

## TAD dedicated to serving dairymen – no matter where they are

Texas' dairy landscape continues to evolve. The long standing milk production area of Hopkins County is no longer one of the top 10 milk production counties in Texas. Castro County moved into the number one spot for milk production for the first time, moving Erath County into the number two spot.

The continued growth in the Texas Panhandle will most likely drive our state to become the sixth largest milk producing state in the country this year. The abundant heifer population and the high beef price seemed to help producers hold up summer production by replacing older cows with young heifers throughout the year.

The Texas population will continue to grow and demand more wholesome dairy products. The production for this growth will be provided by various areas of the state, but it will most definitely continue to grow in the Panhandle, where the wide open spaces and moderate climate are quite inviting to producers from across the country.

Milk production areas in Texas might be undergoing

change, but the Texas Association of Dairymen's continued vigilance to protect Texas producers – wherever they are located – will not.

TAD keeps all dairymen in mind in its efforts to maintain a friendly environment for producers to grow and expand their operations.

We continue to see less understanding of agriculture by the residents and the lawmakers of Texas.

The future of Texas dairy production lies in the continued communication of our commitment to produce a wholesome product with environmentally sound practices.

Most people are amazed at the effort of today's dairymen to provide a safe and comfortable environment for their cows. The general public continues to want to understand how and where their food is produced.

I believe we have an opportunity to show them all the efforts by Texas milk producers to enhance the comfort and security of our dairy herds

**(Continued, "Herds, Page 2)**

### Director's Update Darren Turley

### Apply now for sales tax exemption registration number required Jan. 1

Have you applied to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for your registration number to claim a sales tax exemption on products you use in your business? TAD encourages you to learn more about the requirement and, if applicable, to apply now.

Starting Jan. 1, farm, ranch and timber operators who produce agricultural and timber products for sale will need a special registration number to claim a sales tax exemption on taxable products used in those businesses. The registration number can be obtained now through either a mail-in application or an online application.

The application, which the comptroller estimates should take less than 10 minutes to complete, and information on the program can be found at [www.GetReadyTexas.org](http://www.GetReadyTexas.org).

Online applicants will receive a registration number immediately. A paper application form can be downloaded from the website or by mail by calling (800) 252-5555.

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### Dairyman Bouma appointed to TAHC

Plainview dairyman Brandon Bouma has been appointed to the Texas Animal Health Commission for a term to end Sept. 6, 2017. Bouma fills the slot held by Reta Dyess, a dairy producer from Jacksonville, whose term expired.



"Brandon will do an excellent job representing the interests of the dairy industry on the governing board of this important state agency," said TAD Executive Director Darren Turley. "He has big shoes to fill, as Reta has done an excellent job on the board not only for dairy, but for all agriculture."

Bouma is partner and manager of Legacy Farms, manager of Heifer Ranch at Arroyo Seco, and owner and manager of BHB Farms. He is a member of the Select Milk Producers Board of Directors and chair of the Sustainability Committee. He also is the water representative for the Hale County Dairy Producers. ■

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## Drought Update: News to Use

Despite falling temperatures and a little rain, Texas' drought is a long way from over. In fact, another year of drought is expected, and five to 10 years of drought is a strong possibility, according to the state's climatologist. TAD brings you this roundup of drought-related news and resources:

### Keep up with drought information

The Texas Water Resources Institute has a new monthly e-newsletter, Drought in Texas, to provide Texans with reliable and up-to-date information on dealing with the drought, interviews with prominent authorities, and drought management and recovery solutions. To subscribe for email delivery, visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/publications/subscribe>.

### New hay hotline launched

Several updates have been made to the Texas Department of Agriculture's Hay Hotline. The service, which connects ranchers who need hay with those who have it, now includes prices and sources for donated hay and also now connects ranchers with transportation services to deliver hay and with available grazing lands.

Staples has asked other states' agriculture officials for assistance in locating hay donations for Texas ranchers and in listing available grazing land or hay on the Texas Hay Hotline. Staples also asked that other states waive transportation size restrictions for hay shipments in ways that continue to protect public safety.

To access the Hay Hotline, call (877) 429-1998 or visit [www.TexasAgriculture.gov/hayhotline](http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov/hayhotline).

### Check forage purchases

As many producers finish feeding their animals last year's silage, they should know that this year's silage production was dramatically reduced in quantity and quality, even on the irrigated acres of the Panhandle, according to Dr. Ellen Jordan, extension dairy specialist for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

For those producers having to locate alternative forage sources, Jordan advises that samples be submitted for nutrient analysis. They also should be checked for toxic plants that could cause problems, she said.

