



# Texas Association of Dairymen

**For Immediate Release**

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## **TAD COMMENDS UNSEALING OF LAWSUIT SETTLEMENT**

The U.S. District Court in Waco late Friday unsealed the Jan. 19 lawsuit settlement agreement between the City of Waco and six Central Texas dairies.

John Cowan, executive director of the Texas Association of Dairymen, which supported the defendant dairies, issued the following statement regarding the unsealing:

“The Texas Association of Dairymen is pleased that the facts now are fully, publicly disclosed about the agreement between the City of Waco and the defendant dairies. The litigation – which we maintain was unnecessary – cost both sides considerable time and money, and Central Texans on both sides of the issue deserve to know the full outcome.

“Dairies in the North Bosque watershed significantly contribute to the area’s economy and operate as good environmental stewards. The settlement recognizes this and ensures that the industry will continue to thrive and positively contribute to the region.”

“The area’s dairies have been ready to comply with more stringent operating rules adopted in 2004 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, but this permit process has been held up by the lawsuit. Now we can move forward under the provisions of the settlement, which uphold these operating rules.

“The settlement also gives dairies permission to continue several practices, including the use of third-party fields for manure application, participation in existing composting programs, and participation in voluntary nutrient/manure management programs.

“TAD finds it interesting that this case was settled in light of two findings. First, water quality monitoring data measuring the North Bosque River as it flows into Lake Waco finds that water quality goals of the TMDL are being met. Second, the preliminary results of the Lake Waco bacteriological study, recently released, finds that human sewage and wildlife droppings, both of which contain phosphorus, are making the major impact on the lake’s water quality.

“Taken together, the settlement, water quality monitoring data and study underscore what we’ve been saying for a long time – dairies are not the major cause of Lake Waco’s long standing water quality problems.

“The Texas Association of Dairymen maintains that neither side really won in this lawsuit settlement. Instead of both sides spending millions of dollars in legal fees, they could have been funding more constructive ways to ensure clean drinking water for all Central Texans. TAD will continue to work with dairymen across the state on existing as well as new technology that proves to be viable, and I extend our hand out to everyone to join us in those efforts.”

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