



Texas Association of Dairymen

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TAD PLEASED WITH ACHIEVEMENTS BY BOSQUE WATERSHED PROGRAMS

New TCEQ report details progress, says more time needed

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has released a new report, "Water Quality in the North and Upper Bosque Rivers," which gives an update on the status of activities undertaken by the state agency to restore water quality by addressing elevated nutrient concentrations.

The 11-page report can be obtained electronically from TCEQ or the Texas Association of Dairymen.

After reviewing the report, the following statement was issued by John Cowan, executive director of the Texas Association of Dairymen:

"The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's update on activities to reduce nutrients in the North and Upper Bosque Rivers certainly shows some positive steps toward improving water quality by reducing phosphorous levels. Is it where it should be? Not yet. The report is clear that it's going to take some time to see significant improvements.

"Although a number of activities and programs are in progress, it's important to note that the waterways' Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan was only approved just over two years ago. The TCEQ says it needs at least five years of water quality data to determine the effectiveness of the plan.

"This is going to take some patience from those on both sides of the water quality issue. It also underscores the need for all involved – citizens, municipalities, regulators, environmental groups and agricultural interests – to work together to support existing activities and explore new technologies and programs that can further improve water quality in the watershed.

"Clearly we are moving in the right direction. It's important to continue that progress and not be derailed by frivolous lawsuits and other unproductive distractions."

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.