



Parting Words

By TONY MENDES, Chairman of the Board

Since its creation, CDI has been governed by a 20 person Board of Directors, many of whom were from our predecessor cooperatives or seated shortly thereafter. Beginning in May, the Board will implement a new set of bylaws approved by the membership last year. As you recall, the bylaw change affected the number of directors and the percentage of affirmative votes needed for Board action. CDI members voted to reduce the number of directors to 17 this year and 16 thereafter. The percentage of affirmative votes needed to pass any Board motion will decrease from 70 percent to 66 2/3 percent. As one of our more infamous butter customers would ask, "Will this be a good thing?" My legal training compels me to respond, "Yes, but..."

Term Limits

Term limits for directors were included in our original bylaws to prevent

"lifetime" terms of governance. Many of the original directors are now reaching their term limits (yours truly included). This will result in more Board seats available to non-incumbents. While this is in keeping with the original purpose of term limits, it can potentially create a Board composed of a large number of less experienced leaders. This issue has been anticipated and addressed by the Board with the formation of a new committee system, the rotation of officers and the institution of a new leadership program (noted herein below). Any concerns of inexperience will not only be short-lived, but may prove to actually enhance a director's knowledge base of the dairy industry and of CDI.

Smaller Board

At CDI's inception, it was decided to include all Board members of our predecessor cooperatives on the new

CDI Board because of convenience, continuity and assurance of adequate area representation. However, large Boards tend to be cumbersome. A smaller Board allows for a more efficient and effective atmosphere with regards to policy formation and implementation. This naturally emphasizes the importance of the quality of Board members elected and may increase the amount of time and effort required by these individuals. The inclusion of non-board members on many sub-committees can greatly enhance the Board's understanding of their respective constituency and assist in mitigating any additional workload. In addition, an on-going effective leadership program will better prepare future Board members.

With the move toward a smaller Board arises the need for the reduction in the number of affirmative votes. The new 66 2/3 percent vote

requirement (from 70 percent) complements the efficient operation of a smaller Board. A higher percentage rule on a smaller Board would require nearly unanimous consent on all issues, making it nearly impossible to pass any motion.

Board Sub-Committees, Officer Rotation, and Leadership Program

This past year, the Board has expanded the number of sub-committees in an attempt to more thoroughly explore, evaluate and suggest policy changes. The monthly Board meeting affords little time for such a detailed look. A number of non-board members have been added to these committees, allowing more member involvement. In addition, such service accelerates a new Board member's knowledge and serves as a learning experience for future directors.

Recently, the Board endorsed a policy of

SEE CHAIRMAN CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Annual Milk Quality Award Winners for 2009

Dairies Listed by Rank Within Their District

2009 was an exceptionally good milk quality year as evidenced by a large increase in quality bonus payments and a precipitous drop in quality penalties collected. The producers listed below represent some of the best milk quality California Dairies, Inc has to offer.

Average statistics for the 41 award winners listed below are as follows:

- Standard Plate Count (SPC) – 3,600
- Laboratory Pasteurization Count (LPC) – 70
- Coliform Count (COLI) – 60
- Somatic Cell Count (SCC) – 105,000

The Overall Grand Award Winner - De Groot Dairy
 SPC – 2,400 LPC – 60 COLI – 40 SCC – 66,000

District 1

- George Borba & Son Dairy
- Lauren Duhalde Dairy
- Desert View Dairy
- Marquez Pine Avenue Dairy
- Palla Rosa Farms Dairy #3
- S & S Dairy
- Frank Konyn Dairy
- H & R Dairy
- Dallape Dairy
- Northview Dairy

District 2

- Borba & Sons Dairy
- Twin River Ranch
- South Creek Dairy
- M & L Dairy
- De Groot Dairy #1
- Bluegrass Dairy
- Five Star II
- Oakview Dairy
- Atsma Dairy
- Amstel Farms

District 3

- Bos Dairy
- Fred Rau Dairy #2
- Francisco Ribeiro Dairy
- Souza's Dairy
- Droogh Dairy
- Hillview Dairy Farm
- Charles Vander Kooi Dairy
- Ernest F. Mendes & Sons
- Medeiros & Son Dairy
- De Groot Dairy South

District 4

- Antone L. Gomes & Sons
- Pedretti Ranches
- Michel Ranch and Dairy
- Paul Caetano
- Ed & Lorie Machado #2
- Nelson Dairy
- Frank Azevedo II
- Joe Nunes Dairy
- Spaletta Dairy
- Hath Dairy

TOP QUALITY PRODUCER FOR MARCH

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NAME	SPC	LPC	COLI	SCC
Manuel Cipriano & Sons	1,250	40	6	55

TOP MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 1

NAME	SPC	LPC	COLI	SCC
George Borba & Son Dairy	1,188	32	6	62
Lauren Duhalde Dairy	3,125	31	17	92
Frank Konyn Dairy	2,625	46	12	99
Koot Dairy #2	2,250	50	15	120
Raymond Bachoc Dairy #2	1,188	19	49	168

TOP MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 2

NAME	SPC	LPC	COLI	SCC
Borba & Sons Dairy	3,389	39	52	58
Twin River Ranch	1,636	56	24	97
Bluegrass Dairy	1,563	73	8	101
Oakview Dairy	2,313	78	13	110
Triple H Dairy #2	3,375	24	24	123

