



Guidelines

TC Dairies

Meeting

Guidelines

Over 25 years ago an ad hoc committee of dairy producers and allied industry persons met with the UCCE farm advisor, representatives of the Tulare County Planning Department, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to formulate farm location and dairy animal density guidelines. This was done in anticipation of growth in farm and animal numbers due to the expected migration of dairies from the Chino area. The objectives were to prevent another rural and urban situation like that of Chino and to have guidelines based on published research information.

The Tulare County guidelines included and still include animal to cropland ratios, windshed boundaries, and minimum separations of dairies from other farms, schools, and urban expansions. These guidelines have been modified over the years to reflect new research findings to reduce environmental impacts and promote best management practices of recycled manure and manured water. Currently the guidelines are being adjusted for impending regulations from the USEPA. Public hearings and written comments by both the industry, university, and others were involved.

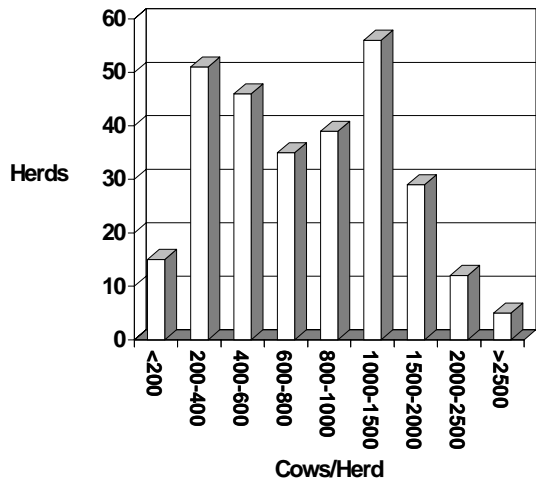
Tulare County guidelines for dairy and other confined animal operations have been copied and adjusted to fit other counties and regions of other states. These guidelines are relatively conservative and stricter in

nature than some other locations. This has been deemed necessary to maintain both the good of the dairies, as well as quality of life for others. Currently the ag advisory committee to the county Resource Management Agency (former Planning Department) includes producers, and they solicit input from the farm advisor and allied industry representatives.

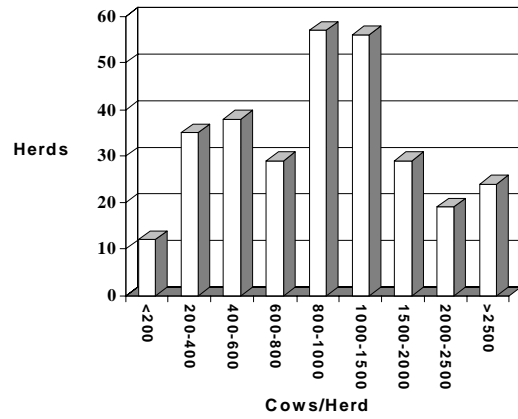
Depending on whom you talk to, some persons have said the Tulare County guidelines are overkill, others say they are not strict enough, and others say they are a moving target that is frustrating to comply with. The basic guidelines have not changed in large part over the years, but details have been added to incorporate research of manure salts loading along with nitrogen loading and physical separation of one dairy from another or other farms. A major change is occurring in what information is presented to regulatory agencies, as asked for by the California Attorney General (AG).

As a result of a legal interaction between the AG and Tulare County, there has been a lengthy delay in the processing of new dairy and existing dairy expansion permits. Optimistically it is anticipated that the process will begin again by June, if the AG has agreed to documentation provided by Tulare County. In the meantime the delays have caused financial losses to both the involved dairy producers and allied industries, as well as some related unemployment. In spite of these happenings, and with record milk prices in 1999, dairy growth in Tulare County was above average for 1999 (see graphs).

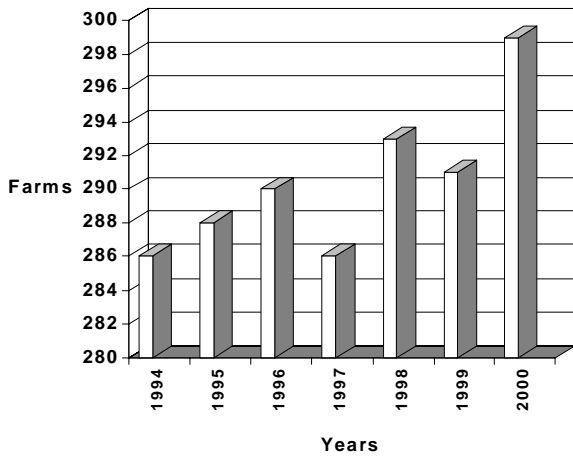
Tulare County Herd Sizes 1994



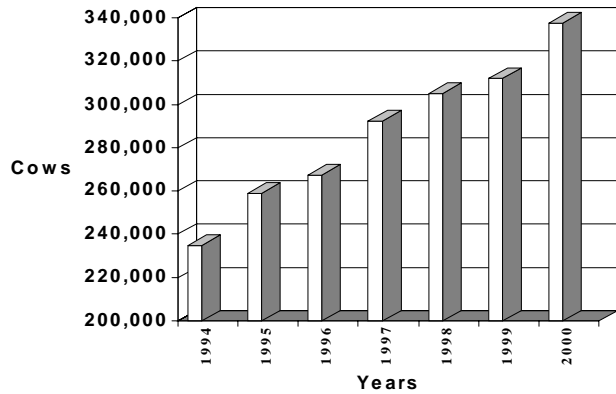
Tulare County Herd Sizes 2000



Tulare County Dairy Farms



Tulare County Dairy Cows



Footnote from Tulare Dairy Women

Applications are available from Liz Martin (686-6032) for Tulare County Dairy Princess. Age limit is from 17 to 25 years of age, and entry deadline is April 15th.

Quality Assurance For Dairy Market Cattle

For Dairymen and Herdsmen

Friday, April 28, 2000

**Tulare Sales Yard Inc.
4013 South K, Tulare**

This seminar is designed for dairymen and herdsmen with the intent to provide up-to-date information on quality assurance issues such as what are packers looking for in market cattle; injection site lesions and antibiotic residues; new rules for prescription drugs; explanation of guidelines for condemned cows; and practical on-farm steps to reduce contamination of market cows by salmonella and E coli O157.

10:00 AM **Introduction**

10:15 **What is happening within the packing plant to reduce risk of foodborne disease in meat and what types of market cows are packers looking for from dairies**

Larry Hollis, Beef Packers Inc.

10:45 **Injection site lesions, antibiotic residues and new rules for prescription drugs**

Dr. Jim Reynolds, VMTRC

11:30 **Why was my cow condemned? Cancer eye, lymphoma and septicemia**

Dr. Dale Moore, VMTRC

12:15 PM **Biological hazards: Possible on-farm control of salmonella and E coli O157**

Dr. John Kirk, Veterinary Medicine Extension

1:00 **Lunch provided by California Beef Council**

Spanish-speaking interpreters will be present to assist in questions and answers.

Jointly Sponsored By

Tulare Sales Yard Inc.

University of California Cooperative Extension – Tulare County

Veterinary Medicine Extension – University of California, Davis

To insure adequate lunches will be available, please call one of these numbers for a reservation.

Tulare Sales Yard – 688-7569

VMTRC – 688-1731