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CALPIA Dairy Re-Awarded Environmental Stewardship Certificate

Program's highest certificate only awarded to 18 percent of dairies statewide

(TRACY) California Prison Industry Authority's (CALPIA) dairy at the Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy has been re-awarded the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program's Environmental Stewardship Certification.

"It is gratifying the dairy at Deuel Vocational Institution has been recertified when only 18 percent of California's dairies achieve this recognition," said CALPIA's General Manager, Charles Pattillo. "Being good environmental stewards also complements employment training for inmates. When inmates better appreciate the public good, they are better citizens when released."

Deuel's dairy sells its award-winning milk to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (including the Division of Juvenile Justice facilities), State hospitals, and the State Veteran's Home. In addition to the Deuel dairy, CALPIA operates a dairy at Corcoran State Prison. The two dairies together employ more than 200 inmates with more than 1,600 milking cows.

In a typical month the two dairies produce approximately 390,000 gallons of milk for distribution to state institutions.

CDQA's certification program is a partnership among California's dairy industry, federal, state and regional government agencies and the UC Cooperative Extension. CDQA has received California's highest and most prestigious environmental award, the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA).

The Environmental Stewardship Partnership Agreement includes a three-step program for facility certification:

Step 1. Education - Dairy producers must complete six hours of water quality and two hours of air quality education courses. CDQAP courses are taught by UC Cooperative Extension and cover environmental issues of particular interest to dairy producers, regulatory requirements, facility evaluation, best management practices and management plan creation.

Step 2. Each dairy producer evaluates their specific farm conditions and prepares appropriate management plans tailored to their facility. Where applicable, required regulatory plans can be used to meet CDQAP management plan requirements.

Step 3. On-site Independent Evaluations - Dairies that have completed the education courses and created farm management plans are eligible for independent third-party compliance evaluations to assess their facilities. Dairies successfully completing the evaluation become certified for environmental stewardship.

CALPIA is a self-financed and self-sufficient state entity that receives all of its revenue from the sale of products it manufactures. The recidivism rate among CALPIA inmates over 25 percent lower than the general prison population, a success attributed to the job skills that they receive by working in CALPIA business enterprises.

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