April 10, 2001

Bill Zumwalt, Director of Planning
County of Kings
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, California 93230

Dear Mr. Zumwalt:

The Kings County Fire Department is proposing the following minimum standards for dairies in the County of Kings:

1. 20,000 gallons of water to be stored in a tank on site for fire suppression. The storage tank shall be equipped with a pressure system and a float device to keep the tank full at all times. The tank shall also have a 3-inch discharge line with a 2-½ inch National Standard Hose Thread male fitting for fire department connection. The male fitting shall have a cap to prevent accumulation of trash and debris within the fitting. The discharge line shall have a valve capable of controlling the flow of water.

2. Access roads 15 feet in width shall be provided to all structures, water storage and hay storage areas. The roads shall be of an all-weather surface capable of supporting heavy fire apparatus.

3. Hay storage shall not exceed 20 feet in height. Individual stacks of hay shall be limited to 400 tons and shall have a minimum 20-foot separation between aisles and rows of adjoining haystacks.

4. Hay storage shall not be allowed within 100 feet of a structure.

5. Storage of hay within a structure shall be limited to 100 tons. This does not include pole barns.

6. Agricultural shops that have repair facilities may be required to have automatic fire suppression systems installed depending upon operations and size of the structure. Fire hydrants may be required around structures depending upon operations and size.
7. The fire department reserves the right to address requirements on a case by case basis depending upon the hazard and size of the risk involved. The aforementioned standards are only a minimum and more stringent requirements may be applied.

I hope that this will assist you in preparing the dairy standards for the County of Kings, if you have any further need for assistance please feel free to contact me at (559) 582-3211 ext.2884. Thank you for allowing the Kings County Fire Department to address our concerns and needs regarding the dairy standards.

Sincerely,

Michael Virden, Fire Marshal