

**HATS OFF****REMINDERS****NOTES**

Hats Off

The 2000 Tulare County Fair Milk Quality Contest trophy winners are to be congratulated for having the lowest standard plate, lab pasteurization, coliform and somatic cell counts during the previous 12 months and highest flavor scores at fair time. Nearly 300 dairies in Tulare County were entered, and maintaining a top score throughout the year is surely not an easy thing to do. Since California has one of the strictest milk quality standards in the USA, the Tulare County results can rank highly anywhere in the world. These trophy winners are the “cream of the crop.”

This year the Grand Champion Award goes to the Warren Hettinga Dairy of Tipton. They were followed closely by the Large Herd Award winner, Hamstra Dairy#2 of Tulare; the Mid-Size Herd Award winner, Fletcher Dairy of Tulare; and the Small Herd Award winner, DL&A Dairy of Tulare. Hats off to these trophy winners and to the 4-H and FFA dairy heifer entrants, and the Tulare Dairy Women for promoting a positive industry image to the consumer public attending the fair. “Hats off” to all for a job well done.

Reminders

Another series of the Environmental Stewardship Short Course will be offered for dairy producers at

Edison AgTAC on South Laspina in Tulare. All three classes are from 10 a.m. until noon with the first session on October 11th, second session on October 18th and the third session on October 25th. The same person must attend all three sessions to obtain a certificate. If you have attended any of the sessions previously, they can count in the series toward the certificate. To sign up call 733-6363.

Dairies already having a certificate can get a third party evaluation that involves an assessment of the dairy site. This is voluntary and those successfully completing this evaluation can have the dairy “certified” in the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program regarding environmental stewardship. Those interested in having the third party evaluation of their dairy should call the 733-6363 number to attend a “pre-evaluation meeting” on October 25th at Edison AgTAC from 2 to 4 p.m.

Allied industry persons can attend a separate session of the short course on October 18th from 12:30 to 5 p.m. at Edison AgTAC. This session requires a week in advance registration before the meeting date. Registration forms for the allied industry meeting are available at your local UCCE office. The aforementioned classes are available elsewhere in the state and were posted in an earlier newsletter. If you have a question on classes at other locations, call the nearest UCCE office or call 733-6363.

Notes

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and USDA are contacting livestock producers in Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties to collect herd and flock demographic data. The information being collected is an integral part of efforts to assure animal health, particularly for emergency preparedness in case of natural disasters like floods, wildfires, or introduction of exotic diseases such as foot and mouth disease.

A University of California at Davis research team is collaborating with the CDFA and USDA on the project. The aim is to develop prediction models of possible spread of exotic diseases, such as vesicular stomatitis, if and when they enter California. In order for these models to be useful they need to be based on real data, such as what you would be asked to supply. This is a reminder of the importance this project has and for you to help if called. If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Mark Thurmond, 530-752-5635, or mcthurmond@ucdavis.edu.

For additions to your information file, there is a Web site for the upcoming Western Dairy Management Conference in Las Vegas next April at <http://www.wdmc.org>. This will contain information regarding the event, reservations and other items of interest. The Department of Dairy and Veterinary Sciences at Utah State University has developed a 26-page booklet, "Simplified Dairyman's Spanish," that contains a glossary of Spanish words useful for communicating with Latino employees on the dairy. It has explanations, examples and phonetic spelling.

Pharmacia & Upjohn Animal Health is offering a complimentary copy by calling (800) 793-0596.

Researchers at a recent meeting of the American Chemical Society presented evidence that cars may be the main source of haze inducing ammonia, rather than livestock, as previously thought. In a study of 4,500 vehicles conducted on a Southern California freeway ramp, they found high levels of ammonia in exhaust of gasoline powered cars. The levels were so high that they estimated cars were adding twice as much ammonia to the air of California's southern coastal basin as livestock. Other ammonia sources included fertilizers and sewage plants. Meanwhile, environmental rules in the European Union may force Holland to reduce cow numbers by from 25 to 50%, depending on the final regulations to be put into effect by 2003.

In a brighter note, dairy exports from the USA were up 17% through May, or \$59 million. Canada is now the number one destination for U.S. dairy exports. Exports to Mexico declined, due to a shift in the pattern of Dairy Export Incentive Program shipments, rather than a decline in demand. Exports to Japan rose 10%. The top three countries purchasing Tulare County agriculture products are Taiwan, Mexico and Japan, in order of certified containers shipped.

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