



The Milk Lines



March 2001

Foot & Mouth

Dairy Data

Noteworthy

Foot and Mouth

The current outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales has affected dairy, sheep and hogs. Any cloven footed animal, wild or domestic, can be susceptible. Humans are not susceptible but can be carriers of the highly contagious virus on their clothes, shoes and other objects. Cases of FMD have been found in some mid-eastern countries and suspect cases are being watched in France, Germany, Belgium and Denmark. Some South American and African countries have had occasional outbreaks. The USA, Canada and Mexico are currently FMD free. **There is no known cure for FMD, and control is by animal eradication.**

The rapid spread of FMD and the related livestock economic consequences should make everyone be concerned with bio-security on their dairy. The large number of foreign visitors coming to the Tulare and San Joaquin Valley areas make this a potential problem. In an increasingly globalized world, an unsuspecting visitor or yourself visiting an infested area of some country could lead to the unthinkable outbreak here. **Humans can carry the virus in their respiratory tract for at least 24 hours after contact, as well as on skin, hair and clothing for several days.** The CDFA gives the following precautionary advice. For questions call them at (559) 237-1843 in Fresno.

1. Ask foreign visitors and tour groups to provide information about recent farm and animal contacts.
2. If possible, verify dated information in passports and/or U.S. customs documents.

3. Do not permit persons/objects that have been in an infected country on your facilities for 5 days.
4. Do not allow meat or animal products from an infected country on your facilities.
5. Keep clean protective clothing and footwear available for required wearing by all visitors.
6. Discourage close contact or animal handling by foreign visitors.
7. If traveling to an infected country, carefully wash and disinfect all clothing and shoes upon returning to U.S. Any questions, call (559) 237-1843 or (916) 857-6170 or (559) 688-1731.

If you are planning an overseas trip or any foreign visit, check the latest FMD status of your destination before making the trip. Prevention is by far the best control of FMD, and updates of the disease status can be obtained with a simple phone call. You can also visit the following Web site for details: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/fmd/index.html>. Clinically, FMD blisters on mouth and feet appear similar to Vesicular Stomatitis that came to the Tulare area in the mid-1980's. However, the FMD virus is much more difficult to control and spreads much faster than the other disease. If there are any doubts about identification of diseases, contact your veterinarian or the UCVMTRC at 688-1731.

Dairy Data

In spite of the current delay for dairy permits in Tulare County, there was an increase of 20,000 cows for the past year. This was primarily due to filling of farms that had previous permits. There are now 303 dairies in the

county and the trend toward larger herds also continues, with the average dairy size now being 1180 cows. The annexed graphs depict this picture. It is expected that growth in local cow numbers will level off this year, if the permit process remains interrupted.

California now has 1,562,000 milk cows or about 70,000 more cows than the previous 12 months. In contrast, the other four top dairy states had a drop in cow numbers. Both Wisconsin and New York were each down 30,000 and Pennsylvania and Minnesota decreased by 10,000 and 20,000, respectively. Percentage gains in milk production for 2000 were led by Idaho with 11.9% and Colorado with 11.3%. Other gainers were New Mexico, 10.8%; Nebraska, 9.9%; South Dakota, Indiana and Kansas each had 8.2%; and California was 5.8%.

Washington led the nation for average milk per cow in 2000 with 22,644 pounds. This was 24% higher than the national average of 18,204 pounds per cow. California, Colorado and Arizona were in the 21,000+ range, while Wisconsin and Minnesota were below the national average with 17,306 and 17,777 pounds per cow, respectively.

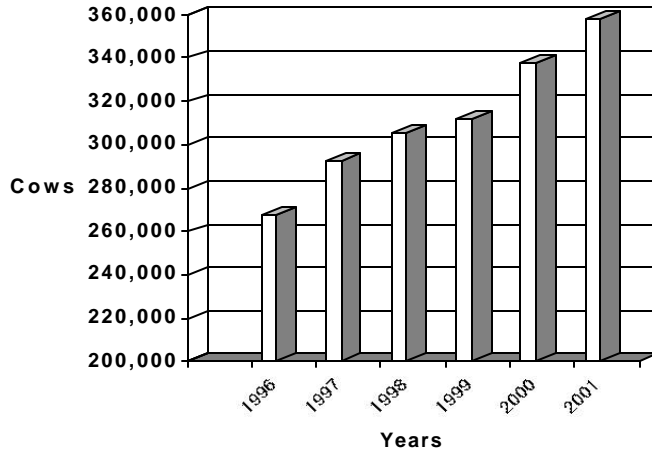
Tom Shultz
Dairy Advisor
(559) 733-6488

Noteworthy

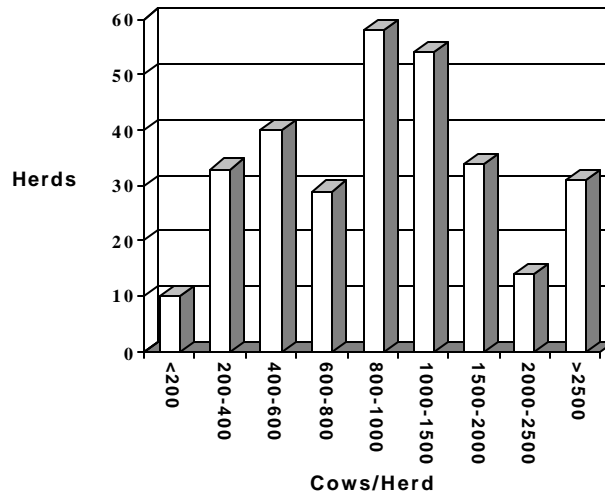
- i** As of April 1st the Tulare Dairy Herd Improvement Association will offer college scholarships for qualified family of association members and DHIA employees. For details contact manager David Brown or Board of Directors (686-6173) in Tulare.

- i** Requests have been received from several persons for a list of dairies and their location in Tulare County. USDA regulations do not allow organizations such as this office, University of California Cooperative Extension, to give out this information. It is advised that these requests be directed to the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, the California Department of Agriculture, or other public and private agencies.

Tulare County Dairy Cows



Tulare County Herd Sizes 2001



Reprint freely with credit to: The Milk Lines, a publication of University of California Cooperative Extension, Tulare County, Tom Shultz, editor.