



CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - July 2021

Inspections on the Uptick



By Deanne Meyer, Ph.D., Livestock Waste Management Specialist, UC Davis, Department of Animal Science, UC ANR

Summer means hot weather and more detailed inspections. After 15 months of modified inspections, Water Quality Control Board inspectors are expanding their process to include a thorough review of paperwork, sampling documentation, and record keeping.

Here are a few tips to review before your next inspection:

Samples:

- lagoon samples—quarterly
- solid manure samples—twice per year
- soil samples—each field every five years
- forages—once per field per crop per year

Irrigations:

- track how much water is applied in each event on each field

Records:

- nutrient and irrigation applications for current crop
- manure manifested offsite
- modifications to Nutrient Management Plan based on fallowed fields or alternative crops

Every two years one of your process wastewater and manure (solids) samples need to have general mineral analyses. These include calcium, magnesium, sodium, bicarbonate, carbonate, sulfate, and chloride. Sampling soil is required every five years. The soils analysis is for soluble phosphorus.

Review notes from your previous inspection, and be sure all areas of concern have been improved and addressed. If you have received a 13267 letter (request for additional information) or Notice of Violation, you should always reply to the Regional Board by the deadline identified. If you are unable to get all the information gathered, still contact the Regional Board before the deadline. Include in your response any information you have gathered as well as a legitimate reason to request an extension. If you missed the deadline, contact the Regional Board staff as soon as possible to identify your best course of action.

One of the key concerns with Water Board staff is solids accumulating in ponds. Although California is stuck in drought, it's still important to clean solids out of ponds sooner than later to maintain sufficient space in lagoons for storage. Baling ponds during summer takes advantage of sunshine to dry the solids and reduce emissions.

Work with your nutrient management consultant to prepare for your inspection. Preparation is your best offense to showcase your dairy and your commitment to environmental stewardship.



CDQAP Receives Cooperative Extension Programing Award

We were pleased to learn that CDQAP has received the Western Extension Directors Association [Award of Excellence](#).



Representing seventeen states and territories, [WEDA](#) advances its members' wide-ranging Cooperative Extension efforts. The annual award recognizes outstanding Extension programming work with documented accomplishments, results, and impacts. This year the honor was co-awarded with UC's Agriculture and Natural Resources participating academic staff, including both those with statewide and local responsibilities. We are grateful to both WEDA for the recognition and to our UCCE partners; without their tireless work, CDQAP simply would not be possible.



CDQAP's Drought Corner

The July issue of the UC-ANR's Golden State Dairy Newsletter is a [Special Drought Edition](#). Topics in this special edition include making every drop count, sorghum and corn drought irrigation strategies, culling decisions, forage nitrate, and cow cooling. Published quarterly, the Golden State Dairy Newsletter provides in-depth coverage on a wide range of issues, from forages and nutrition to management and herd health. To view archived issues and sign up for direct email delivery, visit the newsletter's [homepage](#).