



20
YEARS OF
IMPACT

CALIFORNIA DAIRY
Quality Assurance
PROGRAM

CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - November 2021

Avoiding Injuries Caused by Dairy Livestock

By Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine and Director, CDQAP

Producers were recently provided valuable insight into the most common dairy employee injuries, those involving animal contact. On November 16, CDQAP, partnering with the Zenith Insurance Company, New Mexico State University, Texas A&M and the NMPF's FARM program, offered a webinar titled, *Preventing Dairy Worker Animal Contact Injuries*.

Based on a recently completed injury claims analysis by Zenith, dairy employee injuries involving animal contact represented 42% of all dairy employee claims and 25% of the total claim costs. The analysis further revealed that most of these injuries could be broadly grouped into one of several categories.

Employees involved in milk production, meaning herders/pushers and milkers, accounted for 45% of injuries and 39% of claim cost. Milker injuries most often involved hand and arm entrapment between a cow and facility equipment. In contrast, herders more often experienced crushing injuries against structures like fences or gates.

A common contributing factor observed in animal contact incidents involving both milkers and herders was dangerous body positioning with respect to fixed objects.

Other contributing factors included inadequate situational awareness of sudden movement by livestock and poor stockmanship resulting in unpredictable cattle behavior. This may help explain in part why more than 60% of injuries involving bulls were related to pushers.

Not all injuries involved mature animals. Back injury in calf care employees accounted for 32% of all lifting related claims. Additional findings reported included that fall incidents accounted for 20% of all injuries on dairies, many of which involved slippery surfaces such as smooth wet concrete or placentas.

Dr. Robert Hagevoort from New Mexico State University and Dr. Ron Gill from Texas A&M University were on hand to discuss implementing stockmanship refresher training for employees, something required for those dairies participating in the national Dairy FARM welfare program. Various free online stockmanship training tools and resources, including [videos in both English and Spanish](#), were discussed.

Aside from reducing employee injuries and participating in FARM, there are also production reasons to embrace a formal stockmanship training for employees. Rough animal handling can reduce milk yield by as much as 10% and increase residual milk up to 70%. At least one study suggested that an increase in measured cow fearfulness accounted for up to a 14% reduction in conception rates. Stay tuned for more information from CDQAP on farm worker safety in the future.

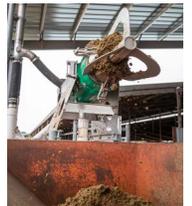


TheZenith
Agribusiness Solutions

Video Series: How to Use AMMP Funding to Improve Manure Management

CDQAP partnered with CDFA and CDRF to develop a series of 30-minute webinars and 5-minute videos, showcasing individual California dairy producer experiences with the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP).

Find out how producers were able to use the funding to improve manure management and reduce methane emissions. Learn about the AMMP application and reimbursement process, and see how various technologies and practices are working on several dairies. How are these investments paying off? How have the dairies been impacted? What benefits are producers experiencing?



With new AMMP funding becoming available in 2022, you'll find this series helpful in deciding if applying for AMMP funding is right for your farm and gathering tips to make the most out of your project! Find all the videos [here](#). More information will be added as new videos are published.

Video Series

Available at <https://ammp-outreach-project>

Save the Date: California Dairy Sustainability Summit Virtual Event - April 12-14, 2022

The next virtual California Dairy Sustainability Summit will take place online on April 12-14. The summit host important and timely discussions, as dairy farmers and organizations around the world partner to reduce climate emissions and improve overall sustainability. Speakers will highlight innovative technologies, partnerships, and projects on California's family dairy farms and other global efforts that are driving progress. The program will promote education and collaboration to ensure the continued availability of affordable and nutrient-rich foods—now and for future generations.

Expect four hours of educational sessions each day, to include technology showcase sessions that highlight groundbreaking on-farm projects and strategies. Stay tuned for more information.

