



Estero Americano Watershed Dairy Enhancement Project

Project Description: The project will assist eligible dairy operators in the Estero Americano Watershed to conduct nutrient management planning and to fund priority infrastructure improvements to enhance water quality protection. The RCD, a local agricultural engineer, and a local dairy educator will work with operators to develop nutrient management plans. The primary components of a nutrient management plan include: a nutrient budget, a facilities and drainage evaluation, soil sampling and analysis, manure sampling and nutrient content analysis, and a land application of manure management system based on soils, nutrient requirements and forage production goals. During the planning process, operators will work with project staff to identify needed infrastructure improvements such as gutter installation, clean water diversions, wastewater collection and containment structures, and manure transfer and distribution infrastructure and equipment that will result in improved water quality conditions in the watershed.

All program participants are encouraged to apply for NRCS, EQIP funding in order to provide cost-share for projects funded under this program. Dairy operators with EQIP contracts will receive comprehensive nutrient management planning assistance through the NRCS, Petaluma Field Office.

Project Goals: 1) To assist dairy operators in the Estero Americano Watershed reach full compliance with current and future water quality standards, 2) to reduce nutrient pollution entering the estuary and its tributaries, and 3) to bolster California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) Environmental Certification.

Project Eligibility Requirements: CDQAP Environmental Stewardship Short-Course, Certification of Participation.

Project Budget:

\$814,100 State Water Resources Control Board, Proposition 50 Dairy Water Quality Grant Program and 30% cost-share.

Project Timeline: July 1, 2006 through March 1, 2009

Project Manager:

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