

IDAHO DAIRY FOCUS

Q2 2020 // *Idaho Dairymen's Association*



FEATURED BOARD MEMBER
PETE WIERSMA



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FAMILIAS UNIDAS
SERVICIOS LEGALES DE INMIGRACION
IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

FAMILIAS UNIDAS

PARTNERSHIP WITH **IDA**

Written by Brandy Perez, Familias Unidas

Familias Unidas is proud to partner with the Idaho Dairyman's Association to offer **free** onsite immigration consultations for all dairy employees. With the cooperation of local dairy owners, Familias Unidas caseworkers are available to travel to the dairies for on-site consultations as their employees have time throughout the day. Familias Unidas is a non-profit program offering services on a sliding fee scale based on total household income.

INTERESTED?

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FEDERAL DAIRY ISSUES UPDATE

Written by Charlie Garrison, DC Lobbyist

IDA ENGAGES ON WASHINGTON, D.C. RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The U.S. Congress and the Trump Administration have made several moves to try to shore up the U.S. economy in the wake of the shutdown of most public activities implemented as part of the effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The dairy industry, and dairy producers in particular, felt the economic pain early and deeply as demand for many products, especially those processed and packaged for use in restaurants, fell off a cliff. Panic buying by families preparing to cook three meals a day at home offset some of the loss of demand by foodservice establishments, but the farm price of milk was well below the cost of production for weeks.

Legislation was enacted by Congress and signed into law by the President that included loans to small businesses to allow them to cover basic expenses like payroll, mortgage and rent payments, and utility costs. It was a generous program that would allow forgiveness of funds used to maintain employee payrolls, but the rollout was rocky. The Idaho congressional delegation members were helpful in working with the Administration to clarify that agriculture operations did, in fact, qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The work to improve the PPP continues as Congress has expanded the percentage of loans that can be forgiven – provided the funds are used for payroll – and extended the number of weeks for which use of proceeds from the loan can qualify for forgiveness.

Next came the CARES Act and the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) included in that law. The CFAP has been implemented with lightning speed as farmers have already begun receiving direct payments for losses due to lower milk prices, lower prices for cull cows and bull calves, and lower values of corn silage stored for feed. Food banks have started receiving fluid milk and dairy products, meat, and fruits and vegetables as part of the “Farmers to Families Food Box Program.” In all, the USDA plans to distribute \$2.9 billion to dairy farmers in the form of direct payments this summer and \$1 billion worth of milk and dairy products to public relief organizations by the end of the year.

All four members of the Idaho congressional delegation, Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch and Representatives Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher, pitched in and worked very hard to help make the CFAP work well for the state’s dairy industry. After the announcement was made that there would be a \$125,000 cap on benefits from any one commodity and a \$250,000 limit to any one operation, IDA worked with other dairy groups around the country and other farm groups within Idaho to send the message that payment limits meant farmers in the state would not be compensated for losses on their production as Congress had intended. That work paid off as the payments are being made with \$250,000 per individual and \$750,000 per operation limits.

The state's congressional delegation was also very helpful with addressing another proposal in CFAP that would have hurt Idaho dairy producers. At various points during the development of the regulations, proposals arose that suggested farmers using risk management tools would have their CFAP benefits reduced. All four members of the congressional delegation signed a letter to the top USDA risk management official pointing out that discouraging the use of risk management tools by dairy farmers was not what Congress intended when the CARES Act was passed. Dairy farmers in Idaho and, for that matter all over the country, are now applying for CFAP knowing there will be no penalties for participating in DRP, DMC or forward contracts.

Next steps in the federal government's attempts to boost the economic recovery from the impact of the coronavirus are as uncertain as the pandemic itself. Democratic leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives passed another relief bill on a party line vote late last month. Senate Republican leaders are assessing the effectiveness of relief measures enacted so far and plan a vote on their version of a "CARES Act 2.0" bill after the July 4th holiday. IDA will monitor both current programs and future needs and continue to confer with the congressional delegation offices and Administration officials in the meantime.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The need for government officials to focus on the COVID-19 outbreak and the economic losses due to the response has forced the need for farmworker visa reform to the back burner for the time being. IDA's state and national organizing and leadership on federal legislation to provide legal status for current workers and their immediate family and access to workers for year-round jobs in the future remains as strong as ever. The support and advocacy for effective farmworker visa reform by all four congressional delegation members is, simply put, statesmanship at its finest.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 18th that the Trump Administration had not justified its reasoning or explained the impact on those affected and blocked the attempt to end the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. That is the program that offered temporary protected status and work authorization to young adults brought to this country as children implemented in 2012 by an Executive Order issued by then-President Obama. Since the Court didn't address the policy itself, the Administration may try again but it is likely that the ruling effectively delays further action on DACA, or the need for Congress to address it one way or the other with legislation, until after the November election.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC), International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) and National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) are coming together to support calls for Congress and Trump Administration officials to monitor recent intervention in the dairy market by the European Union (EU). The national effort builds on an economic study prepared by the staffs of Darigold and IDFA that showed a net downward effect on U.S. farm milk prices of the EU placing SMP into government storage in 2016-2017 to shore up milk prices in member countries and then releasing it onto the world market in 2018-2019. The EU has been placing SMP into storage again as a response to demand loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IDA will work with the state's congressional delegation to amplify the message that EU dairy intervention to shore up the industry there should not be allowed to overhang the world market and depress farm milk prices again.

