



# TAD News

## September 2008

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

John Cowan  
Executive Director

### Board of Directors

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Pete Schouten

**Next TAD Board Meeting:**  
**10 a.m., Oct. 21**  
Dimmit, Texas

## City of Waco just doesn't get it – still

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on Sept. 10 considered the issuance of a draft individual CAFO permit for the Broumley Dairy, located in Hamilton County.

The Commissioners heard clear reports for supporting the issuance from their general counsel, executive director and the TCEQ's Office of Public Interest Counsel. The dairy met all TCEQ requirements.

But the City of Waco filed opposition to the permit and asked the TCEQ to require a contested case hearing. It is a tactic the City has used before to continue to oppose dairy operations in Central Texas in the North Bosque watershed, despite the terms of the settlement of its lawsuit against upstream dairies.

Waco has contributed in a major way to the years of delays in permits for dairymen who – by applying for the permits – have indicated their willingness to make sure their farms comply with the 2004 TCEQ CAFO rules. But they can't make any changes without a CAFO individual permit.

In my viewpoint as a layman, the opposition from Waco is not about constructive progress. It seems like a select few leaders continue their covert attacks whenever and wherever they can to keep the process bogged down.

The question is – why?

Do they not realize that the sooner the dairies get their individual CAFO permits, more stringent environmental requirements for dairies contained in the 2004 CAFO rules then can be implemented?

It seems as if some of the City of Waco leaders actually are waging their fight over the 2004 CAFO rules against the TCEQ, with dairies caught in the middle and suffering the collateral damage.

Even though the TCEQ ignored the City's request and issued the Broumley Dairy permit, it's difficult to decide whether or not the dairy was successful, once you factor in the monetary and stress costs of defending itself against the City's frivolous attacks. ▪

### Manager's Update

John Cowan

## Farmers needed to help fellow farmers

Dairy producers across Texas can help their fellow farmers and their livestock impacted by Hurricane Ike.

Contributions of hay, water troughs, feedstocks, such as range cubes, or cash contributions are needed. TAD has worked with the Dairy Farmers of America to provide tankers, if needed, to move fresh water into the affected region.

Coordinating efforts are AgriLife Extension in cooperation with the Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture and other state agencies and trade associations.

To make a tax deductible cash or credit card donation call (979) 845-2604 or visit <http://agrilifevents.tamu.edu> and follow the prompts to "No Fences" Hurricane Ike Horse and Cattle Relief.

To make a donation of hay, feed, water troughs, transportation and other in kind donations, call the Texas Department of Agriculture's Hay Hotline at (877) 429-1998 or (800) 835-5832 and press zero. ▪



### Down on the Farm

Zak Covar (left), TCEQ assistant deputy executive director, gets a dairy farm tour from Willy DeJong.



### Truitt visits TAD office

TAD Board members visited with State Rep. Vicki Truitt during their August meeting. Rep. Truitt, who represents Grapevine, where TAD's office is located, talked about issues important to the dairy industry and anticipated hot topics for the 2009 legislative session. Pictured from left to right: Karen Kuiper, Reta Dyess, Mark Long, Rep. Truitt, Ken Miller, Frans Beukeboom and Neil Hoff.

### Two states see TB status change

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on Sept. 11 reclassified New Mexico as modified accredited advanced for bovine tuberculosis (TB).

Intact heifers still can be shipped interstate if moved directly to a feedlot or in feeder channels. Also, the movement of spayed heifers and steers, cattle from a TB-accredited free herd and cattle less than 6 months of age, can continue.

In addition, APHIS has downgraded Montana's brucellosis status from Class Free to Class A. ■

### TAD Board Action

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

- Heard an update on the 2009 legislative session from State Rep. Vicki Truitt, whose district includes the TAD office.
- Listened to a report from Caviness Packing Co. in Hereford about its 5 Star Program.
- Heard a report about the status of the USDA/APHIS proposed TB rule. TAD will submit formal comments.
- Approved a \$500 donation to help send the Johnson County 4-H Dairy Judging Team to compete at the World Dairy Expo.
- Approved publication and distribution of TAD's 2009 Environmental Calendar. ■

### USDA looking at downer cattle rule

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed amending the federal meat inspection regulations to initiate a complete ban on the slaughter of cattle that become non-ambulatory after initial inspection by Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) inspection program personnel.

This proposed rule follows the May 20 announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer to remove the provision that states that FSIS inspection program will determine the disposition of cattle that become non-ambulatory disabled after they have passed ante-mortem, before slaughter, inspection on a case-by-case basis.

Under the proposed rule, all cattle that are non-ambulatory disabled at any time prior to slaughter, including those that become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection, will be condemned and properly disposed of.

Comments on this proposed rule must be received by the USDA on or before Sept. 29. For further technical information on the proposed rule, contact Dr. Daniel Engeljohn at (202) 205-0495. ■



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