TOP MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 3

NAME	SPC	LPC	COLI	SCC
De Groot Dairy	1,917	19	25	75
Bos Dairy	9,438	19	19	50
Droogh Dairy	1,875	46	21	86
Diepersloot Ranch	1,042	66	15	96
Souza's Dairy, Inc.	5,800	72	44	81

TOP MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 4

NAME	SPC	LPC	COLI	SCC
Paul Caetano	1,000	23	11	71
Joe Nunes Dairy	1,625	45	39	65
Joe/Renee Barroso & Sons	2,563	41	13	75
Pedretti Ranches	1,750	25	38	87
Michel Ranch and Dairy	1,688	18	9	114



Introducing Marie teVelde, Newsletter Coordinator



CDI is pleased to announce the addition of Marie teVelde to its staff as Newsletter Coordinator. Marie is the daughter of late CDI member John H. teVelde. Born and raised on her family's Southern California dairy, Marie brings over a decade of dairy experience working for her father. In addition, she has recently completed a Master's degree in Integrated Marketing Communications. Utilizing her dairy background and her communications knowledge, Marie is well-equipped to manage the production of the monthly newsletter.

“I am pleased to have been provided an opportunity to continue working within an industry I know and love,” said Marie. “I am excited to work with CDI generating its monthly newsletter and will strive to provide its members with the most relevant news.”

CORRECTION

In last month's article “How Do I Find Out What Is Happening?” each director's personal contact information was provided as a means for members to obtain information about the dairy industry and CDI. Inadvertently, Jay teVelde of District 2 was omitted from the list. We apologize for the omission and have provided Jay's contact information below.

District 2

Jay teVelde 559-730-5850

Dairy FARM Program Workshop & Schedule

The CDI Board of Directors recently announced its adoption of a new animal care and well-being initiative, the National Dairy FARM (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) Program. California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) is conducting a series of free educational workshops at various locations throughout the state to help producers successfully prepare for Dairy FARM.

The two workshops will provide producers important information about Dairy FARM. The first series of workshops, “An Introduction to FARM,” will cover key topics such as: an overview of the FARM program, an introduction to dairy animal well-being, calf care issues and the care and movement of special needs animals. The second workshop, “Performance Based Monitoring for Dairy Well-Being & What to Expect During Your Evaluation,” will cover the following items: locomotion scoring, hock scoring, body conditioning scoring, hygiene scoring and highlights of what to expect during your FARM evaluation.

The workshops are free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are not required. Producers are strongly encouraged to attend both Workshop #1 & #2 as they will cover different components of the Dairy FARM Program.

Workshop #1:

Introduction to Dairy FARM Program

Fresno County

Wednesday, April 21, 1 - 4 p.m.

Riverdale Memorial Hall, 3085 W. Mt. Whitney, Riverdale

Tulare County

Thursday, April 22, 9 a.m. - Noon

Tulare County Ag Center, 4437 Laspina Street, Tulare

Glenn County

Monday, April 26, 9 a.m. - Noon

Glenn County Farm Bureau Boardroom, 831 Fifth Street, Orland

Stanislaus County

Tuesday, April 27, 9 a.m. - Noon

Stanislaus County Ag Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto

Workshop #2:

Performance Monitoring of Animal Well-Being

Fresno County

Wednesday, May 5, 1 - 4 p.m.

Riverdale Memorial Hall, 3085 W. Mt. Whitney, Riverdale

Tulare County

Thursday, May 6, 9 a.m. - Noon

Tulare County Ag Center, 4437 Laspina Street, Tulare

Stanislaus County

Monday, May 10, 9 a.m. - Noon

Stanislaus County Ag Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto

Glenn County

Wednesday, May 12, 9 a.m. - Noon

Glenn County Farm Bureau Boardroom, 831 Fifth Street, Orland

For more information members can view the complete flyer at: www.californiadairies.com/members.htm



Annual Meeting Reminder

The Eleventh Annual Membership Meeting of CDI will be held on April 28th, 29th and 30th. All members are encouraged to attend and are welcome to attend any of the meetings if a conflict exists with the date in your district. For each meeting, registration will open at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Date:

District 4
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Location:

TPA (Turlock Ballroom) Hall
728 Golden State
Turlock, CA 95380

District 2 and 3
Thursday, April 29, 2010

Visalia Plant
2000 N. Plaza Drive
Visalia, CA 93291

District 1
Friday, April 30, 2010

Double Tree Hotel
222 North Vineyard
Ontario, CA 91762

CHAIRMAN CONTINUED FROM FRONT

rotating the directors serving as Board officers. It is anticipated that each officer will serve a period of two to three years (including the chair) and then elect new directors to assume these positions. This will not only allow for new ideas and approaches, but will provide a method to assure continuity of qualified leadership.

As a means to enhance the knowledge base of our members and to prepare future CDI leaders, the Board has approved the development and implementation of an ongoing leadership program. While the particulars have yet to be announced, it is anticipated that a small group (five to six members) will be selected to attend a detailed leadership training program for a period of approximately six months. Curriculum emphasis will focus on cooperatives in general and CDI in particular.

As you will discover at the annual meeting this month, the new Board is only one component of both long and short term changes occurring at CDI. Expectedly there will be concerns accompany these changes. However, I am confident they will be minor and temporary. With an extremely competent management team to complement a dedicated and talented Board of Directors, you can be assured the changes implemented by the Board will work to improve CDI both now and in the future. CDI's future is in capable hands and I am proud to be a part of it.

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