



Texas Association of Dairymen

For Immediate Release

October 12, 2004

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TAD VOICES SUPPORT FOR NEW WATER MONITORING PROJECT

Dairies share desire for more timely water sampling in Leon/Bosque watershed

CLIFTON --- The Texas Association of Dairymen on Tuesday endorsed a pilot water-monitoring network that it believes will provide badly needed answers to questions about water quality in the Leon/Bosque watersheds.

“Some would point the finger at dairies for water quality problems in this region – unfairly, we believe,” said John Cowan, director of the Texas Association of Dairymen (TAD). “The project will help all of us better understand what’s really happening in our watershed, and determine who is responsible when pollution problems occur.”

Cowan was an invited speaker Tuesday at a press conference in Clifton held by the TCEQ and Gov. Rick Perry to demonstrate the new Environmental Monitoring and Response System (EMRS) Water Pilot Project.

The project will monitor nutrients at four sites in the Leon/Bosque watersheds and relay data to TCEQ computers in Austin. If specified amounts of certain nutrients are exceeded, electronic notification will be sent to TCEQ’s regional office in Stephenville and other interested parties. TCEQ staff then can review the information and decide if an investigation is needed.

The project will benefit everyone in the watersheds because it will minimize possible impact on the water quality when and if a polluting event occurs, Cowan told those at the press conference.

“None of us wants pollution,” Cowan said. “Texas dairies strive to be good environmental stewards. We may produce milk, but we also drink water. We also are concerned about protecting the land. Obviously, dairymen depend on the land to make their living. But they also live and raise their families on the farm.”

Texas dairies support efforts to safeguard the environment and have embraced new technologies and practices that allow them to do their job with less of an environmental impact. Likewise, TAD members will do whatever is necessary to help the EMRS project succeed, he said.

“What we learn will help all of us – no matter what side of the debate we’re on – learn more so that we can move forward and make some real progress toward achieving our common goal of a clean environment,” Cowan said.

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The Texas Association of Dairymen (www.milk4texas.org) is a non-profit corporation comprised of dairy cooperatives whose members are individual milk producers in Texas.