

CDQAP Quality Assurance Update June, 2017 Newsletter

Got new wells? Be sure they're certified for backflow prevention!

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If you've had new wells installed in the last several years due

to the drought, you will likely need additional documentation to show that the wells have adequate backflow prevention. In 2009, dairies in the Central Valley documented that their existing wells had adequate backflow prevention as part of the Dairy General Order WDR requirements. Producers identified they did not have cross-connections that would allow the backflow of wastewater into an irrigation well or surface water.

Review your list of wells identified on your site map in your Waste Management Plan. If there are new wells, be sure to note them on your site map.

Also document the method of backflow prevention used in the new wells. Originally this documentation required a trained individual to sign off. You may want to have the same person who prepared your original backflow prevention document verify the new well and sign again.



Starting July 1st Bulk Milk Tankers to be Tested for Tetracycline

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

Since 1995 every bulk milk tanker in the U.S. has been screened for the beta-lactam (penicillin) family of antibiotics. The program has served the dairy industry well, preventing not only reactions in the 10% of people allergic to penicillin, but also by virtually eliminating the historical problem of product loss due to starter culture death in fermented products such as cheese and yogurt. This coming month will see the first expansion of this routine testing program in twenty years with implementation of a new pilot program testing for tetracyclines.

On July 1st, in addition to the routine testing of all tankers for the penicillins, one out of every fifteen tankers (6.7%) will be screened for the tetracycline family which includes tetracycline, oxytetracycline and chlortetracycline. The FDA's purpose in implementing this eighteen-month pilot program is to identify logistical hurdles encountered by stakeholders (processors) for future routine testing of bulk milk beyond beta-lactam antibiotics. Tetracycline was selected for the pilot program because of its use on dairies and the availability of quick screening kits. Like all other states participating in Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO), California will be screening tankers in this effort. An explanation of the program's requirements can be found in a comprehensive [Question and Answer document](#) released by the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS), which governs the PMO and Grade A milk production.

For producers that have not already done so, now is an excellent time to review tetracycline use on the dairy and the operation's compliance with milk withdrawal times. While the tetracycline family of antibiotics does not have an approved intramammary use for treating mastitis, there are both label and extra-applications which can result in milk residues. Label treatments include injectable products to treat pneumonia, shipping fever, bacterial scours, and metritis. The most common extra-label uses of tetracycline have been for treatment of digital dermatitis ("Hairy Foot Warts") and as intra-uterine application for metritis. In either case, tetracycline residues can be detected for days in the milk of treated cows. In order to avoid regulatory issues producers will want to work with their veterinarian and hoof trimmers to ensure that adequate meat and milk withdrawal times are applied to treated animals.

Cow Heat Stress Mitigation & Your Bottom Line

Record high temperatures are being seen this week in many parts of the state and while the 30-day long-term forecasts aren't as brutal, we probably have more hot days waiting for us this summer. Investments in shade, soaker lines, fans and sprinklers (even just for emergency use) may go a long way to improving cow comfort and reducing losses due to heat stress. Research in California suggests that for cows with access to shade but not fans or sprinklers, losses are estimated to average \$110/cow/year. Losses are even higher in cows without access to shade. Temporary shade cloth may be the most cost-effective method of cow cooling during emergency situations. In addition, cow water intake can increase as much as double during high temperatures so ensuring adequate water trough space and filling, especially in waterers used following milking, can be especially important. For a comprehensive look at the effects of heat stress and what you can do to minimize it, visit CDQAP's webpage [Heat Stress in Dairy Cows](#).