does the future hold for both agriculture producers and residents of the High Plains?

That was the issue explored Sept. 5-6 in Amarillo at the High Plains Livestock Conference attended and sponsored by TAD and other organizations.

The summit was held to explore and address future needs now, so that the region will be flourishing in 2007. The goal is to balance a profitable and viable confined livestock operation (CLO) industry with protection of natural resources during the next 20 years.

At summit's conclusion, representatives of the participating groups drafted an action plan to implement over the next 20 years.

Each group – including TAD – will ask its organization for input and approval before a final blueprint for the future is adopted.

Before an action plan was drafted, summit participants heard from experts on several different areas of interest, including natural resource management, water availability and



TAD's John Cowan, Ag Commissioner Todd Staples, State Rep. Warren Chisum and TAD lobbyist Shayne Woodard at the High Plains conference.

conservation, finding and training workers, feed resources and supplies, and community impact. ■

DOPA training set for Oct. 30

Texas Cooperative Extension will sponsor a dairy environmental stewardship training on Oct. 30 at the Southwest Dairy Museum in Sulphur Springs.

Dairy producers in the eight Central and East Texas counties comprising the Dairy Outreach Program Area (DOPA) must receive eight hours of training in their first year of operation and an additional eight hours of CEUs every two years thereafter as part of their environmental permit issued by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Dairy producers who need four hours of DOPA credits should attend the program from 9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Producers who need eight hours of initial DOPA credits should attend 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lunch will be provided to attendees by the Southwest Dairy Museum.

For a complete schedule, call the Hopkins Co. Extension office at (903) 885-3443 or visit <http://texasdairymatters.org>. ■

TAD Board Action

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

- Authorized TAD manager John Cowan and TAD attorneys to explore, budget and contour a plan for common resources for the state of Texas where TCEQ permit issues exist.
- Authorized TAD to work with Texas Cooperative Education to produce a hanging style 2008 Environmental Record Calendar for distribution to dairymen.
- Heard a report from Cowan about a possible research project on the Leon River watershed with assistance from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

The Board will next meet Oct. 31 in Grapevine. ■



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