



CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - October 2021

Central Valley Water Board Certified Letter Coming Soon

Denise Mullinax, Assistant Director, CDQAP

Central Valley dairy producers will soon be receiving a certified letter from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board). The letter requires two things of dairy producers:



1. Submit a technical report that contains ALL Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) that a producer is including under the Reissued General Order (and therefore not under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)). Due July 1, 2022.
2. Include ALL of these parcels as part of your Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) as well as in your Annual Report going forward. Start January 1, 2022.

The Water Board is trying to sort out what parcels (APNs) of agricultural land are regulated under its different regulatory programs and ensure that all parcels are covered. Land covered in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) is tracked by parcel number and the Water Board has been comparing APNs covered in the ILRP with parcels covered in their other regulatory programs, such as the dairy program. The Water Board has been finding that not all APNs are currently covered in one of their programs. Therefore, the Water Board has decided to send out letters directing dairies to ensure that all of their parcels are covered under one of the existing programs. This means that dairies must decide what program they want to have their parcels enrolled under. Land near the dairy where forage crops are grown and liquid manure is applied must be included under the Dairy WDR, but land growing almonds (or other crops not receiving manure water) can be in either the dairy order or the ILRP. It is up to the dairy where they want to cover their individual parcels. All parcels being covered under the dairy order must be identified in this technical report and included in the NMP and Annual Report every year regardless of whether they receive manure in that year. The technical report is due July 1, 2022, along with the normal Annual Report. Producers must include all acreage in their NMP starting January 1, 2022, but the actual report is filed later.

Some reasons why APNs may not be included or have been entered incorrectly into an annual report include:

- A field consisting of multiple APNs is entered into the annual report under only one of the APNs.
- The parcel numbers are entered into the report incorrectly.
- The parcel numbers are entered into the report in the wrong format. The report may have extra spaces that need to be filled by place holders correctly (the Water Board wants an "x" as the place holder so that it is not confused with the zeros in the APN).

According to the water board, dairies should be receiving this letter sometime early this fall. When you get the letter, you can contact the person that prepares your annual report to make sure that they address all requirements of the letter for you. If you have questions, you can also contact your trade association representative or UCCE Dairy Advisor.

Preventing Animal Contact Injuries: Webinar November 16th at 10 am

Of all employee injuries reported from dairies, those involving animals are the most common. To arm producers with the best preventative information, the [Zenith Insurance Company](#) and CDQAP are teaming up on November 16th to offer a free webinar Preventing Dairy Worker Animal Contact Injuries. A panel of varied experts will cover the most common types of dairy employee injuries, production advantages to quiet cow handling, and on-line resources for employee safety training. National leaders in stockmanship education will be on hand to describe challenges and solutions related to employee animal handling training. Zenith is making the webinar free to all industry members, with easy [registration](#) available online.



Time to Winterize

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

Cooler nights have arrived. It's time to winterize the dairy. Take time to look at the dairy with rain in mind. What management now will reduce your headaches later? Now is the window of opportunity to haul manure, grade corrals, and refill and compact low spots. Carefully look at animal lots to be sure that when rains come, runoff can be directed and pumped or transferred to the dairy pond. Evaluate the feed center to be sure rain water will drain and be collected in the pond.



Inspect corrals today. Take 17 minutes to drive around the dairy. Pay special attention to:

- remove solid manure from corrals, separation cells, or separator piles, cover solids that will over winter (San Joaquin Valley),

Continued

Time to Winterize *continued*

- remove solids piles from calves or special needs animals,
- grade, refill, and compact corrals where needed,
- remove spoiled feed,
- evaluate/repair gutters,
- install gutter extension or diversion pipes,
- review runoff collection in feed center,
- check fencing and posts,
- remove fence line manure
- repair stanchions/locking gates (if present),
- check water troughs,
- upslope areas where rain water may run-on and go through corrals,
- any area where lot runoff should be collected to be sure it's open and not plugged by other materials,
- unclog transfer pipes, and
- remove weeds from pond sides.

Your facility's Operation and Maintenance Plan has a list of things to remember to do before winter arrives. Remember that all manure leaving the production facility needs to be either manifested off farm, or records associated with what and how much goes to each field need to be maintained. Consult Tab 6 of your Water Quality Regulatory Binder for [North Coast](#), [San Francisco Bay](#), or [Central Valley](#) Regions, should you need additional record keeping templates.

Governor Signs "Livestock Pass" Bill for Disasters

This month Governor Newsom [signed AB 1103](#), allowing counties to implement "[livestock pass](#)" programs permitting producers access to their property during disasters, such as fires, floods, or earthquakes. The bill creates a statewide framework under which counties could, prior to an emergency, issue identification documents to livestock owners or managers granting access to care for or evacuate their animals. This bill supersedes and sunsets programs already established in Butte and other counties which have proved popular and effective during recent fires. The new law defines conditions under which a county may issue a pass, including identification documents, a description of lands managed and completion of a disaster safety curriculum developed by the state fire marshal. For safety reasons, even producers in possession of a pass may still be held at roadblocks at the discretion of the managing Incident Commander.

North Coast and San Francisco Bay Annual Reports due November 30

Just a reminder that the Annual Report and pictures for the [North Coast](#) and [San Francisco Bay](#) are due November 30. Dairies in the North Coast should also include result from well sample analyses.



Security Alert for Merced Dairies

A string of recent thefts has been reported from dairies in the Hilmar area, including vehicle break-ins, equipment theft, and at least one robbery of a night-time employee. The Merced County Sheriff's office is aggressively pursuing leads. Prompted by the crimes, CDQAP worked with the California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force ([RCPTF](#)) to distribute a Dairy Security Advisory. [The advisory](#) contains links to resources addressing employee robbery, theft, trespass and drones. The Merced District Attorney's office is also partnering with the Central California Intelligence Center ([CCIC](#)) to offer free in-person and on-farm security guidance to dairies in the affected area. CDQAP will provide further updates.

