

Dairy Nutrient Management Annual Report

- **Program accomplishments for the last 12 months**

- Continued timely and effective routine work
 1. Inspections just over 22 month target interval despite backlogs for two newer staff.
 2. Finalized administrative compliance procedures for plan approvals and certifications, including collections process.
- 2010 biennial registration completed and data generated
 1. Shared calculation of nutrient production with agency partners.
 2. Comparison with previous registration data shows decrease in nutrient loading over time by dairies.
- Worked collaboratively with Ecology, Skagit County and Conservation District to provide non-dairy assessments in part of the Samish watershed
 1. Included developing with Ecology an introductory letter and field assessment checklist that WSDA used with non-dairy operations, also worked with County on mapping and tracking field work; 180 landowners, 270 parcels contacted, 2958 acres evaluated.
- Obtained Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Puget Sound Grant (\$50,000) to assess water quality risk of lagoons and have used it to start policy and technical discussions regarding lagoons and groundwater protection.
- Successfully encouraged dairies connected to current dairy digesters to get updated nutrient management plans completed in coordination with Conservation Districts and Ecology staff.
- Hired temporary intern and coordinated with Mary Beth Lang in developing a dairy digester case study report in conjunction with the state energy office bio-energy strategy.

- **Current challenges facing the Dairy Nutrient Program**

- Maintaining current and adequate funding for program.
- Continuing disagreements among agencies regarding agricultural practices and water quality protection complicates interactions on many levels.
- Developing positive relationships with Ecology.

- **Future vision and goals for the next 12 months and beyond**

- Complete the following projects
 1. Lagoon assessment grant and work with NRCS, Conservation Commission and Ecology.
 2. Adoption of Records/Penalty Rule with continuing implementation.
 3. Issue Request For Proposal (RFP) and award grant money for project from penalty account collected by the program.
- Engage in Yakima Ground Water Management Areas (GWMA) partnerships with continuing dairy work and broader nutrient discussions.
- Communications to the public on dairy performance to protect water quality.
- Future discussion on improved implementation of Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Ecology.