IDA also continues to engage with the congressional delegation and the administration to promote the completion of a new trade agreement with Japan, monitoring China's dairy purchases under the Phase I agreement signed in January and Canada's implementation of the dairy provisions of the new US-Mexico-Canada Agreement that goes into effect on July 1st.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

PETE WIERSMA - PRESIDENT, IDA

Written by Taylor Walker

As a kid on a dairy farm in Southern California, Pete Wiersma knew he was living the good life. Outside of the normal mischief of a young boy, he completed his chores and his growing work ethic eventually helped him graduate to a bonafide milker on his family's farm. Pete's love for the dairy lifestyle runs deep throughout his Dutch family history. Even the family coat of arms is adorned with Holstein cows.

Applying what he learned as a kid growing up on a dairy, Pete previously helped run a small local co-op called Independent Milk Producers, and now owns Fairview Dairy in Buhl, Idaho.

His farm is home to 750 dairy cows, with more than 1,000 animals on a heifer and dry feed lot, and another 700 milking cows on a nearby leased dairy.



In addition to the 24-7 work he does alongside his 18 employees, Pete has been a member of the Idaho Dairymen's Association Board of Directors since 2012 and has served as the board's president for the last two years. Pete and his fellow board members focus their efforts primarily on the response and implementation of policies that impact Idaho's dairymen. As a team, they're adept at determining how laws and legislation will benefit the dairy families and workers who produce the state's number one agricultural commodity. But, as Pete knows all too well, not all of the heartache on a dairy is rule or regulatory based; sometimes it's just nature and chance.

Several years ago, as Pete, his wife and kids sat down for dinner, the family felt a rumble and heard the loud roar of a jet engine. Scrambling to look out the window, they soon discovered it wasn't an engine at all, but rather a microburst lifting their 220-foot-long loafing shed off the ground and chucking it

nearly a quarter mile away, trapping a handful of cows beneath the debris.

Whether it's the loss of stock due to a natural disaster, a change in procedures as the result of a new law, or a global pandemic, Pete emphasizes that when times are tough, dairymen should never feel like they're alone.

"We're all going through things to some degree," he said. "We're all set up a little bit differently, but we're all in it together. Sure, that's a little bit cliché, but it's a good thing to always keep in mind."

As the IDA Board of Directors continue to ensure Idaho's dairymen can run their business with confidence, Pete continues to underscore the quality of agricultural and dairy products produced in the United States.

"Everyone should rest easy knowing they can have full confidence in what we do on our farms."



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

WHAT IF YOUR OPERATION IS INSPECTED?

Written by Katharine Lotspeich, AGPROfessionals

Government agencies often conduct inspection of regulated facilities. These inspections may be routine or may be aggressive attempts to find and prosecute noncompliance. A courteous and cooperative approach is advisable during the inspection. Thus, planning for an inspection may favorably influence the inspection outcome. Use these helpful suggestions in planning for and participating in inspections:

Ask what the scope of the inspection includes.

Typically, inspections are conducted to determine compliance with one particular set of regulations.

Identify an inspection team for your operation.

This team should meet the inspector immediately upon arrival. The team should consist of at least two members; one to answer the inspector's questions and one to take notes. A third-party consultant would be an ideal addition to the team. If at all possible, the most senior person at the facility should meet the inspector.

Have a discreet means of notifying individuals with a need to know that an inspection is in progress.

This includes managers and foremen and may include professional consultants or legal counsel.

Establish procedures for conducting the inspection. Organize records prior to inspection. Have all relevant documentation available for easy exhibition. Ask your third-party consultant what records are required by the relevant regulations. These may include records from previous years. Provide specifically what the inspector asks for, but do not allow the inspector free access to your records. Provide each document individually.

Alert inspectors to safety and security measures.

