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In-Line Samplers

In May of 2005, the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) approved a proposal submitted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to allow the use of approved in-line samplers for the collection of regulatory farm milk samples. In the past, the only approved method was for a licensed milk hauler/sampler to sample a bulk tank or silo.

Does this change mean that licensed hauler/samplers will no longer be required? No. Farms that direct load with an in-line sampler will still need hauler/samplers as well as milk tank truck drivers. What the in-line sampler will do, however, is allow dairy farms to direct load milk from the receiver jar, through a chiller, and on to the milk tank truck.

Three brands of in-line sample devices were approved at the 2005 NCIMS. Since sample data from all three samplers met the criteria set up by the NCIMS and the Food and Drug Administration, they are considered to be equivalent to the sample dipper method to collect a representative milk sample for regulatory purposes when installed and operated properly. Each milk producer who plans to install an in-line sampling device is required to provide a protocol detailing the installation and use of the sampler. This protocol must be approved by MDA.

All three samplers share common requirements, such as: the milk must be chilled to less than 45°F prior to loading on the milk tank truck; the chilled milk line must have a temperature recording device; the sampling device and samples must be refrigerated (the sampling device is normally installed in the milk line where it runs through a refrigerator); the connection of the milk line to the bulk milk tank truck must be made from inside the milkhouse (through a door that opens to the rear of the tanker which is sealed to the milkhouse wall by bumper pads); the tanker must be parked on an impervious slab that slopes to drain; the dome of the milk tank

truck must remain sealed during filling, and milk hauler/samplers must to be trained and licensed to properly split the sample collected.

The requirement for sample splitting arises because the samples collected during the filling of each tanker will range from 1-½ pints to 2 quarts, depending on calibration and the brand of sampler. While it is possible to ship such a large sample to a laboratory without splitting it, dairy farm operational requirements, such as on-site drug residue screening necessitates sample splitting. Normal requirements for proper labeling on the sample and temperature control will remain the same. A clean, well-lit work surface for sample splitting is required on each farm that utilizes an in-line sampler.

Milk weights may be determined by use of a certified milk meter in the milk house or at the dairy plant, or by certified scale weights of the milk tank truck.

Educational information about the proper installation and use of in-line sampling devices is being included in MDA's Milk Hauler Training Manual.

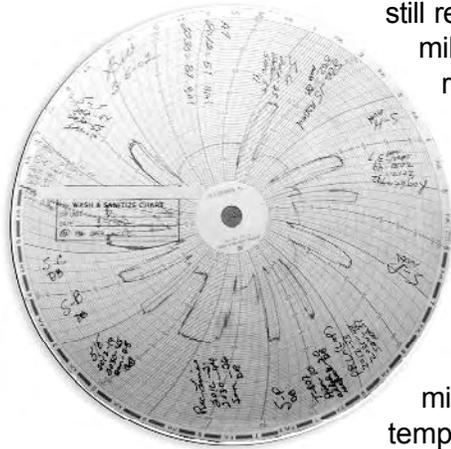
This is just a quick overview of in-line sampler requirements. Michigan currently has eight in-line samplers in use with more planned. If you have questions or are planning to install an in-line sampling device, please contact your local MDA Dairy Inspector or your nearest MDA Regional Office.



Recording Thermometer Requirements

Temperature recording thermometers are becoming more common as new bulk milk tanks or in-line milk sampling devices are installed on dairy farms. With their presence, additional requirements for operation and maintenance fall on the dairy producer, the milk hauler/sampler, and on the MDA dairy inspector.

The Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance requires all new bulk tanks on a dairy farm have a temperature recording thermometer. Indicating thermometers are



still required on all bulk milk tanks even with a recording thermometer. The recording thermometer requires a chart that covers seven days and has a temperature range covering milk storage

temperatures. Proper use of the chart will tell the producer, the hauler/sampler and the inspector that the tank was washed at the proper temperature at least every 72 hours, and the milk was stored at the proper temperature. Additionally, partial pickups may be made of the milk in the tank if the temperature recording chart shows proper storage temperatures. The only other circumstance where partial pickups of milk may be made is if the tank is totally emptied and washed prior to the next milking.

Direct loading of milk from the milking system though a chiller onto the bulk milk tank truck also necessitates the installation of a recording thermometer and an indicating thermometer. In this situation, the recording thermometer and indicating thermometer will be installed in the milk line after the chiller, prior to the milk entering the milk tank truck.

Some of the requirements for a recording thermometer are: meets the requirements of the PMO; changed at the proper frequency; dated and identified as to location and operator; compared to the indicating thermometer and results recorded on the chart once per month and it must be calibrated annually to a reference thermometer. If you have questions, please contact your local MDA inspector or your nearest MDA Regional Office.

