

**Golden State Dairy Management Seminars at the World Ag Expo!**  
Jennifer Heguy – UCCE Merced, Stanislaus & San Joaquin Counties

It's February – time for the World Ag Expo! Dairy seminars will be on **Tuesday, February 11**. Join University of California dairy scientists in **Seminar Trailer 2**. Stop by for a talk that catches your eye or stay for the entire program. We're looking forward to chatting with you in Tulare.

**2-2:55pm – Feeding the Dairies of Tomorrow**

How high can you go with almond hulls in dairy diets? Dr. Ed DePeters will present recent findings from an almond hull feeding study. The study evaluated milk production and components.

Where might you make more money in your feed management program? Dr. Noelia Silva-del-Rio will discuss the top 10 monitoring activities to evaluate with feed tracking software.

**3-3:55pm – Water & Nitrogen Conservation in Cropping Systems**

How do you improve crop nitrogen use efficiency? Dr. Daniel Geisseler will share how you can evaluate your farm's cropping practices and conditions to improve your crop nitrogen use efficiency.

How might you save on irrigation labor and improve your crop water use efficiency? Dr. Khaled Bali will describe modifications to field characteristics and automation of surface irrigation controls that can save labor and water without sacrificing yield.

**4-4:55pm – Solutions for Healthy Herds.**

Still confused about antimicrobial resistance and how it affects animals on-farm? Dr. Terry Lehenbauer will present an overview of how some bacteria have evolved to develop antibiotic resistance.

Calves got bovine respiratory disease (BRD)? Dr. Sharif Aly will unveil a BRD risk assessment tool to help you identify effective management practices to prevent and control BRD.

Curious about implementing selective dry cow therapy? Dr. Emmanuel Okello will discuss the effectiveness of selective dry cow therapy and tools to help you implement it on your dairy.

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## Golden State Dairy Management Conference is March 4 in Modesto!



Don't miss out! Join us on March 4 in Modesto for the latest in California dairy research. Held in even years, this is the University of California's third research conference. We've designed the conference with the producer in mind, delivering information in a "news you can use" format. Our speaker line-up includes University of California Farm Advisors, Specialists and Dairy Faculty on topics relevant to California dairying. Most importantly, the research presented is derived from California data.

Join us for breakfast Wednesday morning (lunch will be served too!) prepared by the Mid Valley Cowbelles. Their food is phenomenal, and they use profits to fund scholarships for local ag kids – a win-win. After breakfast, Alison Van Eenennaam starts the meeting off with a talk on alternative meats – facts vs. fiction. You're sure to leave that talk with a better understanding of the science and a great dinner conversation starter.

Breakout sessions start mid-morning. Room one will focus sessions on by-product feeding, agronomy (with a nutrient management and water focus) and economics. Room two has an animal health theme, including fly and tick control, calf management, and hot topics.

For more information check out the program <https://ucanr.edu/sites/CA Dairy conference/>. We hope to see you in Modesto in March!

## California Dairy Sustainability Summit: March 25-26 in Sacramento

The second California Dairy Sustainability Summit will take place March 25-26, 2020 at Cal Expo in Sacramento.

The event brings together dairy farmers and processors, policymakers, researchers, technology providers, industry leaders, and other key stakeholders to celebrate dairy's important role in a sustainable global food system, recognize achievements to date, and prepare for the future. Through engaging and interactive sessions, the Summit will help producers embrace opportunities and overcome the challenges ahead. To learn more, watch the [one minute video](#) and register today at [www.cadairysummit.com](http://www.cadairysummit.com).

## Air Workshops for Those Who Have Changed Farming Practices Since 2004

Have you added forage acres or replaced forage acres with trees? Producers in the San Joaquin Air District developed Conservation Management Practice (CMP) Plans to reduce dust (Rule 4550, 2004). Your Conservation Management Practice Plan needs to reflect current crops. The San Joaquin Air District is available to help. Ten District workshops will occur between January 23 and March 18. [Workshop information](#) is available for dates, times, locations, and what to bring. It's easier to update your Plan before an Air District inspection finds you out of compliance.

## **Are You Drying Cloth Udder Prep Towels with Heat?**

Daniela Bruno - UCCE Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties

Cloth towels used during udder preparation can be a source of mastitis-causing bacteria. Incomplete laundering practices, specifically insufficient drying, may be the culprit. Recently, a mastitis investigation in a California dairy identified poor laundering practices led to an outbreak caused by environmental bacteria. The dairy was not drying towels and then using damp towels for udder prep. A recent study from University of Minnesota evaluated the relationship between total bacteria count in cloth towels and udder health. They found that drying towels completely, with heat, decreased chances of a high coliform count.

Inappropriate cloth towel management can lead to increased somatic cell counts, clinical mastitis cases, total bacteria counts, treatment costs, and reduced milk production. The milk check impact is less profit due to lost milk production and discarded milk costs. Bottom line: use of damp cloth towels can transmit mastitis-causing pathogens which in turn affects milk quality and jeopardizes milk premiums.