Before the inspection, inform the inspector of your facility's safety and biosecurity protocols and how to adhere to them on the day of the inspection. Remind them of industry standards, such as not visiting more than one poultry CAFO in a day, or disinfecting the vehicle, shoes, and other protective equipment between visiting dairies.

Facility tour. Identify a route for the inspector to take which presents the facility in the most favorable light. Decide beforehand the route you will take the inspector on and drive it to see if any obvious problems are able to be corrected before the inspection.

Determine how and where interviews and any inspection of files should take place. Files should be brought to the inspector in a conference room rather than allowing the inspector to peruse the files. Make sure that the files are well organized so that requested records can be found easily.

During the inspection, set a cooperative tone at the first meeting. Assure the inspector that if you cannot answer a question immediately, you will find the answer as soon as possible. Mention the facility's commitment to environmental compliance. Ask, in a non-threatening way, whether the inspector is familiar with the operations at this type of facility. As a part of the opening conference, inform the inspector of appropriate safety rules for your facility.

Go with the inspector everywhere and take notes on what they are seeing. If the inspector takes samples, take duplicate samples. Ask what the

samples will be analyzed for. Before answering any of the inspector's questions, rephrase the questions to make sure that you understand it completely.

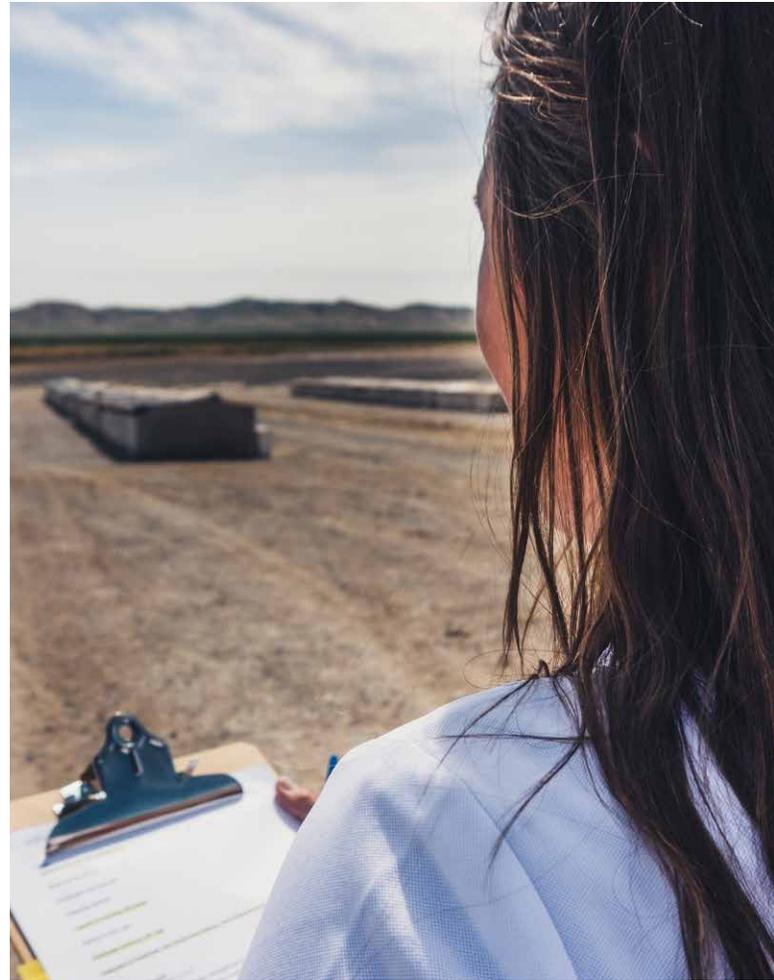
If the inspector notes a problem that can be corrected immediately, have the problem corrected, if possible, while the inspector is still on-site and ask the inspector to re-inspect the problem. At the close of the inspection, ask for the inspector's impressions of any noncompliance and tactfully correct any misconceptions. If the inspector identifies a noncompliance, ask if the inspector expects any enforcement action.

Ask to receive a copy of the inspection report and all sample results. Ask when the report will be available. As a follow-up to the inspection, send any information the inspector requested that was not immediately available including answers to questions not answered at the time of the audit. Describe actions taken or underway to correct any noncompliance observed at the time of the inspection. After receiving the inspection report, review it for accuracy and inform the inspector in the event of any inaccuracies in the inspection report.

In the event you receive a "Notice of Violation" or NOV, retain professional counsel. Regulatory agencies treat repeat violations more severely than first time violations. Therefore, prevent a citation if at all possible.