MSU Product Center Offers Help for Food Businesses

Whether you are a budding entrepreneur or an established company, you can take advantage of the services offered by the Michigan State University (MSU) Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Product Center offers assistance on product, market, and business innovation to improve economic opportunities in Michigan. The Product Center can help you develop and commercialize high value, consumer-responsive products and businesses. It offers technical expertise, research, outreach, and educational services using a network of professionals from MSU and partnering organizations. These counselors are located around Michigan and will assist businesses at any phase of development from a basic idea, to identifying markets, developing innovative new products, business expansion, helping make critical go/no-go decisions, and providing guidance from market to start-up. For more information, visit the Product Center's website: www.aec.msu.edu/product/

"Be Aware, Be Prepared" Campaign

MDA staff partnered with animal production industry associations and MSU's Cooperative Extension Service to identify practical steps to help farmers better prepare for a wide range of on-farm emergencies. This group launched an informational "Be Aware, Be Prepared" campaign to assist producers to better protect their crops, animals, the foods they produce, their economic livelihood and the food supply. An all-weather placard was developed to communicate key information such as emergency telephone numbers at a glance. The placard summarizes simple steps that can be taken to protect farm operations and identify suspicious events farmers and farm employees should be on the lookout for. MDA dairy inspectors are distributing the bright orange placards when they conduct their routine farm inspections. The placard can be prominently displayed in barns, milkhouses, or machine sheds as an ongoing reminder for farm employees.



**Protecting Food from
Farm to Table**

2005 Enforcement

In fiscal year 2005, the dairy section held 24 compliance meetings and five informal hearings. In addition the dairy section conducted 209 dairy farm permit suspensions. The reasons for these enforcement actions included: drug residues, illegal somatic cell test results, illegal bacteria test results and unsanitary dairy farm or milk processing plant conditions.

The National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments

The 30th NCIMS conference was held May 12-17, 2005 in Columbus, Ohio. The mission of the NCIMS is, "To assure the safest possible milk supply for all the people," and the NCIMS plays a key role in assuring milk safety for consumers. The NCIMS is held once every two years and serves as the mechanism used to update the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) which is used by all fifty states and Puerto Rico to regulate milk safety.

More than 300 people from across the U.S. attended including representatives from Canada, Columbia, and France. One hundred and thirty-four proposals to update the PMO and other conference documents were submitted for consideration. Anyone can submit a proposal to the NCIMS. All proposals are deliberated by one of three councils. The councils, composed of an equal number of industry and regulatory representatives, make recommendations to the voting delegate body. This body consists of state regulatory personnel who have one vote per state.

Some of the key proposals passed by the 2005 NCIMS delegates included: Proposal 233 allowing the use of approved in-line samplers on dairy farms, facilitating the direct loading of bulk milk tank trucks. Passage of this proposal eliminates the need for dairy farmers to purchase a milk storage tank for the milkhouse. MDA's Food and Dairy Division submitted this proposal.

Proposal 241 eliminates the need for a quarterly sample collection from 10 percent of the bulk milk tankers delivering milk to a processing plant when the Department has an effective oversight program for drug residue testing. Passage of this proposal eliminates expensive diversions of milk from processing plants. MDA's Food and Dairy Division submitted this proposal.

Mandatory Cattle Identification Program

MDA has set the date of March 1, 2007, by which all cattle must be identified with Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) electronic ear tags prior to movement from a premises. After that date, animals will not be allowed to move with official metal ear tags or official registered breed tattoos as their identification. This recent change is in support of Michigan's Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program. The use of RFID tags decreases the time and money required to trace animal movement within Michigan.



Michigan will be using the new Animal Identification Number system which allows each animal to be identified with a lifetime number. As animals are bought and sold during their lifetime, the tag is never changed unless lost, and then the animal will be retagged at its current premises.

Before any tag orders can be placed, producers need a National Premises Identification Number. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will assign one permanent number to each premises (location) involved in animal agriculture.

As part of its ongoing efforts to safeguard U.S. animal health, USDA initiated the implementation of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in 2004. The NAIS is a cooperative State-Federal-industry program administered by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. A National Animal ID system will dramatically improve MDA's ability to respond to animal disease outbreaks in a timely and effective manner. The more time it takes to track an animal, the more animals are exposed, the more premises become involved, and the more money it costs to contain the disease. An animal ID system will help animal health officials identify the birthplace of a diseased animal and shorten the time required to trace the animal's history to identify other potentially exposed animals.



For more information contact:
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(517) 241-4339.

Dairy Regional Offices



For the convenience of dairy farmers and those having dairy questions, Michigan is divided into two regions as shown.

West Region

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Questions may also be directed to:

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