

Dairy Regional Offices



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

East Region

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Questions may also be directed to:

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www.michigan.gov/mda



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Food & Dairy Division

Michigan Department of Agriculture

Dairy Digest

Summer 2004



Snapshot of Michigan's Food and Agriculture Industry

by Dan Wyant, Director,
Michigan Department of Agriculture

We are pleased to send you the 2004 Dairy Digest. The diverse people who make possible the dairy story in Michigan—producers, processors, milk haulers, dairy industry people—deserve our thanks. You are a vital part of agriculture in Michigan which contributes \$37 billion annually to the state's economy, making it the second largest industry. Production agriculture and food processing employ about 500,000 Michiganians.

Michigan has about 10.1 million acres of farmland, and the state is home to 53,000 farms of different types averaging 200 acres each. There has been significant growth in the number of small farms over the past few years as well as large farms. More than 40 percent of the state's total farmland is in some form of preservation agreement.

Michigan produces commercially over 125 commodities, second only to California in agricultural diversity.

Michigan leads the nation in the production of nine commodities including tart cherries, blueberries, cucumbers for processing, geraniums and many varieties of dry beans. The state ranks in the top 10 of 28 other commodities.

The dairy industry is a significant component of Michigan agriculture. This state currently ranks eighth in the United States for milk production and fifth in milk production per cow. Michigan is one of only five states that rank in the top 10 in both total milk production and milk production per cow. Dairy continues to be the top-ranking single commodity of Michigan's agricultural industry with annual dairy farm milk sales of over \$800 million.

Thank you for making this possible.

MDA Proposes TB Zone Changes

In order to implement recently granted split state status, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is proposing to revise its bovine tuberculosis (TB) management zones and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. MDA has held a public comment period and hosted multiple public meetings and hearings to obtain additional input on these zones.

Highlights of the proposed revisions include:

- Changing the previous three zones (Infected, Surveillance and Disease Free) to two zones. One new zone will be "Modified Accredited" and incorporates all of the previous Infected and Surveillance zones plus the counties of Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet. The other new zone will be "Modified Accredited Advanced," which incorporates the remaining counties in Michigan's Upper and Lower peninsulas.
- Consistency between state and federal terminology, designations and requirements.

For a copy of the proposed zoning order and map or for more information on the state's overall TB eradication efforts, visit www.michigan.gov/mda or the state's Bovine TB Eradication Project website at www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases or contact MDA at (517) 373-1077 or toll-free at (800) 292-3939.

Since the TB Eradication effort began in Michigan, nearly all of the state's one million livestock animals have been tested for the disease, with no TB found outside of an area in the northern Lower Peninsula.

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Milk Transport

Keep it clean. Keep it cold. Keep it correct. That's what it takes for milk haulers/samplers to be effective at their job.

Keep it clean.

That includes the tanker, the pump, the hoses, valves and sample dipper. The sample dipper, the transfer hose, the pump impeller and the outlet valve are fairly easy to check. Be sure they are clean and in good repair. The hose ends require more fussing, but they are very important for milk quality. The milky residue around the slip joint after the hose has been cleaned is a bacterial garden ready to be sucked into the milk flow when the pump puts the hose under suction. That's why slip joints must be cleaned daily. It may not be enough to spoil a load, but it will definitely affect the quality and shelf life of the pasteurized milk product. Because of receiving bay policies, you may not be able to check the interior of the tanker in the receiving bay. If you suspect cleaning problems because of a lack of hot water, cleaning agent or water pressure, be sure to let the dairy plant manager know. If the plant does not respond, call (517) 373-9743, and MDA can arrange to have the MDA dairy inspector check it out. An annual tanker inspection is part of a dairy inspector's regular responsibilities.

Keep it cold.