Build good working relationships with regulators. They can be invaluable over the long term. It may be necessary to have third party consultants or legal counsel present during discussion with regulatory agencies, especially in enforcement actions. However, this is not necessary as a routine procedure and can be viewed as adversarial. To bring legal counsel to a technical meeting sometimes results in a perception on the part of regulators that the facility is positioning itself in an adversarial as opposed to a cooperative mode.

With more than twenty years of experience in Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) and complex regulatory matters, AGPRO has the proven track record to help you navigate a changing regulatory environment.



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NUISANCE ACTIONS

“IF THE FLIES AREN’T BRANDED,
THEY’RE NOT MINE”

Written by Katie Vandenberg, Sawtooth Law Offices



For those of us who live, work or grew up on agricultural operations, we know firsthand that noise, odors, dust and flies are part of the job. This is the reality of growing crops and raising livestock to feed our nation and world. While those of us working in agriculture are acutely aware of this reality, some people that are not as familiar with agricultural operations do not realize that these aspects are unavoidable. So, at what point may a person claim in a court of law that these conditions become a nuisance? The Idaho Legislature tried to answer this question in 1981 by passing the Right to Farm Act, which limits the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be deemed a nuisance by other private citizens. However, it is questionable whether the legislature's approach goes far enough in today's society, where each generation is further removed from production agriculture, and becomes more unfamiliar with the realities of operating a dairy or farm.

In the legal world, a nuisance is defined as a "condition, activity or situation (such as a loud noise or foul odor) that interferes with the use or enjoyment of property." Nuisance, BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY (10th ed. 2014). Accordingly, private citizens can sue others, such as agricultural operations, if they believe that the conditions maintained by an agricultural operation interfere with the use or enjoyment of their own property. In an attempt to protect Idaho's agricultural operations against these challenges, the Idaho Legislature provided the following limitations: (1) cities and counties cannot adopt ordinances that declare agricultural operations a nuisance or force them to close when they are operated in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices, IDAHO CODE § 22-4504; (2) an operation cannot be considered a nuisance by any changed conditions in the surrounding area (i.e. residential developments) if it has been operating for more than a year and was not a nuisance when it began, IDAHO CODE § 22-4503; and (3) in a nuisance action, an agricultural operation shall not be found to be a nuisance if it is operated in accordance with generally recognized agricultural practices or is in compliance with a state or federally issued permit, IDAHO CODE § 22-4505.

However, no agricultural operation is protected from a nuisance action if the conditions being complained of are caused by improper or negligent operation. IDAHO CODE §§ 22-4504, 22-4503. Improper or negligent operation "means that the agricultural operation is not undertaken in conformity with federal, state and local laws and regulations or permits, and adversely affects the public health and safety." IDAHO CODE §§ 22-4502.

An operator can help defend itself from nuisance lawsuits in several ways. Most importantly, a producer should always implement generally accepted agricultural practices and comply with all permits, ordinances, regulations and laws. When appropriate, it may also be helpful for an operator to encourage its county to adopt nuisance waivers pursuant to residential divisions of property, and advocate for Right to Farm notices on deeds when possible in relation to proposed development.

If an operator is confronted by complaints from a neighbor about conditions such as flies, dust or odors, a good response should include informing the neighbor of all the "generally accepted agricultural practices" the operator implements that address the complained-of condition. For example, if an operator is approached by a neighbor with a complaint about flies, it may be tempting to tell a complaining neighbor that if the flies aren't branded, they aren't his. However, we wouldn't recommend that. A better answer would be for the operator to inform the neighbor of the Right to Farm Act explained above and the natural occurrence of these conditions with respect to all agricultural operations. Then, describe to the neighbor all the generally accepted practices he or she uses to address flies, such as sanitation, manure management, harrowing corrals, feed-through fly control, use of professional exterminators, etc.

With the great influx of urbanization in Idaho, the Right to Farm Act will become increasingly important as it is tested by operators and the legal system. If you have questions or would like to discuss the Right to Farm Act or other related agricultural legal issues more in depth, please do not hesitate to contact one of our offices. Also, don't forget to brand your flies.



PROTECTING DAIRY PRICES DURING COVID-19

Written by Tyson Baker, PayneWest Insurance

When the Dairy Revenue Protection Program rolled out in 2018, no one could have foreseen the impact COVID-19 would have on the market. As we get set to enter Q3, dairy farmers who locked in prices early are already seeing program payouts that will help close the revenue gap.

GOVERNMENT HELP FROM A SHORT-TERM FOOD BOX

In the past six months, dairy prices have slid to lows not seen in more than a decade, with April and May bringing in \$12 milk prices.

The **USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program** stepped in to provide many farmers relief from low prices. **Announced in mid-April 2020**, in the initial assessment, \$3 billion were to be distributed over several months. In practice, however, hundreds of millions were spent in just 45 days. The result was record-breaking prices on cheese and \$20 milk prices.

