



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

September 20, 2009

RE: 2009 Fall Lagoon Assessments

Dear Dairy Operator:

For the past six years the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Dairy Nutrient Management Program staff has been routinely inspecting all of the dairies in Washington State. In addition to routine inspections, in 2005 program staff began evaluating fall lagoon conditions. Proper lagoon operation and maintenance are important to ensure safe storage capacity going into the winter. Our assessment focuses on how full the lagoons are, any build up of solids and the general condition of the dike.

We initially focused on Whatcom County, but expanded to other counties across the state in 2006. This year we will continue to do random visits throughout the state. You are receiving this letter because we plan to be in your area on the dates indicated below. Inspectors may not make it to all facilities that are notified.

<i>Sept. 28-30</i>	<i>Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom County</i>
<i>Sept 28-Oct 1</i>	<i>Grays Harbor, Pacific, Thurston, and Lewis Counties</i>
<i>Oct. 19-20</i>	<i>Spokane and Stevens Counties</i>
<i>Oct. 21-22</i>	<i>Grant, Adams, and Franklin Counties</i>
<i>Oct. 23</i>	<i>Yakima County</i>

Due to the number of facilities that we hope to visit and the short time at each site, we will **not** be setting up appointments for this assessment. We anticipate the assessment will take only 15 to 30 minutes. We appreciate your cooperation in taking a few minutes to meet with the inspector and participate in the assessment of your lagoon. Please have your nutrient management plan available for your inspector. The inspector will document their findings and send a copy to you in the mail.

By doing these assessments now, there should still be time this fall to make proper agronomic applications in order to reduce lagoon levels and to perform any needed maintenance.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the dairy operators for their cooperation and hard work in meeting the goals of the Dairy Nutrient Management Act (Chapter 90.64 RCW).

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Ginny Prest, Lead Inspector, at (360) 902-1928, (vpres@agr.wa.gov) or myself at (360) 902-2894, (nmena@agr.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Nora Mena, Program Manager
Dairy Nutrient Management Program
Washington State Department of Agriculture

Enclosure (1)

cc: Jay Gordon, Washington Dairy Federation
John Larson, Washington Association of Conservation Districts
Mark Clark, Washington Conservation Commission
Jon Jennings, Washington Department of Ecology