Whether using a laundering service or washing the towels in-house, cloth udder prep towels should be clean, sanitized and most importantly dried with heat. Several labs are set up to culture udder prep towels. If you're having issues in the parlor, testing towels may be advisable.

## **Mental Health is Important**

Deanne Meyer, UCCE Livestock Waste Management Specialist

Winter is a dark time. It's a great time to check in with family members, staff, and friends. This is a quick reminder that we all experience the stressors of life. I recently had some candid conversations with extension colleagues from outside California. We talked about stressors owners and managers face. How to hire and keep good labor. How to deal with the various pending changes in labor. And the list went on. We talked about stressors employees face. That too generated a long list. Central in our conversations was the topic of mental health. If you or anyone you know is stressed please seek out assistance. The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program hosted Dr. Robert Fetsch last summer for a webinar on mental health. The one hour and 27-minute webinar is available for your viewing. I highly recommend this for anyone and everyone working on dairies or working with dairy producers. Also on the same web page is a link to a list of county mental health contacts. Please use this valuable information. <http://cdrf.org/home/checkoff-investments/cdqap/dairy-mental-health-webinar/>

## **Profile of the Animal Science Major at U.C. Davis**

Ed DePeters, Master Advisor for Animal Science

The Department of Animal Science at U.C. Davis is home to 3 undergraduate, academic-major programs including Animal Science (ANS), Animal Science and Management, and Agriculture and Environmental Education. The ANS major is the largest academic major in our department.

In the Fall of 2019, there were 30,982 undergraduates at UC Davis. Of that total student population, 24% were in the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences (CA&ES). In the CA&ES, there are 28 undergraduate academic majors while campus-wide there are over 100 academic major programs.

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How does the ANS major **rank** with the campus-wide 100+ majors at UC Davis in 2019-20?

1. 6<sup>th</sup> largest major (based on number of students) on the UC Davis campus
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> in Underrepresented Minorities in a major
3. 4<sup>th</sup> in First Generation College students in a major
4. 3<sup>rd</sup> for number of Women in a major
5. 5<sup>th</sup> for incoming students as Freshmen
6. 5<sup>th</sup> for incoming students as Transfer Students

The number of students in the ANS major is increasing each year. In 2013-14 there were 961 ANS majors while in 2018-19 the major grew to 1,295 ANS majors, an increase of 35% in just 5 years! Currently, in Fall 2019, there are 1,400 students in the ANS major.

Where do ANS majors go for careers? Veterinary school, graduate school, sales positions, and an incredibly diverse group of careers. The ANS major provides a solid foundation in the disciplines (biology, chemistry, genetics, nutrition, & reproduction) based in animal science so students are well-trained.

There are 33 faculty with teaching appointments in the Department of Animal Science who also advise undergraduates. These faculty also do research and outreach.

Animal Facilities include: Beef Cow/Calf, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goat with cheese plant, Feed Mill, Feedlot, Horse, Meat Goat, Psittacine, Poultry, Sheep, Small Animal Colony, Swine, and USDA Inspected Meat Lab with sales room.

You can obtain more information about UC Davis and the ANS major by visiting our web site:

<https://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/academics/undergrad/advising>

For the younger generation, check out:

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/ucdasac>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/ucdasac>

## **Funds Available for Dairies to Reach 40% Reduction in Greenhouse Gases**

Deanne Meyer, UCCE Livestock Waste Management Specialist

This calendar year you can anticipate \$34 million will be available through the CDFA Dairy Digester and Alternative Manure Management Programs. Solicitations for [dairy digesters](#) or [alternative manure management practices](#) are open with **grant applications due March 27, 2020**. Digesters will receive \$19.9 to 24.5 million. The alternative manure management program will receive \$6.1 to \$10.7 million.

Work with your design team well before the application due date. These applications are no trivial task. You need many documents and much information. Many people have submitted applications in the past. It is doable. It's just not doable at the last minute. Remember, our last dairy newsletter had a list of [UC Cooperative Extension folks](#) available to help you apply for or work through the paperwork of a project.

The Dairy Digester and Alternative Manure Management Programs have been a win-win for California and for dairy farmers. The funds for these programs come from California Climate Investments: our cap and trade dollars at work. At some point this year we'll see a report to indicate how well on target the industry is to hit the 40% methane reduction from manure systems by 2030.



March 4, 2020  
UCCE Stanislaus County  
Harvest Hall  
Modesto, CA

**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

### **California Topics for California Dairies**

Our speaker line-up includes University of California Farm Advisors, Specialists, and Dairy Faculty on topics relevant to California dairying.

### **Who should attend**

Dairy producers, nutritionists, veterinarians, and other members of allied industry who are interested in topics related to dairy production in California.

### **Continuing Education**

ARPAS and CCA credits requested.

**For more information, including the agenda and to register, visit our website:**

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/CA Dairy conference>

**For more information about the program, please contact:**

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# University of California Cooperative Extension California Dairy Newsletter

Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties

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*Daniela Bruno*

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Dairy Advisor - Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties

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