The quick response of the federal government helped prices rebound and provided relief to many during Q2, but during these unprecedented times of closures, bankruptcy and a new normal for dairy customers around the globe, it is unclear what will happen next. The Food Box program is slated to end on June 30, 2020. From the elementary school down the street to international exports, we don't know what the market may look like in September, much less the end of the year.

DAIRY-RP FOR THE LONG HAUL

When Dairy-RP was rolled out as a stopgap against sliding dairy prices, a global pandemic was likely not at the top of the list of scenarios anyone expected. Along the way, many of the industry's best customers saw their businesses shuttered, schools moved to remote platforms, and the supply chain was broken. These incredibly challenging times were

*Tyson Baker is a risk manager and insurance broker at **PayneWest Insurance**. He is a featured speaker and specialist on the Dairy Revenue Protection Program and works with dairies across the northwest. Learn more at paynewest.com/dairy. Contact Tyson at tbaker@paynewest.com or 509.853.4206.*

made more difficult by the uncertainty surrounding the future of the market.

Although it can be difficult to find a bright spot right now, thankfully many of our dairy customers were able to lock in prices through Dairy-RP. Those mid-sized dairies of 1,000-2,500 head of cattle are going to receive program payments ranging from \$200,000-\$500,000 in the coming weeks. Another new client in Idaho chose to lock in prices just last week on his two herds of dairy cattle totaling over 8,000 head.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KEEP RUNNING?

When evaluating solutions, I ask dairymen and women, "what's your price?" meaning, what's the amount you need to keep your business running? With Dairy-RP, we can look at the market and make those investments against the many "what if" scenarios. We have discussions about the potential benefits of Dairy-RP, understanding that an investment of \$0.30 per hundred could prevent a loss of \$3 per hundred weight. Understanding your break-even point and cost structure helps us zero-in on the right strategy to protect your dairy's finances.

During the pandemic and fallout, the Dairy-RP program was a safety net for many dairies. With Dairy-RP, the risk management concept is paying off well for those who invested early. With prices rising from the USDA assistance program, those who want to lock in their future pricing should consider reaching out to their risk management advisor to help run the numbers and develop projections.

As I am working with dairies throughout the west to complete risk assessments in our new environment, we are evaluating strategies to prepare for what the balance of 2020 and 2021 may bring. I hope that we are moving towards a more positive market, but we are keeping a careful eye to prepare for continued volatility.



FARM ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

A BRIEF UPDATE

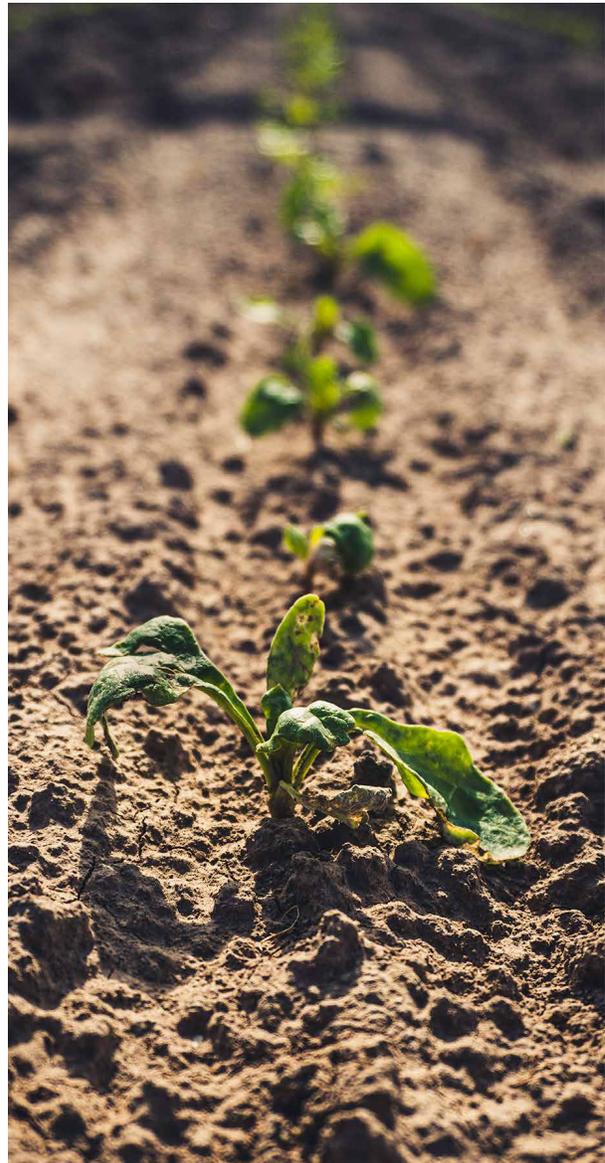
Written by Nicole Ayache, National Milk Producers Federation

The FARM Environmental Stewardship program area helps track and communicate a farm's environmental achievements. Through the end of 2019, over 1,200 farms had completed a FARM ES evaluation, and in 2020, FARM ES has 36 participating organizations to date, representing 78% of the milk supply.

