



TAD News

October 2008

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Next TAD Board Meeting:
1 p.m., Dec. 17
Grapevine, Texas

Officials get view of dairy industry they oversee

There is no question that Texas dairy producers should keep in touch with state and federal agencies, especially those involved with your business from a compliance, regulatory or educational perspective, and do all we can to keep them informed about how you are impacted by what they do. Recently, I was privileged to assist on tours for two of these agencies at three different livestock operations in the Texas Panhandle.

On Oct. 9, Dr. Tammy Beckham, former director of the USDA/APHIS Plum Island Laboratory and now the director of the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station, and Dr. Robert Sprowles from Amarillo TVMDL laboratory were given a tour of the Richard Avila dairy just north of Dalhart. The tour gave them a good hands-on view of a dairy farm and the challenges facing dairy producers, including bioterrorism and foreign animal disease concerns.

I want to thank Avila and McKenzie Hanehan of Hilmar Cheese Co. who hosted the tour and answered a host of good questions from the group. The tour also included stops at pork producer and cattle feeding operations.

Then, on Oct. 10, we welcomed TCEQ Commissioner Bryan Shaw, Executive Assistant Kevin Patteson and Assistant Deputy Executive Director Zak Covar on a tour of a new dairy under construction near Perryton. Seeing a new dairy under construction allowed the commissioner and staff to see how a dairy is designed, engineered and built, including the flow diagram of process generated wastewater and animal waste from source to disposition. We appreciate dairy owner Torben Hansen for allowing us to tour his facility.

On Oct. 28, TAD participated with Texas Agri Life Extension in a Dairy Outreach Program Area training program for dairy producers in Sulphur Springs. Representatives from federal EPA Region 6, TCEQ staff plus an environmental law attorney attended **(Continued, "Update," page 2)**

Manager's Update

John Cowan

DHS issues "No-Match" rule

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Oct. 23 issued its Supplemental Final "No-Match" Rule.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) informs employers via "no-match" letters if an employees' name and Social Security number provided on the employers' Form W-2 Wage Reports do not match SSA's records. The No-Match Rule details steps employers may take when they receive a "no-match" letter as a "safe harbor" to guarantee that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will consider employers who follow those steps to have acted reasonably.

Although the DHS Rule was issued Oct. 23, it is not in effect because of an injunction issued by a federal court in fall 2007. DHS plans to ask the court to lift the injunction so that implementation of the rule can proceed.

TAD will be monitoring the situation to ensure that the latest information is posted under "Labor Resources" on its Web site, www.milk4texas.org. ■



Texas dairy producers answered the call to help farmers impacted by Hurricane Ike. Here, range cubes are unloaded at White Memorial Park in Anahuac for distribution in Chambers County. (Photo by Larry Hatley, Northeast Texas Farmers Coop).

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and fielded questions from producers. Also, a panel discussion addressing multi-agency inspections was held. ▪

TAD Board sees the sights in the Texas Panhandle

TAD Board members held their annual West Texas meeting in October and received quite an education after taking care of their official business.

First, thanks to Caviness Packing Co. in Hereford for a “behind the scenes” look at their facility, which takes cows from many local dairymen. The plant processes more than 1,000 head each day. TAD Board members not only saw the facility, but were escorted by owner Terry Caviness and head cattle buyer Chad Myrick.

Following the tour, the Board traveled the short distance to outside of Friona to see the High Plains Dairy owned by Board officer Harry DeWit. The dairy features a cross-ventilation barn, a fairly new concept to the dairy industry. This type of facility is spreading in use through the Midwest and other parts of the country – the barn at the High Plains Dairy is one of the first of its kind in Texas.

The cross ventilation provides more consistency for both cows and people, minimizing the effects of inclement and variable weather (rain, snow, wind, heat, cold).

In addition to the Board, attending the Board meeting and tours were Zak Covar of the TCEQ; McKenzie Hanehan of Hilmar Cheese Co.; Kim Lile, aide to state Rep. Carl Isett; and Laramie Adams, aide to state Sen. Robert Duncan.

Reporters from the Friona Star and the Amarillo Globe-News attended the High Plains Dairy tour and produced reports on the cross-ventilation barn. ▪

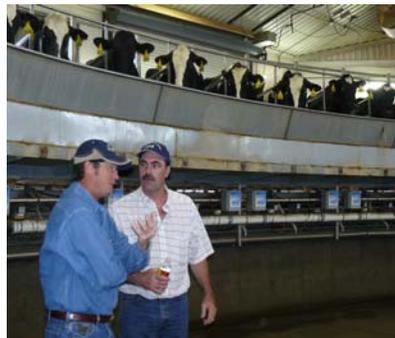
Right: Fans pull air across the cross-ventilation barn.



Dairy calendar nearing completion

The 2009 Dairy Environmental Calendar, jointly produced by TAD and Texas Agri Life Sciences and Extension, is being finalized and should be mailed to Texas dairy producers by December 2008.

The calendar, which helps producers with required record keeping, has been enlarged slightly, compared to the 2008 calendar. The 2009 version will include additional space to allow the information to be recorded. ▪



Above: Mark Long (left) and Harry DeWit check out the milking parlor.

Right: McKenzie Hanehan meets a new dairy resident.

Below: Zak Covar (left) and Laramie Adams examine the barn's water cooling system.



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