



CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - December 2022

CDQAP 2022: Year in Review

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

This year is nearly over, and we can perhaps be forgiven for breathing a sigh of relief. Drought, uncertain regulatory future, and supply chain issues from the epidemic have lingered. In spite of this however, CDQAP and our industry, regulatory and law enforcement partners did make considerable headway on some historically stubborn issues this year.

☐ **Minimizing Fees Through Certification** – Currently 782 California dairies are certified through CDQAP’s [third party evaluation program](#) and receive a 50% discount in water board fees. Now working with two independent evaluators, the program continues to provide farm visits year-round for interested producers.

☐ **Region 1 & 2 Water Boards** – To assist North Coast and Bay Area producers in completing obligations under their annual reports, CDQAP partnered with the respective water boards and trade groups to offer in-person and online [training](#).

☐ **New Water Regulations** – With [draft requirements](#) for a new Dairy General Order pending, the exact shape of future Central Valley water regulations is uncertain. Based on initial public discussions however, CDQAP has already engaged industry, regulators and UC Cooperative Extension to develop outreach. Offerings for 2023 will focus on how producers can determine their Whole Farm Balance for nitrogen, options to address a nitrate imbalance, and accessing financial support for facility improvement. In the coming years, matching funds will be available from several sources, including CDEA, USDA EQIP, and USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities.

☐ **Alternative Manure Management** – CDQAP supported delivery of AMMP outreach, funded by a state grant to CDRF and UC Cooperative Extension. A [comprehensive website](#) includes videos describing various technologies and the experiences of producers who have used them. Included is data on expected methane reduction and installation costs.

☐ **Farm Security** – Most dairies have experienced some form of rural crime, including theft, trespass, vandalism, illegal dumping, clandestine drug labs, and even [employee assault](#). To arm producers with the best preventative information, CDQAP teamed up with local, state, and federal law enforcement experts to deliver a comprehensive webinar. [Highlights](#) and a [recording](#) of the webinar are available.

☐ **Responding to Activist Trespass** – CDQAP continues to work with national organizations and CMAB’s Dairy Communicators’ workgroup to distribute timely information to help protect your farm and employees from potential undercover activists.

☐ **Processor Cybersecurity** – In 2022, several western dairy processors were victims of ransomware attacks, demanding



payment in return for regaining control of their computer infrastructure. CDQAP and CMAB convened a task force with cybersecurity experts from regional, state, and federal agencies. The group met in person with California processors. The project culminated with a secure, industry-only webinar. [Highlights](#) from the webinar are available.

☐ **Animal Health & Food Safety Emergencies** – In 2022, while we were mostly spared catastrophic natural disasters, CDQAP did send out industry advisories related to [heat](#) events and [windstorms](#) with associated facility power loss. In addition, CDQAP helped industry navigate regulatory challenges involving [best practices](#) for emergency on-farm milk disposal necessitated by a mechanical failure at a processing plant in Northern California.

☐ **Daily Biosecurity** – CDQAP helped author and promote the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program’s first [Everyday Biosecurity manual](#). The manual outlines small, routine steps dairy farmers can take to protect employee and herd health.

☐ **Emergency Biosecurity** – Partnering with USDA and CDEA, CDQAP worked to help ensure industry’s ability to ship milk during a quarantine due to a disease outbreak like Foot and Mouth Disease. An [Enhanced Biosecurity Plan Builder](#) was published in 2022, and includes instructional videos, templates, and links to additional resources.

☐ **Emergency Mortality Disposal** – CDQAP continued to partner with CDEA and dairy trade organizations (including Ag Council, CDC, MPC, and WUD) to draft state-wide and county-by-county [emergency carcass disposal](#) plans. In addition, CDQAP partnered with USDA, CDEA, and the University of Maine to deliver a [compost training](#) and demonstration.

☐ **Livestock Medications** – In 2023 the FDA will require [nation-wide veterinary oversight](#) of livestock antibiotics. While important in other states, the change won’t affect producers in California. Since 2018, with the passage of [Senate Bill 27](#), CDQAP has worked within the industry and CDEA to achieve [dairy industry leadership](#) on the issue.

All of us at CDQAP and our partner organizations wish you a peaceful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year!

