



**Agency Authority**

**Air Quality**

**Safety**

## Agency Authority

The following list outlines the authorities of various agencies related to dairies. It is presented in order that information can be obtained from them or replies made to the appropriate agency in a more accurately directed manner. Questions regarding permits, determinations, or delineations are among the respective information items each agency would handle.

Responsibility for implementing the Clean Water Act is US Environmental Protection Agency, 75 Hawthorn St., WTR-8, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901.

NPDES permits and local water quality issues monitoring is Regional Water Quality Control Board, 3614 E. Ashlan Ave., Fresno, CA 93726 (559-445-5116).

Implementation of Air Quality Policies for protection and monitoring are California Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812 (916-654-0433) and San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, 1990 E. Gettysburg, Fresno, CA 93726 (559-230-6000).

Responsibility for Endangered Species Act enforcement are US Fish & Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, W2610, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-414-6446) and California Department of Fish & Game, 1234 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, CA 93710 (559-243-4017).

Implementation of Wetlands Act and Food Security Act determinations and/or delineations is USDA National Resources Conservation Service, 3530 W. Orchard Ct., Visalia, CA 93277 (559-734-8732 ext. 3) and for 404 Permits is the US Army Corp of Engineers, 1325 J St., Sacramento, CA 95814-2922 (916-557-5250).

Liason to the governor's office is Governor Davis' Office, Attn. Special Assistant Chad Condit, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916-445-4341).

## Air Quality

A recent meeting in Tulare held by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) presented national and statewide initiatives on air pollution research and voluntary emission reduction measures. Also in the program were presentations by the ag industry, University of California and USDA. Focus of the meeting was on the worsening air quality problem in the San Joaquin Valley and reduction measures for PM 10 plus PM 2.5 and ozone. PM stands for particulate matter of 10 microns or 2.5 or less (invisible dust).

CARB has already initiated a study on measuring amounts of ammonia generated by animal agriculture, of which dairy is a known contributor. Ammonia is a precursor or build upon element for pollutants such as exhaust oxides and sulfides ("Nox's and Sox's")

to form PM's and ozone. Obviously the problem is not just animal agriculture, but a combination of air pollutants riding the wind current from metropolitan areas into the valley and vehicular exhausts from local and transient traffic. Ammonia by itself can be a recycled nutrient into soil as a fertilizer.

The University of California reported on research projects to reduce particulate matter in the air. A preliminary report on a study done at local dairies will be published in the near future. Air district reports included the extent of air pollution reduction in metropolitan areas of Sacramento and the Los Angeles Basin. The San Joaquin Valley Air District reported that the past 10 years has seen a gradual reduction in PM 10's, although the valley is still considered one of the worst air basins in the nation. Stricter controls are expected in order to meet mandatory attainment goals by 2004.

## Safety

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), there were over 17,000 lost time injuries related to dairy operations annually in the USA. Nearly 1,000 of these resulted in permanent disability of the worker, and approximately 12,000 of the injuries required medical attention. Leg, knee and hip injuries were the most common, followed by arms, shoulders and fingers. With over 9,000 injuries attributed to it, livestock handling was by far the activity most likely to result in lost time injuries.

Examples given for estimated cost of these injuries were: a lifting strain was \$19,000 or more; a fractured tail bone was over \$50,000; a bad cut was \$400 or more; and broken ribs at least \$2,000. There were also hidden costs, those not directly related to the physical injury, for management to consider. They include the training of a replacement worker or the loss of production goals when there was not anyone to take that person's place. Injuries can also affect morale and productivity if they repeat or conditions are not improved.

Enacting safety policies and programs at your dairy is the best protection for your employees, yourself and your farm. Sizing up risky situations and instituting precautions is the first step. Correcting them all at one time may prove difficult. Prioritize or pick out a couple of items that seem the most hazardous and attack these first. It is best to involve employees in the evaluation and solution process. This involvement insures a better compliance on their part, since job safety is in large part an attitude adjustment.

Watch for a schedule of fall classes on Environmental Stewardship Shortcourse next month..



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