



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JAN. 20, 2012

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AG COMMISSIONER TAPS FORMER TAD DIRECTOR FOR NEW STATE BOARD

John Cowan, former executive director of the Texas Association of Dairymen (TAD), has been appointed to the newly created Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Fund Board by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples.

The Board was created in 2011 by the Texas Legislature following the failure or bankruptcy of 17 grain elevators in recent years, costing farmers hundreds of thousands of dollars when they had no way to reclaim their losses other than legal action. The Board will manage an indemnity fund to compensate producers if a failed grain buyer is unable to pay the producer for the grain.

“Although I certainly have a background and an affinity for producers, I believe I can fairly and objectively review and make rulings on claims that come before the Board and make evaluations of the value of the grain that is in question,” Cowan said. “I look forward to further serving agriculture producers in this new role, and I thank Commissioner Staples for this opportunity.”

Cowan retired from TAD in June 2011 after serving the organization in several capacities, including eight years as TAD’s executive director, and after almost 40 years in the dairy industry. Cowan has previously served on various boards and committees throughout Texas and has worked with many organizations and state agencies. His career contributions were recognized by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, which bestowed upon him its highest honor by naming him 2009 Cooperator of the Year.

“As a long time advocate for the Texas dairy industry, John knows first hand how important it is to protect our state’s agriculture producers from economic hardship,” said Darren Turley, executive director of TAD, which supported Cowan’s appointment. “Texas’ farmers and ranchers already are under enough economic stress with our state’s prolonged, historic drought and rising prices of fuel and feed.”

Cowan’s appointment was supported by TAD and the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Texas Pork Producers Association and Texas Poultry Federation. The nine members of the Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Fund Board will serve staggered two-year terms.

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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. You can follow TAD on Facebook at www.facebook.com/texasdairy.