



The Milk Lines



March 2002

SURVEY

NOTES

FIELD DAY

The following survey request and short note articles are supplied by Dr. John Kirk of the UCVMTTC. Any directly related questions would best be directed to him at (559) 688-1731, Ext. 224, or jkirk@vmtrc.ucdavis.edu.

The field day notice is of great interest to all involved in recycling dairy manure water on crops. Any questions on this meeting should be directed to Carol Frate at the UCCE office, 685-3309, Ext. 214, or cafrate@ucdavis.edu.

A Dairy Producer Survey on the Use of Natural Services Bulls for Herd Reproduction

There are many options available for today's dairy to increase reproductive efficiency primarily involving the use of hormones for manipulation of the cow's estrus cycle or timing of ovulation. Despite these advancements reproductive efficiency on many dairies is less than desirable. Cows that fail to become pregnant in a timely fashion are typically moved to pens in which the breeding is either solely reliant on natural service or at least aided by it. Some dairies rely totally on natural service.

In order to better understand how bulls are being used and to prepare practical educational materials to support dairies using bulls, we are conducting a statewide survey of bull management strategies in California. For the benefit of all dairymen using bulls, please take time to complete this survey so that an accurate picture of bull use may be obtained.

The survey is located at this Web site at the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center in Tulare:

nsbsurvey.vmtrc.ucdavis.edu

Just go to the Web site and complete the survey. When you have finished, simply click on submit and we will get your survey. For a valid survey, we will need over 100 replies. We need your help for this project that can benefit the entire dairy industry in California. Thanks.

Microwave Plastic Syringes

If you care going to re-use single use, plastic syringes, they need to be cleaned and sterilized before the second use. Dr. Griffin at the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center suggests a novel way to sterilize them. Syringes should be thoroughly cleaned both inside and out prior. The outside of the syringe can be cleaned with soap and water; however, only water should be used on the inside of the syringe. The inside should be rinsed several times. Then completely fill the syringe with water and wrap it in 5-10 layers of wet paper towels. Put the wet, wrapped syringe in a zip-lock bag leaving the top open. Microwave syringes individually for 5 minutes on the high setting. Check the wrap about half way through to make sure it is still wet. Re-wet if dry to prevent a fire hazard. After 5 minutes, remove the syringe from the wrap and squirt out any remaining water. Allow to cool for 10 minutes before using. Syringes can be stored in the zip-lock bags. The freezer is a suggested storage location. To be sure the microwave sterilization system is working properly, have your veterinarian swab the microwaved syringes and submit the swab for culture. Remember

not to put soap or disinfectants inside the syringe as they will inactivate modified-live virus vaccines.

Drug Inspection on Grade A Dairies

FDA has recently provided some guidance about where drugs can be stored on your dairy. Under item 15r of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, the drugs should be stored in an area where they can be checked for proper storage, labeling and use during routine inspections. FDA defines the areas to be inspected as the milk house, milking parlor or barn, adjacent storage areas, cow yards and cow housing areas, surroundings, waste disposal areas, and the water supply and its distribution system. These areas may also include the maternity areas, hospital area, replacement heifer housing, offices, utility rooms, tool sheds, and other areas where drugs used to treat dairy animals may be stored. To make sure they catch everything, they also might want to look at any area reasonably expected to contain drugs used to treat lactating cattle, cattle that may soon be placed in or return to the milking herd, or other cattle intended for milk production. Private residences and vehicles are not included without the permission of the dairy owner or their authorized agent.

Teat-End Cleanliness

Bacteria and other organisms that cause mastitis nearly always enter the mammary gland through the teat sphincter. Often they enter the gland during the milking process from a location on the teat very near the teat end. For this reason, it is very important for the milkers to be sure that the teat end is clean prior to attaching the milking machine. Clean teat ends will also aid in the harvest of high quality milk.


