



# North Coast RWQCB Set Foundation for Cooperative Relationship with Dairy Community

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GO-Biz recognizes the [North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board](#) (North Coast RWQCB) as a Streamlining Superstar for their efforts to work collaboratively with the dairy community and other stakeholders. Regional board staff worked diligently to understand the business of dairying and the operational constraints dairy farmers must deal with.

And that meant getting boots-on-the-ground to do it.

Water board staff visited dairies to observe dairy operations and interviewed producers to ensure that the program they developed would fit the unique North Coast pasture-based dairy profile. Of the 126 dairy farms in the North Coast area, staff conducted on-site physical assessments for 80, and provided advice and clarity to the farmers along the way. Additionally, staff made significant efforts to be available throughout the process. They also supported and participated in farmer training workshops presented by the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program.

Local chairman of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Animal Resource Management Committee, Donald DeBernardi, stated "For nearly 25 years dairy producers in the North Coast Region have fostered a strong partnership with the regional water board. Through the years, the agency has worked to understand how we operate our farms and in return, dairy producers have been proactive in the protection of water quality. Through this partnership we have been able to work together to implement a results-based regulatory program that rewards dairies for their efforts to maintain high water quality and nutrient management standards. I couldn't imagine doing it any other way and look forward to the continued successes of our partnership with the Regional Board."

The North Coast RWQCB developed a sound, efficient, and cooperative working relationship with the dairy farms they regulate and with other interested parties. All of which benefits the quality and protection of our shared water resource. Their pro-active and collaborative approach makes them a Streamlining Superstar!

For more information on the North Coast Water Quality Program for Dairies, visit this [link](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/dairies/):  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/dairies/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/dairies/).