A resource on toxic plants of Texas, can be found at the Extension website at <http://essmextension.tamu.edu/plants/toxics/default.aspx>.

### Livestock forage program open to all counties

Texas livestock producers in all Texas counties are eligible to participate in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), but producers must meet LFP trigger requirements for a three-month payment for native pasture, improved pasture and forage sorghum.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 30, 2012, for losses incurred during the 2011 crop year.

For more LFP information, contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. ■

### "Herds," Continued from Page 1

The dairy industry has had its struggles this summer in Texas, but it continues to be a great example of hard work and dedication to protect livestock and the environment. ■

### "Sales tax," Continued from Page 1

The new regulation was part of House Bill 268 passed and signed into law earlier this year. It was supported by retailers and agriculture groups.

The registration number will be shown to retailers instead of signing an exemption certificate at the time of purchase.

The registration number will be required starting Jan. 1 to claim tax exemptions when buying items such as machinery and equipment; fertilizers; insecticides; irrigation equipment; and off-road motor vehicles used for farming and timber production.

Products such as feed for livestock and wildlife, seeds and annual plants are always tax-exempt and will not require a registration number.

The primary owner or operator of a farm, ranch or timber operation may obtain one registration number that can be used by anyone authorized by the registrant – including family members or employees – to make tax exempt purchases of qualifying products for the business. ■

## Texas AgriLife Extension Service Save the Date – 2011

**Oct. 21** – Webcast: Proper Closure of Earthen Manure Storage Structures, 1:30 p.m. More information: <http://www.extension.org/sites/default/files/11octflyer.pdf>.

**Oct. 26** – Virtual Renewable Energy Education Field Day, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Southwest Dairy Museum, Sulphur Springs (DOPA credits). Producers can also view via Internet or at the Southwest Regional Dairy Center, Stephenville (DOPA credits). More information: Hopkins County Extension Office, (903) 885-3443 or Whit Weems, (254) 965-1460.

**Nov. 10-11** – Dairy Cattle Reproduction Council Meeting, Hilton Kansas City Airport. More information: <http://www.drcouncil.org/>.

**Nov. 29-Dec. 1** – Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show, Amarillo. More information: [www.farmshows.com](http://www.farmshows.com).

**Dec. 15** – Presentation by Dr. Tom Fuhrmann, Southwest Regional Dairy Center, Stephenville. More information: <http://texasdairymatters.org>.

**Online** – Three online training modules for dairy employees are available at <http://texasdairymatters.org> (click on "NEW-Dairy Workforce Training"): biosecurity for dairy farm workers; the basic clinical exam: key to early identification of sick animals; and defending the milk supply in the parlor. ■





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## Texas Animal Health Commission accepting comments on proposals

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is currently accepting public comments on three rule proposals authorized during its September meeting.

First, proposed amendments to Chapter 33, entitled “Fees, Lab Fees,” are for the purpose of assessing fees related to tests performed by the State-Federal Laboratory System in Texas that is operated by TAHC. Comments are due by 5 p.m. Nov. 7.

Second, proposed amendments to Chapter 33, entitled “Fees, Herd Certification,” proposes a \$100 fee for each disease-free certificate or status approved or renewed and issued by TAHC. Comments also are due by 5 p.m. Nov. 7.

Finally, proposed amendments to Chapter 53, “Market Identification,” will specifically require all livestock markets to identify each head of sexually intact cattle that are parturient or postparturient, or 18 months of age or older; all dairy cattle (all cattle breeds typically used to produce milk or other dairy products for human consumption); and all cattle and bison used for rodeos, recreational events, shows or exhibitions, with an official approved eartag.

Comments are due by 5 p.m. Dec. 7.

A detailed description of the proposed rules and how to submit comments can be found on the TAHC web site at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us> under Rule Proposals. ▪

## Tool could help save energy on the farm

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, has launched the SaveEnergy tool, a one-stop online resource designed to showcase the benefits of an on-farm energy audit while simplifying the process.

The SaveEnergy tool at [www.USDairy.com/SaveEnergy](http://www.USDairy.com/SaveEnergy) is part of the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Commitment, an effort established by dairy producers to reduce environmental impact and create business value across the supply chain.

The SaveEnergy resource includes an interactive map that instantly connects users to audit-related programs in their state.

To learn more about farm energy audits and potential energy and cost savings, visit [www.USDairy.com/SaveEnergy](http://www.USDairy.com/SaveEnergy). ▪

## USDA extends traceability comment deadline

The comment period for the USDA’s proposed animal disease traceability program has been extended until Dec. 9.

You can learn more and submit comments at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2009-0091-0001>.

According to USDA, under the proposed rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate would have to be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation, such as owner-shipper statements or brand certificates.