Check out the teat ends in your parlor just prior to when the milkers attach the milking machine. Visually look at the teat ends. Better yet, swab off the teat ends of several cows with alcohol-soaked white cotton balls or alcohol pads. When milkers are doing a good job of cleaning the teat ends, the white cotton

balls or pad will wipe off the teat ends and still be white. Anything less than white is unacceptable. Show the milkers what you find. If there is a need for improvement, show them how you want the teat ends cleaned. Showing is much better than just telling.

Like anything else, if you want to make a change, you will have to measure the results. To measure a change in milking hygiene, check the bulk tank samples for the level of environmental mastitis pathogens. These are the *Strep. spp.* other than *Strep. agalactiae*, the coliforms and *Staph. spp.* other than *Staph. aureus*. These bacteria reflect the level of attention being given to cleaning the teats and teat ends. Regularly provide the milkers with feedback as the reports come back from the creamery or cooperative.

As the manager or herdsman, you can help the milkers if you find that the teat ends are not as clean as you would like. Many factors play a role and the milkers are only responsible for what happens after the cows enter the parlor. Bedding in fresh stalls should be changed on a regular, routine schedule. In wet weather, drainage is a must for open corrals. Sprinklers in the wash pen must be functioning properly to do their part. Provide them with an ample supply of paper or cloth towels to clean the teats and teat ends.

When you make it a priority, this is the most important step contributing to clean teat ends. When the milkers know that it is important to you and that you are paying attention to this facet of milking hygiene, teat end cleanliness will improve. The milkers will know it is priority when you periodically check the teat ends, routinely discuss the milk quality results from the co-op, and provide support in the form of having the cows enter the parlor clean and dry.



Jim Sullins
County Director

Field Day — Manure Nutrient Management

Thursday, April 25, 2002

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Come...

- ...See manure water flow meters
- ...Hear how producers are improving manure nutrient use on forages
- ...Hear how producers are saving money on fertilizer

Agenda

9:00 a.m. — Rio Blanco Dairy (west of Rd. 52 on Ave. 192)

Using a flow meter to manage dairy manure nutrients: How dairy producers can save money on fertilizer and protect the environment

Alison Eagle, Dairy BIFS Project Coordinator, Kearney Ag Center

Using dairy manure water on alfalfa?

Stuart Pettygrove, Extension Soils Specialist, UC Davis

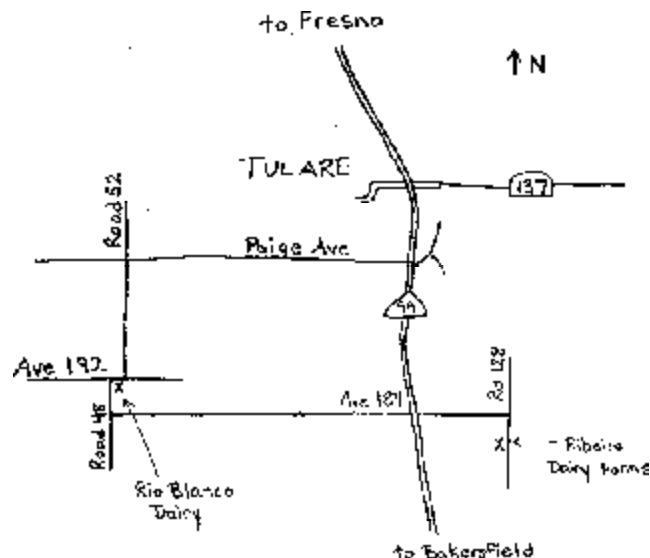
10:30 a.m. — Ribeiro Dairy Farms (south of Ave. 184 on Rd. 128)

Sample analysis and record keeping for manure management

Alison Eagle

Infrastructure challenges to manure management in Tulare County

Carol Frate, Agronomy Farm Advisor, Tulare County



Note: Applied for 2.0 nutrient management CEUs from California CCA program.

Sponsored by the University of California Cooperative Extension and the Dairy BIFS Project