



# CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - August 2020

## Winterize Now, While the Sun is Shining!

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



It's that time of the year again! With hot weather comes the reminder to prepare for winter. Now is the time to think "winter" as you drive around the dairy. According to the Farmers' Almanac, we have a cooler than normal summer with rainfall slightly above normal for much of California (Pacific South West Region).

Sufficient liquid storage capacity and proper use of nutrients are at the top of the management list. Dairies with a Waste Management Plan stamped by an engineer have a calculated amount of storage available for manure and wash water generated over the winter collection period. There's also an assumption on rain runoff collected. This calculation usually assumes that much of that storage is in fact available on a given day in fall. Double checking to be sure that storage is indeed present in fall is important. Removing solids in summer is a key practice to make sufficient storage capacity in ponds during winter. Drying solids and relocating them is easiest to do before rains. Attention to cow soakers after October may reduce the generated water associated with misters that mist concrete instead of cows. Think about storage capacity and the amount of water generated by soakers. Added water (if it's available from Irrigation Districts) also takes up valuable storage capacity. If you do take water, be sure you're using the right amount and testing nutrient composition more frequently.

Managing Nutrient Budgets is important. The job description of your Budget is to help you manage nutrients. This should keep your synthetic fertilizer value down and minimize nitrate leaching to groundwater. Double check your Nutrient Budget (when manure will be land applied) with storage capacity (is there enough room to hold more process water generated?). It's been quite a while since most Budgets were written. It's important Budgets reflect what is happening on your dairy. They are your road map for land application of manure.

Here's an abbreviated to-do list. A quick review of your Operation and Maintenance Plan will help fill out your list.

*Continued on next page*

## Veterinarians Using Barbiturate For Euthanasia

### Orange "B" an important mark

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

Effective July 30, veterinarians using barbiturates to euthanize livestock must mark the forehead with an orange "B" that is at least 4 inches in height. Barbiturate solutions are a humane and effective method of euthanasia. Trace amounts of the chemical found in animal feed or pet food, however, can threaten a rendering company's standing with the Food and Drug Administration.



Livestock industries broadly supported this new policy to protect the continued availability of rendering services. The new requirement does include horses, which

have been problematic in the past. This does not include domestic dogs, cats, and pet birds. The complete text of the new requirements for veterinarians can be found [here](#).

## Cal/OSHA Moving Toward COVID-19 Compliance

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

CDQAP previously reported that Cal/OSHA was making "compliance assistance visits" to ag businesses related to COVID-19 worker safety. Reports from the field indicate that Cal/OSHA has recently shifted its emphasis from these educational efforts to actual compliance inspections. To protect employees and prevent citations for violation of worker safety, producers should review their coronavirus prevention program. Cal/OSHA released a [comprehensive guidance](#) for employers of livestock farms addressing COVID-19 worker safety, along with an [abbreviated checklist](#). Producers are required to address face coverings, worker training,

## Winterize Now! (continued)

### Winterizing Checklist:

- Review liquid storage capacity calculations to see if there are ways to save storage needs.
- Review challenges from last winter regarding liquid manure collection and storage.
- Dredge or bale ponds well before rains arrive. Use an impermeable surface (if available) to temporarily stack manure solids. Keep this material away from sensitive areas (streams, creeks, wellheads). Place on well packed soil or concrete if available.
- Minimize repeated year-after-year stacking of pond dredgings in the same area.
- Conduct maintenance on pumps in settling basins, lagoons, storage ponds.
- Check any spare pumps or parts that may be used in winter.
- Manage weeds (weed whack or mow) around ponds so visual evaluation is possible. Weed control is important. Weeds can impair structural integrity. As roots die and decay, spaces can provide path for liquid flow (breaching).
- Evaluate pond banks for slope failures, rodent holes, and structural integrity. Manage pond banks as needed (repair or implement a rodent control plan).
- Review the farm's Nutrient Budget to be sure it reflects what is actually occurring at field scale.
- Input remaining nutrient management data from summer crop (irrigations and harvest data).
- Pile, remove, and haul or cover solid manure from corrals.
- Fill potholes in corrals or areas where solid manure is stored.
- Remember to take monthly pond photos (in the valley) or annual pond photos (North Coast)
- Repair roofs, clean gutters, and downspouts if necessary.
- Locate flexible hosing and appropriate clamps for connections.



**Here's hoping our rains come when needed and with just the right amount of water!**

## Cal/OSHA (continued)

health screening, physical distancing, sanitation, and disease response. Tips on developing a written COVID-19 supplement to the dairy's Injury and Illness Prevention Program or IIPP are [available from CDQAP](#). Producers developing their worker safety program may find advice from their trade organization or insurance carrier. Some of the later have developed templates for a farm COVID-19 IIPP addendum.