In collaboration with the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy science team, FARM regularly reviews and incorporates new science into the program. This helps ensure robust and reliable results as well as meet the expanding needs of farmers and FARM Participants.

The most recent version of FARM ES, Version 2.0, launched earlier this year. It contains new data inputs to capture a farm's use of new technologies as well as nutrient management:

- » The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy science team worked with researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to add Solid Liquid Separation as an option in the FARM ES model.
- » FARM ES now allows farms to enter information about their solar or wind generation and quantify the associated benefits.
- » FARM ES now asks about the farm's use of a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). FARM Participants can use this information to report on the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment metric: "Do you implement and maintain a written Nutrient Management Plan?"





In addition to new questions, the new version of FARM ES contains important updates to the backend of the model. While not immediately apparent to users, Version 2.0 of FARM ES contains updated crop emissions factors. The new model uses data from 2013 to 2017 to generate the emissions factors. The previous model used data from 2004 to 2008 from the original LCA study. Additionally, researchers fully examined the methodology underpinning the original LCA study. They updated select portions of the crop emissions methodology to better enable future updating as well as match current best practices.

FARM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In March, the NMPF Board of Directors formally approved the FARM Workforce Development 2nd party evaluation tool as a voluntary part of the FARM Program. This means that FARM participants can now opt-in to use the FARM WFD 2nd party evaluation tool with their farms.

The WFD evaluation tool is not a set of standards – it is a best practice assessment guide. There are no penalties for answering “no” to any questions. The goals of the evaluation tool are to help farms:

- » Learn about HR and safety management best practices
- » Identify which best practices will be most useful to implement on their farm
- » Track improvement over time

Furthermore, by performing on-farm evaluations, we can provide important assurances to supply chain customers: our dairy buyers and retailers. Dairy buyers and retailers are concerned about on-farm labor practices on dairies. The evaluation tool was developed in consultation with the FARM WFD Task Force and Working Group members, along with subject matter expert input.

FARM IN COVID-19

Given current conditions around the United States, FARM is recommending that on-farm activities for the FARM Program be suspended until further notice. FARM will provide at least two weeks’ notice as to the withdrawal of these recommendations.

The deadline for any evaluations and corrective action plans impacted by the stoppage will be determined upon the withdrawal of our recommendations. There will be plenty of time provided to FARM Program participants to get caught up due to the inevitable backlog that this suspension has created.





911 WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY

EMERGENCY PLANNING CAN
SAVE LIVES ON YOUR DAIRY

Written by Ellisa Clark, IDA Consulting Services





On a summer day in 2007, a 34-year-old dairyman was busy transferring manure on his dairy from a small pit to a larger one. During the transfer, the pipe being used to transport the manure was clogged. The dairyman climbed into the pit to fix the problem —just as he had done many times before.

Once in the pit, the dairyman was overcome by toxic gases and fell unconscious. A nearby employee entered the pit in an attempt to rescue the dairyman but was also overcome. The domino effect continued as the dairyman’s wife and two daughters tried to help. All five succumbed to the gases and died before someone else on the farm was able to contact emergency personnel for assistance.

Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for people who are first on the scene of an accident in the agricultural industry to be inexperienced and unsure of emergency protocols. Sometimes, these responders even become victims themselves because they don’t know how to safely respond.

Accidents and emergencies tend to cause confusion, stress and sometimes even shock. It can be difficult to make correct, rational decisions under pressure. Having an **emergency management plan** will help first responders —typically other dairy workers or family members — to act quickly and effectively.



Basic elements of an emergency management plan include the following:

- » Immediate Action Protocol
- » Emergency Services Contact Information
- » Dairy Owner/Manager Contact Information
- » Accurate Dairy Name and Address
- » Address and Phone Number of Nearest Medical Facility
- » Locations of Emergency Equipment (e.g. first aid kits)



Copies of this information should be kept in central locations on the farm and near all telephones for easy access. Emergency plans should be updated yearly and should be available in each of the languages spoken on your farm.

A great time to introduce employees to emergency protocols is during the on-boarding process. This instruction will help encourage a safety culture on your farm from the get-go. Managers should retrain employees on these safety protocols **at least once a year**.

