



## Need CDQAP Short Course?

# LAST CHANCE FOR DAIRY PRODUCERS IN 2008

Take the free classes needed for dairy  
environmental certification

The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program is offering an opportunity for dairy producers to complete classroom requirements necessary for CDQAP Environmental Certification and participation in some local grant projects.

### *What is certification?*

Certification is a three-step process. The first step is to attend CDQAP classes in Environmental Stewardship. The second step is to create a farm management plan. And, the third step is a risk-free, on-site visit to your dairy by an independent, third-party evaluator to verify your environmental compliance. Both the dairy facility and the owner/operator are certified in this process. Transfer of the dairy to a new operator requires that the new operator complete the educational requirements. A certified operator moving to a new dairy need not repeat the education requirements, but must undergo a new on-site evaluation.

### *Why is there only one location for classes?*

The Merced location was chosen because it is a central location for the major dairy areas in the state. CDQAP certification classes have been offered dozens of times in multiple locations across California over the past several years. Most producers have already attended at least one class and demand for the classes has gone down significantly. Therefore, the cost associated with offering frequent classes in multiple locations is no longer justified. However, CDQAP will continue to offer the classes when appropriate to ensure that the opportunity to certify and participate in specific grant programs remains available to all dairy producers.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, June 3 and Tuesday, June 10**  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m

Classes will be held at the  
**Merced County Extension Office,**  
**2145 W. Wardrobe Avenue, Merced**  
(same time and location for both classes)  
Producers need to attend *both* classes to  
complete the short course.

### *How can I check to see if I've already attended all the necessary classes?*

Call toll-free, 1-866-66CDQAP (866-662-3727) to check your status.

### *Why certify?*

Following class attendance, taking the extra step of the on-site evaluation process provides producers a "real life" review of their facility in a non-threatening environment. Third-party evaluation can point out areas that need improvement and provide producers peace of mind that the facility has met its regulatory requirements. In addition, a discount of up to 50 percent of water quality regulatory fees is available to certified dairies as well as the opportunity to display an attractive roadside sign that establishes the dairy as "Environmentally Certified." Learn more at [www.cdqap.org](http://www.cdqap.org).

### *What is the cost?*

Both the CDQAP environmental education classes and the on-site certification evaluations are free to dairy producers.