



TAD News

April 2010

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Next TAD Board Meeting:
1 p.m., June 10
Grapevine, Texas

What is TAD doing for Texas dairymen?

From time to time when I visit with dairymen across the state, I get asked what the Texas Association of Dairymen is doing for dairy producers.

This is a very good and valid question, so I want to take this time to share some of the things we are doing on your behalf. Our mission at TAD is to be a unified voice for all Texas dairy farm families with those who make rules, laws or decisions that impact your dairy operation. We aim to be a source of reason and information which may help guide them to implement good rules, laws or decisions.

Often, we find ourselves reacting to problems or working to solve issues that are not readily visible to everyone. In saying that, much of TAD's work is done behind the scenes, such as working with various local, county, state or federal agencies that have executed or will execute their authority over you.

One example is working with various ground water districts across the state to ensure they understand how dairies use and reuse water resources effectively. We provide staff time and, at times, enlist dairymen to appear before elected officials to convey our message. We realize the importance of keeping decisionmakers apprised of your business so that they can understand what you are experiencing on the farm today is extremely important.

When the opportunity arises, we bridge the gap to be your advocate with representatives at all levels of government on many different subjects, not just environmental issues. We are preparing now for the next legislative session that will convene in January. During "even years" – such as 2010 – the Texas Senate and House look at interim charges or issues that will most likely come before the next Legislature when it is in session.

We appreciate, recognize and depend on our TAD Board of Directors who represent you and who guide the direction we take as a trade association to work in your best interest. Without these dedicated women and men, we would not be as effective. ■

TAD Update
John Cowan

Capitol Report

Primaries over, committees meet

By Shayne Woodard

With the primary and runoff elections over and the general election not until November, lawmakers are focusing on committee meetings to consider interim charges.

TAD is monitoring several committees as policy makers discuss issues that directly and indirectly impact agriculture and, specifically, dairies.

Interim reports will be written by the end of the year with some of those results becoming legislation as the 82nd Legislature convenes in January.

For example, the House Ways and Means Committee is examining tax breaks and exemptions as lawmakers will grapple with a projected \$15 billion budget deficit for the next biennium. Recent testimony touched on special appraisals for agricultural open-space land and farm products that have been exempt from taxation. ■



TAD Board visits Sulphur Springs

The TAD Board met in April at Sulphur Springs, where they held a reception to meet with area lawmakers, elected officials and other dignitaries. Pictured above (left to right) are TAD Board member Lynn Ramsey, Hopkins County Commissioner Danny Evans, Sulphur Springs Mayor Gary Spraggins, Extension Agent Mario Villarino and TAD Board President Ken Miller.



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(From left): TAD staff John Cowan and Darren Turley visit with State Sen. Bob Deuell (R-Greenville) and Marilyn Deuell at the TAD Board reception in Sulphur Springs.

TAD Board Action

The Texas Association of Dairymen Board of Directors took the following action during its April meeting:

- Authorized TAD staff to negotiate a legislative consulting agreement with J. Pete Laney for a period from June 2010 thru June 2011.
- Voted to ask Donald DeJong to represent the dairy industry on the High Plains Groundwater stakeholder group with Darren Turley serving as staff representative to attend meetings.
- Authorized up to \$3,000 contribution to the stateholder group to complete a “water usage study” for the region..
- Heard a report on the status of the dairy industry and EPA EPA farm inspection activity in East Texas.
- Heard an update an update on the Texas Animal Health Commission and a Bi-National Animal Health Conference in Mexico.
- Discussed holding its October meeting in West Texas. The next Board meeting will be June 10 in Grapevine. ▪

Texas AgriLife Extension Service Save the Date – 2010

May 27 – Southwest Dairy Field Day, Spandet Dairy, Hart, Texas. For more information or registration, visit <https://agrilifevents.tamu.edu/events/details.cfm?id=574>

The first ever High Plains Herdsman Short Course will target parlor managers and mid-managers with information on milking routine, leadership and milk quality issues.

May 19 – Rita Blanca Coliseum, Dalhart

May 21 – AgriLife Extension-Deaf Smith County office, Hereford

May 26 – Olton Ag Pavilion, Olton

May 28 – Bailey County Coliseum, Muleshoe

For more informatin or registration, visit <http://texasdairymatters.org>.

Texas dairy industry – get the facts

If you’ve ever been asked how many dairies operate in Texas, how the industry impacts Texas’ economy or other dairy questions, the answer is now as close as TAD’s website, www.milk4texas.org.

TAD has produced a number of fact sheets about dairy issues and has posted them on the website. TAD encourages you to download and share the fact sheets as needed. By making these easily available to our members, media and the public, we hope to increased the understanding of a number of dairy-related issues. ▪

Federal TB order eases movement of animals

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has issued a federal order modifying certain elements of the bovine TB eradication program to make it easier for producers not affected by TB to move their animals interstate, even if TB is present in their state. For details, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2010/04/tb_federal_order.shtml.