

**EQIP\$****CRIME****DAIRY DAYS****EQIP\$**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was established in 1996 Farm Bill to provide assistance in natural resource concerns. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), along with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides program direction. Applications are being accepted in Tulare County for the 2001 EQIP projects. The purpose is to provide cost share incentive payments for installing conservation measures. All applications will be competitively ranked for funding priority. The cost share is typically 50% for valley practices and 75% for rangeland needs, with a \$10,000 per year limit and \$50,000 maximum per contract. The contract duration is a minimum of 5 years to 10 years maximum.

Practices on the dairy eligible for cost sharing include irrigation and return systems (underground portion), irrigation water management, flow meters, nutrient management, lagoons, separators, and waste transfer lines. Rangeland items include spring development, fencing, brushing, seeding, tanks and troughs, and weed management. Participation in an EQIP contract requires the development of a conservation plan in accordance with NRCS standards. The plan will include non-cost-share land management practices to be implemented. Any required permits must be obtained before work starts on the cost share portion, as well as the contract also be approved.

Applicants may sign up by making an appointment with the FSA office, 734-8732, ext. 2. Supporting documentation and reliable cost estimates must be done by 12/15/00 for rangeland items and 2/16/01 for dairy/cropland. Questions should be directed to the NRCS office, 734-8732, ext 3.

A separate EQIP is available for air quality practices. This targets dust suppression on farm roads (road oiling) on any cropland and/or chipping prunings (removed trees) in lieu of burning. Almonds and walnuts are the only ones available for cost sharing. The cost share rate is 40 cents/gallon applied of approved dust control material for road oiling. Cost share for chipping almond and walnut trees is \$20/acre for prunings and \$30/acre for removed trees. The same listed guidelines above for EQIP apply to these air quality contracts. The deadline for air quality applications is 3/16/01. For additional information use <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

CRIME

The Tulare County District Attorney Rural Crime Prevention Program has been gathering information about rural crime theft. The information is used to determine how adequate current laws are in protecting farmers and ranchers. They would like to have your ideas on how to improve current laws and policy. Contacts can be made at: Tulare County District

Attorney, Rural Crime Prevention Unit, 2350 Burrel Avenue, Room 224, Visalia 93291 or call (559) 733-6411. Since its inception in 1996, this program has conducted more than 1,000 investigations resulting in the recovery of over \$3 million worth of property. Also, there has been a 98% conviction rate of cases prosecuted.

Prevention is the key word, and they offer the following items to help reduce the problem.

1. Register with the sheriff's office to obtain your own private bar code. This will be engraved on your equipment in a hidden spot and computerized. The rightful owner can more easily be located when stolen property is recovered. Call the Sheriff's Department Ag Division at 740-4300 to register.
2. At night park major equipment in the most visible place possible.
3. Never park equipment with easy access to roads.
4. Lock small equipment in barn or garage.
5. Remove rotors, distributor caps, or batteries if left outside for long periods of time.
6. Store tools in locked and secured boxes.
7. Use hardened steel hasp padlocks or dead bolts to secure gas tanks and storage bins.
8. Keep storage areas well organized.
9. Lock up chemicals and notify law agency of delivery and storage sites.
10. Install audible alarms on outbuildings.
11. Note any suspicious vehicle or person and notify sheriff.
12. Avoid feeding livestock next to public roads and keep cattle identification, such as brand or tattoo information, readily available.

Get involved with the rural counterpart of the Neighborhood Watch Program that has been successful in the urban areas of Tulare County. The Agricultural Crimes Unit can advise you on ways to

make your property safer and how to set up an area watch program between neighbors.

Immediately report any crime to the Tulare County Sheriff's Agricultural Crimes Unit. Preserve the scene of the crime if necessary. Report suspicious vehicles or persons that you notice and transmit the information to the Agricultural Crimes Unit (559-740-4300, 1-800-370-9055).

Web sites of interest are:

<http://www.da-tulareco.org>

<http://userzweb.lightspeed.net/agunit>

For immediate assistance in a dangerous situation, call 911.

DAIRY DAYS

Annexed is a list of topics and speakers for the upcoming South Valley and Mid-Valley Dairy Days to be held Wednesday, January 24th, at Edison AgTAC on Laspina, south of Tulare, and Thursday, January 25th, in Modesto. There will also be educational poster displays of farm advisor field research, project updates from the VMTRC and the Animal Science Department at UCD, and further information on the rural crime prevention and energy cost saving incentive programs mentioned earlier. Mark your calendars and call Cooperative Extension, 733-6363, by January 19th to reserve a spot at the luncheon. For Modesto meeting call (209) 525-6800. There is no fee for these dairy industry sponsored events.

Tom Shultz
Dairy Advisor
(559) 733-6488



Dairy Day Programs



University of California Cooperative Extension and Co-Sponsor Allied Dairy Industries of Central California announce the following meetings:

SOUTH VALLEY DAIRY DAY

**Edison AgTAC
(Across from the Tulare Farm
Equipment Show Grounds)
Tulare, California
Wednesday, January 24, 2001**

MID-VALLEY DAIRY DAY

**County Ag Center
Crows Landing and Service Road,
Modesto, California
Thursday, January 25, 2001**

This meeting is free of charge. For more information and making luncheon reservations, call one of the following Cooperative Extension offices:

Fresno County	(559) 456-7285
Madera County	(559) 675-7879
San Joaquin County	(209) 468-2085
Stanislaus County	(209) 525-6800
Kings County	(559) 582-3211 Ext. 2730
Merced County	(209) 385-7403
Tulare County	(559) 733-6363

Program

- 9:45 a.m. Introduction and Sponsor Recognition**
- 10:00 a.m. Strategies to Improve Employee Relationships**
Gregory Billikopf, UCCE Personnel Management Farm Advisor, Stanislaus/Merced Counties
- 10:45 a.m. Where Does Money Come from on the Dairy?**
John Fetrow, DVM, University of Minnesota School of Veterinary Medicine
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. Current Outlook for BVD and Neospora Control**
Mark Thurmond, DVM, Ph.D., Dept. of Medicine and Epidemiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis
- 1:45 p.m. Lameness Prevention and Hoof Health**
Steven Berry, DVM, Dairy Extension Specialist, UC Davis
- 2:15 p.m. Demonstration on Functional Hoof Trimming and Healing Lameness**
Steven Berry, DVM, Dairy Extension Specialist, UC Davis

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