



CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - August 2023

FBI Reaches Out to Agriculture

The **InfraGard Program** promotes information sharing between industry and the FBI.

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

The cost of agricultural crime in California is staggering. While no state or national database exists tracking rural crime statistics, a reasonable estimate of losses approaches [half a billion dollars a year](#). The strongest producer allies against crime remain local police and sheriff's departments, which typically partner with the [California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force](#) and [Farm Watch](#) programs.



Criminal threats including animal activism, cargo theft and ransomware increasingly cross state and international borders and the federal government has accelerated efforts to protect agriculture and the nation's food supply. The primary FBI partnership with private industry is the [InfraGard](#) program, which started after 911. After a brief background check, industry representatives can receive intelligence and training not typically available to the general public.

On July 19th CDQAP co-hosted an in-person and virtual [InfraGard Food and Ag Symposium](#). Processors and trade organizations throughout California participated, but for security reasons pre-registration and ID confirmation was required. More than a dozen speakers from the FBI, state and local law enforcement organizations presented.

Here are some of the non-classified, open-source highlights from the workshop:

Animal Rights Activists – A group of more than 40 animal rights organizations in the U.S. maintain strategic and financial partnerships, with annual expenditures of some \$800 million. In the U.S. and abroad extremists have [engaged](#) in blackmail, vandalism, death threats and [assault](#). Processor trucks are being tracked to tie them to recognized restaurant and grocery store brands. [Undercover activists](#) have been paid \$20/hour to record clandestine videos on farms. Activists also have an ongoing legislative agenda, including legalization of ["open rescue"](#). Some hard-hit counties have had success with multiple arrests at demonstrations, charging participants with trespass and organizers with conspiracy. For more information visit [CDQAP's Trespass and Drones webpage](#).

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Central Valley Water Board Highlights

Tips for Continued Compliance

By: Denise Mullinax, Executive Director, California Dairy Research Foundation; Assistant Director, CDQAP

Central Valley producers have been operating under General Order requirements since 2007. Continued compliance includes ensuring attention to accurate reporting and prompt follow-up on all issues that arise. Recent discussions with water board staff have highlighted a few areas that may warrant your attention to ensure your continued compliance.



- Notice of Violation (NOV) and Priority Reporting of Significant Event (PROSE) Reports**- should your dairy receive an NOV or a PROSE Report request as a follow-up to an inspection, prompt WRITTEN follow-up is needed in addition to addressing any on-farm improvements that may have been identified.
- Accurate Cow Number Reporting** - Cow numbers reported in your Annual Report each year should reflect the current number of animals at the facility in each production category.

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Help CDRF and UCD Measure Dairy's Sustainability Efforts

Take the Survey!

To demonstrate to consumers that the dairy industry's sustainability efforts are working, we need a baseline. That's why the California Dairy Research Foundation (CDRF) is funding UC Cooperative Extension to collect benchmark data. The short survey will provide powerful information on how producers' efforts are making a difference now and in the future on energy and water conservation and groundwater protection. The online survey only takes 10 minutes to complete and can be done anonymously.

To complete the short survey [click here](#). Any questions can be directed to UCCE Dairy Advisor Jennifer Heguy at (209) 525-6800 or jmheguy@ucdavis.edu.



FBI Reaches Out to Agriculture *continued*

Crimes Against Employees – Like other companies, farms can face [workplace violence](#). Farm employees have been robbed in milking parlors and the field. Domestic problems can also spill into workplace. Routine thefts also continue; while copper prices are down, drug addicts have to steal more wire to make up the difference. Relative to prevention, understand most criminals are opportunists. Don't leave keys in ignitions, or equipment or tools visible from road. The cost of surveillance cameras has come down dramatically, while recording quality has improved considerably. Use of [Owner Applied Numbers](#) can greatly increase the likelihood of stolen equipment being returned. Quick, inexpensive [background checks](#) on potential employees can prevent significant problems later. For more information visit [CDQAP's Dairy Security and Crime Prevention webpage](#).

Cyber-crime – Given its complex nature, food processing is particularly susceptible to cyber-crime. Most incursions involve financial motivation, but can take a wide variety of methods. [Ransomware attacks](#) have increased dramatically. Hacks can also be part of [economic espionage](#), to achieve theft of intellectual property. Other attacks have used counterfeit shipping manifests to steal truckloads of produce or to bill for shipments that never took place. Employee personal information has been stolen for sale on the dark web. Important protections from cyber-crime include frequent software updates, continuous data backups, regular employee training and a hard separation between the operations and management networks. For more information visit [CDQAP's summary of its Dairy Cybersecurity webinar](#).

Supply Chain Disruption – While direct [attacks against U.S. dairy products](#) remains uncommon, across the globe economically motivated adulteration has been estimated to cost tens of millions of dollars every year. To learn more about U.S. efforts to protect our food supply, visit [CDQAP's Food Defense for Dairy Processors webpage](#).

Foreign Animal Diseases – While since 1929 livestock producers in the U.S. have been spared the nightmare of Foot and Mouth Disease ([FMD](#)) California is regularly forced to respond to other Foreign Animal Diseases incursions. Most frequently these are [Avian Influenza](#) and Newcastle Disease in poultry and [Vesicular Stomatitis](#) in horses and cattle. The important function of simply investigating potential FAD cases taxes financial and personnel resources. From 2018 to 2023 CDFA and USDA investigated more than 6,000 potential outbreaks in California, 3,674 of which were positive for disease. The FBI and the USDA have a long-term coordinated outreach effort focusing on preventing foreign plant and animal disease. For more information visit CDQAP's summary of [this year's joint FBI/USDA course](#).

Producer and processor organizations are encouraged to become InfraGard members, allowing them to receive sensitive security briefings. For more information, contact Dr. Michael Payne at mpayne@ucdavis.edu.

Central Valley Water Board Highlights *continued*

- Changes in Manure Characteristics & Land Use** - require submission of a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) 140 days PRIOR to the change. Any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge, including any expansion of the facility or development of any treatment technology, or construction of an anaerobic digester requires a submission of ROWD. This includes collecting manure in dry vs. liquid systems, solid separation, etc., and changes in land use (such as moving acres from land application to manure storage areas). If changes have been made to the system without proper previous reporting to the water board, the producer should submit a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) as soon as possible.
- Incompletely Composted Carcasses from Earlier Emergencies** - any fully or incompletely composted carcass material from past declared emergency situations must be hauled off-site to an appropriate land fill facility for processing and receipts maintained onsite.

Prompt attention and follow through on these situations will minimize potential fines and follow-up by the water board staff.