Many accidents on dairies are complex, and therefore can be difficult to plan for and address. In addition, injuries sustained can be diverse in nature and degree. By having an emergency management plan, dairies are more prepared to protect their employees. General instruction is great but addressing what specific actions should be taken in emergency situations is even better.

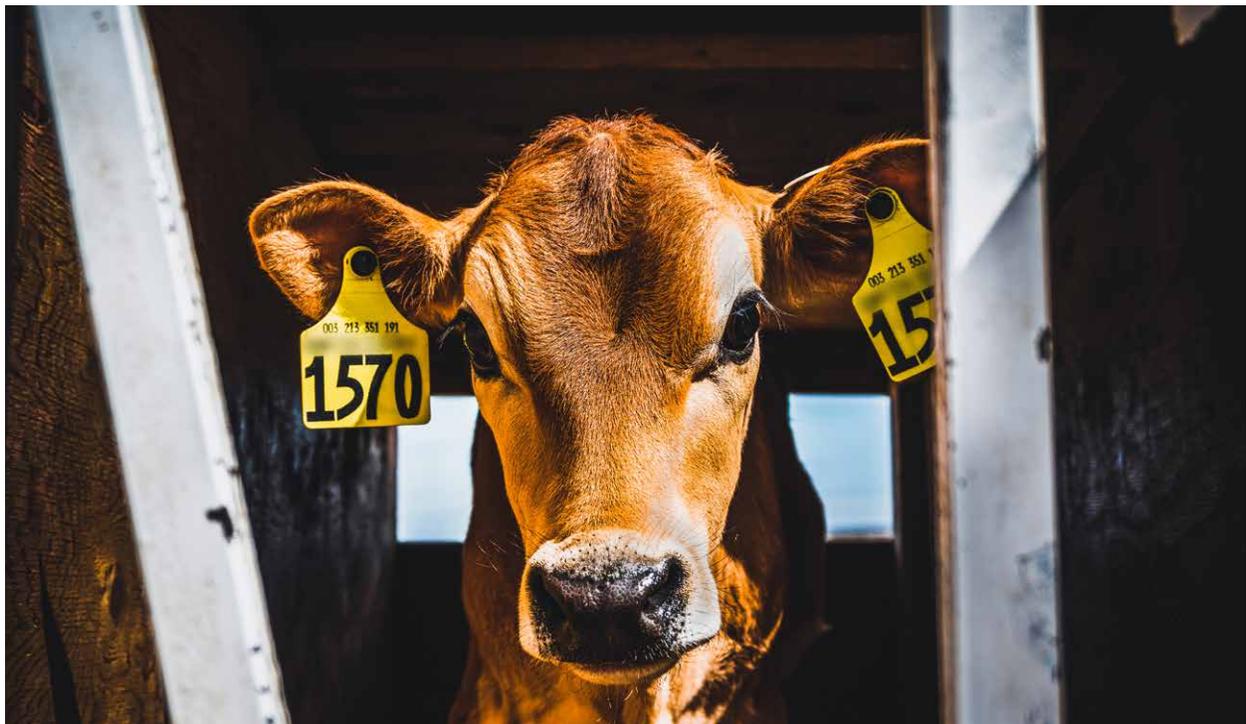
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://nasdonline.org/1266/d001070/how-to-respond-to-farm-accidents.html>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gas-from-manure-pit-kills-5-on-dairy-farm/>

As you continually update and build out your dairy's emergency management plan, you may want to consider other risks in addition to employee injury. Plans for emergencies surrounding biosecurity, natural disasters or temperature extremes will prepare your dairy workers to respond appropriately.

The National Milk Producers Federation FARM program has compiled a guide for creating a comprehensive emergency action plan. Visit <https://nationaldairyfarm.com/?s=comprehensive+emergency+plan> for more information about how to develop a comprehensive plan for your dairy.

Creating a written emergency management plan can be simple. An example of a basic plan is found on the next page and will help you know where to start. Please reach out to me at **801.821.1983** or ellissa@idahodairymens.org if you have questions about developing an emergency management plan on your dairy. I'm happy to help!



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

DAIRY PROTOCOL

If someone is seriously injured on this dairy farm

1. Call for professional medical help as soon as possible
2. Do not further endanger yourself or the victim
3. Call your manager for help
4. Perform first aid basics until medical help arrives
5. Send someone to meet and direct emergency personnel

EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency Services **911**
Poison Control **888.888.8888**
Power Company **888.888.8888**

DAIRY CONTACT INFORMATION

[Insert Manager Name] **888.888.8888**
[Insert Manager Name] **888.888.8888**
[Insert Owner Name] **888.888.8888**

DAIRY INFORMATION

[Dairy Name]
[Physical Address]
[Phone Number]

NEAREST MEDICAL FACILITY

[Facility Name]
[Physical Address]
[Phone Number]

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT LOCATIONS

First Aid Kits

[Insert a list of locations where first aid kits are kept (e.g. break room, shop, etc.)]

