



# Dairy CARES Report

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## Governor's environmental award underscores dairy families' commitment to sustainability

For years, California dairy families have worked hand-in-hand with regulators, university scientists and conservationists to develop the nation's leading environmental sustainability initiatives. A shining example is the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program, which combines dairy industry groups, state and federal agencies and the University of California to provide education and certification programs for dairy producers.

In November, these efforts earned major recognition as the CDQAP was awarded the prestigious "Governors Environmental and Economic Leadership Award." The award is another milestone for the California dairy industry, as more and more leaders begin to recognize the tremendous progress made by dairy families.

"I'm proud to honor this year's award recipients for their sustained commitment, innovative solutions and strategic investment to protect our environment and boost our economy," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said.

"California's dairy industry is the most heavily regulated in the country," said Dr. Michael Payne, CDQAP's director. "Nowhere else are monitoring and reporting requirements for water quality more comprehensive than in the Central Valley. California dairies also face the strictest regulations in the nation for control of dust and air emissions."

CDQAP has been at the forefront of efforts to assist dairy producers in maintaining full compliance with the regulations. This fall, nearly 1,700 attended classes offered by CDQAP on the new water quality regulations. CARES coalition members were there to help, providing field staff, technical support and communications assistance to get the job done.

More and more people are taking notice of the commitment of dairies to reducing their environmental impacts – while still creating 434,000 jobs and \$47 billion in economic stimulus for the people of California. The *Fresno Bee* noted this month that farms and dairies are taking "a leading role in the Valley's air cleanup, reducing more than 85 tons of pollutants per day."

This year, CARES coalition members have worked hard to tell the story of dairy environmental sustainability and to ensure that dairy families receive solid representation in legal, regulatory, and public affairs matters. We've visited with newspaper editorial boards and taken agency representatives on dairy tours, filed regulatory comments on behalf of our coalition members and continued to build a team of world-class experts on dairy environmental sustainability issues. Much work remains in 2008, but as this year winds to a close, it is good to see California dairy families beginning to get recognition for their accomplishments so far.

*CARES is a statewide coalition supporting economic and environmental sustainability for California's dairy industry. CARES members include the Alliance of Western Milk Producers, Bank of the West, California Dairies Inc., California Dairy Campaign, Crystal Cream & Butter, Dairy Farmers of America-California, Dairy Institute of California, Hilmar Cheese Co., Joseph Gallo Farms, Land O' Lakes, Milk Producers Council, Saputo Cheese, Turlock Dairy & Refrigeration, Western United Dairywomen, and others. For information about CARES, visit our web site at [www.dairycares.com](http://www.dairycares.com), write [dairycares@aol.com](mailto:dairycares@aol.com) or call 916-441-3318.*