

Michigan Mandatory ID Update

According to Michigan Department of Agriculture officials, the Michigan Mandatory Cattle Identification Program is picking up speed. Producers are steadily obtaining premises numbers and many have begun to order Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) tags. As of July 10, 2006, there were 14,347 premises registered in USDA's national database. This number represents cattle, swine, sheep, and some cervid operations. All states in the United States are registering premises to meet the USDA deadline of January 2009 for premises registration.

In Michigan, 1,246 producers have ordered 112,500 RFID tags. The RFID tags will be required for all Michigan cattle moving from premises starting March 1, 2007. Producers are encouraged to order their tags now to avoid the rush.

To receive premises ID, order tags, or for more information, contact MDA at 1-866-870-5136. Additional facts are available at www.michigan.gov/mda.

EPA Announces Proposed CAFO NPDES Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency announced proposed revisions to the 2003 CAFO NPDES Rule, which are result of the Second Circuit Court decision in the Waterkeeper Alliance et al. vs. EPA case.

EPA is proposing several significant changes to the 2003 rule that will impact dairy operations. A few of the proposed changes to the 2003 CAFO rule are:

- CAFOs with the potential to discharge will not be required to get a permit, only CAFOs that actually discharge or propose to discharge will need to obtain an NPDES permit.

- The CAFO's Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) must

be incorporated in the permit and reviewed by the permit authority. The NMP will also be available for public review.

- EPA proposes to clarify its selection of best conventional technology for fecal coliform bacteria.
- CAFOs land applying manure or processed wastewater may not need NPDES permits if the only discharge from those facilities is agricultural stormwater.

Once EPA publishes the proposed rule in the Federal Register, there will be a 45 day comment period. NMPF will be developing comments to submit to EPA.

Quality Watch

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It is important to note that Johne's disease cannot be treated, making PREVENTION the best medicine. To reduce Johne's risks on the farm, producers should always strive to:

- Follow good management practices.
- Keep everything clean from the feeding equipment to the environment and control flies.
- Prevent newborn calves from sucking on manure covered teats, udders, pails, bottles, pens, hutches, or anything else they can come in contact that may have manure on it.
- Use tuberculocidal disinfectants on calf feeding equipment and facilities.
- Do not feed colostrum or milk from cows who have tested positive for Johne's.
- Make sure you feed calf milk replacers to prevent the spread of Johne's to your future herd. MMPA has a special milk replacer offer for members who conduct risk assessment with membership representatives. Please contact your membership representative for promotion details and risk assessment.

Additional information on Johne's disease is available at: www.cvm.msu.edu/extension/johnes.

Indiana producers can contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health at (877) 747-3038 for more information on Indiana's Voluntary Johne's Program.



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