

## Change is in the air for TAD in our quest to best serve our industry

Change is a common issue in the dairy industry. The dairy business seems to always be addressing change in one form or another.

Milk prices still need to change to a higher level, and now feed prices need to change to a lower level. Environmental and regulatory changes seem to be never ending. Change is something that is inevitable.

TAD is no different. We are continually evolving our organization to best serve our members. The TAD board met at the end of September at the Wildcatter Ranch in Graham for a strategic planning meeting to address the future direction of the organization. Our discussions addressed various aspects of our business that TAD will continue to change and adapt to better respond to our producers' needs.

You will see some small changes this month, such as a new logo and a Facebook page (please follow us). In the next

Few months you will see a redesigned website that will give TAD the ability to address current issues more rapidly and alert producers to information that affects our industry.

The board also discussed some long range goals and how to best achieve them. We must adapt and change our organization much as producers do on the farm to maintain their operations.

The political and environmental communities also are changing, with familiar faces retiring and new faces emerging. TAD continues to develop and nurture its relationships with elected officials

The Texas Association of Dairymen is very diligent in its efforts to foresee issues that will affect the dairy industry. We will continue to change our organization, just as you continue to change your dairy operations, so that we can best represent the Texas dairy industry. ▪

### Manager's Update Darren Turley

### Capitol Report

## Water debate flowing at the Capitol

By J Pete Laney

The Texas Senate Committee on Natural Resources met Sept. 22 to hear testimony regarding water – sure to be one of the biggest issues in the upcoming legislative session. The testimony on groundwater centered on conservation districts, desired future conditions of the ground water management districts, and the districts' role in the State Water Plan.

Invited witnesses included the Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Farm Bureau, conservation groups and the Texas Alliance of Ground Water Districts.

The Legislature will have to address the depletion of the underground aquifers. The question will be, how? In coming up with regulations which might limit the amount of water that can be pumped, lawmakers will have to balance what many consider to be a private property right with the realization that groundwater supply may not keep up with future demands.

TAD is working closely with other agriculture groups to try to address these issues. The TAD staff and lobby team will continue to work on your behalf on these issues throughout the upcoming legislative session.



## Find TAD on Facebook

TAD now has a home on Facebook, the social networking website with more than 500 million users.

If you are on Facebook, please search for "Texas Association of Dairymen" and click the "like" button to become a fan and get frequent news and updates about TAD and the dairy industry.

Joining Facebook is just one of the changes underway to update and enhance how TAD communicates with its members and others connected with the dairy industry.

TAD recently adopted a new logo (shown at the top of the newsletter) and expects to unveil a redesigned [www.milk4texas.org](http://www.milk4texas.org) website in the coming months. ▪

## 2010 Key Election Dates

The air waves and other media outlets will be crowded with political ads over the next few weeks as we inch closer to the Nov. 2 general election.

Early voting starts Oct. 18 and ends Oct. 29. Please remember to exercise your right – Go Vote! ▪

### Contact TAD:

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



### TAD Staff:

Executive Director:  
John Cowan  
[jcowan@milk4texas.org](mailto:jcowan@milk4texas.org)  
Assistant Manager:  
Darren Turley  
[dturley@milk4texas.org](mailto:dturley@milk4texas.org)

### TAD Board:

Ken Miller, Chairman  
Richard DeVuyst, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Joe Osterkamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Reta Dyess, Secretary  
Karin Kuiper, Treasurer  
Richard Avila  
Will Collier

Gary DeVos  
Larry Hancock  
Joel Hettinga  
David Hinders  
Tom Hoff  
Brad Johnson  
Johan Koke  
Michael Mund  
Lynn Ramsey



3500 William D. Tate Ave., Suite 100  
Grapevine, TX 76051

## Congressman meets with TAD

U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-Texas) got a first-hand report on the issues facing Texas dairy farmers during a recent meeting with dairy producer David Christopher of Plainview and TAD Assistant Manager Darren Turley.

Neugebauer, who took office in 2003, represents the 19th District of Texas, which covers 27 counties and includes the cities of Abilene, Big Spring and Lubbock. He serves on the House Committee on Agriculture.

Among the topics addressed were changes needed in the next Farm Bill and the desperate times producers are facing because of the slow recovery of farm prices. TAD voiced its support for eliminating the federal price support program and discussed how the growing use of ethanol has impacted producers' feed costs. TAD also expressed its concern about the proposed Dairy Producer Margin Protection Program, newly filed legislation that isn't expected to be considered during this term of Congress. ▪

## NMPF launches new website

The National Milk Producers Federation has launched its Foundation for the Future website: [www.FutureForDairy.com](http://www.FutureForDairy.com). The website includes interactive tools and resources, including a margin protection calculator.

The website also features a news and resources section with the latest dairy policy articles and downloadable materials about Foundation for the Future, including the complete plan narrative and frequently asked questions (FAQs). ▪

## TAHC announces regional office changes

As of Sept. 1, the Texas Animal Health Commission has eliminated its Region 8 office headquartered in Hallettsville and reorganized its remaining seven offices. In addition, the Region 2 office previously in Crockett was relocated to Hempstead.

For a complete overview of TAHC county and regional office changes, please visit [www.tahc.state.tx.us](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us) or call the agency at (800) 550-8242. ▪

## Texas AgriLife Extension Service Save the Date – 2010

**Sept. 13-15** – International Dairy Show, Dallas. More information: [www.idfa.org](http://www.idfa.org).

**Sept. 13-16** – International Symposium on Air Quality and Manure Management for Agriculture, Dallas. More information: [www.asabe.org](http://www.asabe.org).

**Oct. 12-14** – Dairy Industry Short Course, Amarillo. More information: <http://texasdairymatters.org>.

**Oct. 13** – Farm Safety Training for the Hispanic Dairy Worker (in Spanish), 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hopkins County Extension Office, Sulphur Springs. To register, call (903) 885-3443.

**Oct. 21** – Tri-County Ag Expo, Stephenville. More information: <http://www.tricountyag.com>.

**Oct. 27** – DOPA Fall Meeting, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Southwest Dairy Museum, Sulphur Springs. More information: <http://texasdairymatters.org>.

## SPCC template available for dairymen

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) has developed a self-certification template tool to help dairy producers develop Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans to cover all fuel and oil storage on the farm. The template is available on the NMPF website at [www.nmpf.org/washington\\_watch/environment/spcc](http://www.nmpf.org/washington_watch/environment/spcc).

SPCC plans are required for farms with an aggregate oil product storage capacity of 1,320 gallons or more, counting storage containers larger than 55 gallons. A farm with less than 10,000 gallons of total storage capacity and no single storage greater than 5,000 gallons can self-certify its SPCC plan.

NMPF is producing an online tutorial and plans to conduct webinars this fall to train dairy producers in the use of the self-certification template.

Additionally, the Natural Resources Conservation Service will work with NMPF to evaluate how it can most effectively provide technical assistance to help dairy producers comply with the SPCC regulations. ▪