Fire Extinguishers

[Insert a list of locations where fire extinguishers are kept]

OSHA'S COVID-19 RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

COVID-19 is classified as a recordable illness; therefore, employers are responsible to record work-related cases. If you are unsure of **OSHA's recordkeeping requirements surrounding COVID-19**, visit this link for more information: https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-05-19/revised-enforcement-guidance-recording-cases-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19#_ftn4. It's difficult to determine whether or not a case is work related, but this resource does a great job of explaining employers' obligations.



ONGOING RESEARCH EFFORTS FROM IDA

LEFT

MAY 2020

MIDDLE

JUNE 2020

RIGHT

JUNE 2020

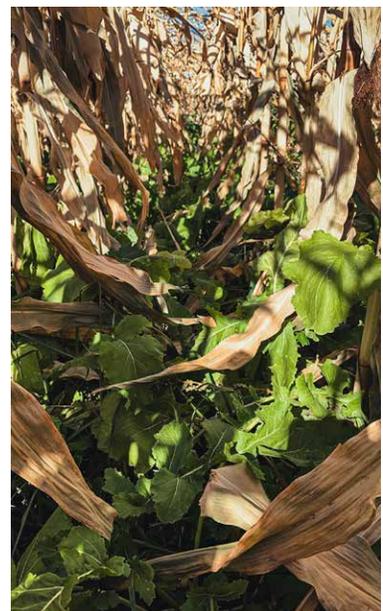
Corn growth prior to cover crop planting

BOTTOM

FALL 2019

Corn and cover crops growing simultaneously

Bottom photo taken by Jed Bateman



Cover cropping has many benefits and is always encouraged. However, we all know it has its challenges. How do we get a cover crop established and thriving before the growing season is over? How do we grow cover crops with limited water supply? Do we harvest our cover crops or disk them under? Besides improved soil health, what is the return on our investment?

The Idaho Dairymen's Association, in cooperation with the University of Idaho, is conducting a project on this very subject. There are a handful of producers around the Magic Valley already experimenting with cover crops and providing some answers to these questions. We have asked to join them.

Our current project focuses on the idea of growing corn and a cover crop simultaneously, beginning in the corn's V-5 growth stage. If the producer has access to an inter-seeder, they can plant a cover crop mix between the rows of corn. Another method of planting is to disturb the soil with a dammer dicker or center breaker to prepare the seedbed, and then fly on the cover crop seed. The cover crop then receives ample water and sunlight for establishment, prior to rows closing. Through the remainder of the growing season the cover crop is content growing beneath the corn canopy, suppressing weeds and preventing soil erosion.

Harvesting the corn continues as usual, leaving the cover crop behind. Once the corn is harvested the cover crop is irrigated and springs to life, producing additional biomass for fall grazing or green chopping.

A major objective of this study is to see how much extra phosphorus is used with the addition of a cover crop. We have taken pre-plant soil samples and plan to follow up with tissue tests and post-harvest soil samples to determine how much phosphorus has been mined from the soil. It is important to note that in order to acquire the full phosphorus uptake, the cover crop must be harvested and completely removed from the field. Furthermore, the phosphorus would be returned to the soil by grazing livestock's manure application, or if the cover crop were disked under in the spring.

Although we are not measuring water usage with this particular project, we do know that there is less evaporation due to the additional ground cover. This allows for a reduced number of irrigations during the season. Those extra irrigations come in handy once the corn is harvested.

It is widely known that cover crops prevent soil erosion and suppress weeds, however another fortunate side effect is the increase in corn silage feed quality. The rationale behind it being the cover crop pushes the corn to mature a bit quicker. This provides growers with optimal moisture for high forage quality and fermentation at the ideal time of year for harvest. While official measurements have yet to be conducted, we hope to find certainty in this assertion by measuring the forage quality of the corn grown with and without the cover crop.

While testing all of the other factors, we expect to try different methods of harvesting the cover crop. Not all producers have the ability to graze their corn fields, and we would like to find alternatives with our study. By exploring the quality of the cover crop, we hope to investigate green chopping as an additional harvest method.

By laying groundwork this growing season, we'll be in an optimal position to evaluate additional fields next year. For those interested, please reach out and we would love to discuss this further. See research photos on the following page.

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JULY 30 BOARD MEETING Logan, Utah

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