



CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - October 2022

Preparing for Public Safety Power Shutoffs

A Checklist on How to Get Ready for a Potential Shutoff

By Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Vet. Medicine; Director, CDQAP

In California, Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS's) occur most often from September to November, when fall brings high winds during times of low moisture. PSPS actions in October 2019 affected over 3 million state residents, including dairy farmers. Because transmission lines frequently travel through high-fire-risk foothill areas, even low-risk valley areas can be affected.



Most producers have already invested in standby generators for the milking parlor, but during extended outages, there may be challenges powering other systems, such as feed mixing, irrigation, and housing fans. Customers typically have at least 24 to 48 hours' notice prior to power loss, and there are several useful actions producers can take during the interim.

Perform a Final Generator Check: In addition to the weekly or monthly maintenance, be sure to run a final check under load immediately before the planned power outage. Diesel generators without diligent, continuous maintenance can face a high risk of start-up failures. During Hurricane Sandy, 16% of emergency medical service diesel generators failed to perform.

Ensure Several Days Fuel Supply: A 400-kilowatt generator can consume 16 gallons of diesel fuel an hour. A 2-megawatt generator can consume 72 gallons an hour. Fuel supplies may be in short supply, and road closures from fires or flooding can limit deliveries.

Update Emergency Contact Information: A utility company may only possess a dairy service or billing address. You can arrange for outage information to be sent directly to your voicemail or via text or email. This information is typically more current and specific than what can be found on websites.

Identify Rental Equipment Early: Besides the milking parlor, there may be other critical systems requiring power during an extended outage. Portable generators from 10-kilowatt to more than 4,000-kilowatt exist, but "store runs" limit rental inventory before and during a PSPS.

Air quality regulations allow you to run standby generators for unlimited hours during an emergency, but there are annual limits of use hours for repair and maintenance. Repairing an existing diesel generator may actually be less expensive than replacing it with a newer one that is required to have a higher EPA/ARB Tier certification.

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Workshops to Help RB1 & RB2 Dairies with Annual Report

CDQAP will host free educational workshops to assist producers in RB1 and RB2 with their Annual Report to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (due November 30, 2022). Updated report forms will be available.

**Tuesday, November 15
1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Two Locations:

Humboldt UCCE Classroom
5630 South Broadway
Eureka, CA

Sonoma County Farm Bureau
3589 Westwind Blvd
Santa Rosa, CA

The main presentation will be provided in Sonoma by Denise Mullinax and will be live-streamed to the Eureka location, where Jeffrey Stackhouse will proctor. Eureka participants will be able to ask questions to both presenters.



CDRF Receives \$85M USDA Grant: Dollars for CA Dairy Producers to Install Advanced Climate-Smart Manure Management Practices

By Denise Mullinax, Executive Director, CDRF; Assistant Director, CDQAP

The California Dairy Research Foundation (CDRF), in partnership with more than 20 other dairy organizations, received a USDA Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Grant with an estimated funding ceiling of \$85 million for a project

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Utility companies may offer free energy audits and financial incentives to upgrade equipment. Almost \$6.5 million in incentive funding has been provided to California dairy farms to improve efficiency in pumps, refrigeration, and lighting. Information about dairy farm incentive and rebates is available from [Pacific Gas & Electric Company](#) and [Southern California Edison](#).

Producers interested in more information on expanding emergency power capacity, regulatory requirements, equipment rental, and maintenance can visit CDQAP's [Dairies & Emergency Power webpage](#).

Dairies & Emergency Power



Available at <https://cdqap.org/cdqap-ruminations-dairies-emergency-power/>

CDRF Receives \$85M USDA Grant *continued*

to advance climate-smart dairy farming. The 5-year project brings together organizations throughout the value chain including California governmental organizations, corporations and cooperatives, universities, producer organizations, environmental organizations, and others. Key project partners include the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the California Milk Advisory Board (CMAB), Dairy Cares, universities, and others.

California dairy producers have made significant progress in reducing greenhouse gases and managing manure nitrogen. These funds will enable the industry to continue moving forward in climate-smart dairying. The majority of the grant funds will be further distributed through CDFA direct to dairy producers for the implementation of advanced climate-smart manure management practices. The practices will be studied by a team of University of California researchers to quantify emission reductions and changes in nitrogen. Markets for the resulting climate-smart milk and milk products will also be explored, with a long-term goal of developing market premiums to support dairy producers in the continued implementation of climate-smart dairy practices.

Advanced manure management practices are defined as practices that reduce both methane emissions and nitrogen surplus. Example practices include vermifiltration, polymer flocculant-based manure solids/liquids separation, algae raceways with moving bed biofilm reactor, subsurface drip fertigation using liquid manure, aerated static compost piles and others.

Initial announcements for producer funding availability are anticipated for early spring of 2023. Interested producers should watch CDQAP, trade association, processor, and UC publications for more information and start early to gather materials for potential project proposals.