Make sure the milk you pick up and transport is 45° F or less and is maintained no higher than that temperature. Make sure the tanker is in proper repair so the milk is properly insulated from the outside temperature. The tank sample must be handled so that it is not contaminated or allowed to warm. Keep water and a refrigerant, such as ice, in the insulated sample case. Use the sample rack and keep the coolant level up close to the milk level in the vials.

Keep it correct.

Pull the tank sample after agitation from each bulk tank pumped onto the tanker. Make sure the producer is identified by the Michigan permit number. If someone other than a licensed milk hauler/sampler is to have access to the samples during transport, the samples must be sealed in their sample storage case. Use tape that will not come off without tearing when the lid of the sample storage case is opened, or by attaching a clasp to receive a numbered seal as is used on tankers. Check with your milk buyer/handler for the kind of tape they recommend, or what other means of sealing and documentation they recommend.

What's new.

Many large farms that direct ship milk have shown interest in installing an automatic milk sampler that samples the milk while direct loading from the chiller onto the transport tanker. Michigan has had one farm that has experimented with an automatic sampler and now a second farm is in the process of collecting data for comparison with bulk tank sampling so the Department can approve the automatic samplers for use. We are also developing guidelines for this process.

Fieldperson Activities

A Certified Fieldperson is an industry employee who is trained and certified to conduct official Grade A dairy farm inspections in the same way a Michigan Department of Agriculture inspector would inspect a dairy farm.

The Grade A Milk Law of 2001 mandated that, in most cases, a Certified Fieldperson needs to be licensed as a hauler/sampler in addition to their regular Fieldperson certification. That sampler licensing information is now in MDA's hauler/sampler database.

In order for a Certified Fieldperson to maintain their status as a licensed sampler, MDA must observe them doing sampling procedures once every two years. If a Certified Fieldperson collects any official sample for monthly counts or for a drug residue follow-up, they must be a licensed sampler for the results of the analysis to be considered official.

Recently, on some Grade A farm surveys, the survey officers came across fieldpersons who were licensed but their most recent inspections were over two years old. While the fieldperson sampler is still licensed and any samples taken by them are considered to be official, the fact that they have not been inspected in the past two years has an impact on the enforcement score for that survey.

For questions about sampler licensing, certification or re-certification for fieldpersons, contact Jon Lauer at (517) 373-9743 or at Lauerj@michigan.gov

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Pasteurization Rules

Pasteurization is the process of heating every particle of milk or milk product to the minimum required temperature (for that specific milk or milk product), and holding it continuously for the minimum required time in equipment that is properly designed and operated, according to the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance. These time and temperature requirements are vital in the safe processing of milk and milk products. Legally defined temperatures and times for processing milk or milk products are increased when the butterfat is 10% or more, when sweeteners and flavorings are added, and when viscosity is increased.

Vat pasteurizer times can never be less than 30 minutes. Milk temperatures are 145°, flavored milks and creams are 150°, and ice cream mixes and eggnog are 155°.

In high temperature short time units (HTST) the time is reduced to 15 or 25 seconds. The temperatures at 15 seconds are 161° for milk, 166° for flavored milk and creams, 180° for ice cream and eggnog. The most commonly used process for ice cream mix and eggnog is 175° for 25 seconds. Thin products in a pipeline flow in a turbulent or mixed stream. Thick products flow in a laminar stream where the center core can be twice as fast as outside edges, thus the time or temperature is increased to compensate.

Producer Security

Producer security is required by both Michigan's Grade A Milk Law of 2001 and Manufacturing Milk Law of 2001 to protect producers from financial loss in the event that a dairy plant cannot pay for its raw milk. All plants in Michigan that serve as a first receiving point of raw milk for processing are required to have producer security. All producers shipping to a Michigan dairy plant are covered by these laws.

While each producer has some responsibility for determining the credit worthiness of the milk plant to which the producer is selling milk, the Grade A Milk Law of 2001 and the Manufacturing Milk Law of 2001 are designed to provide reasonable assurance that producers will be paid for their milk. It is MDA's intent to utilize the law to prevent an imminent threat of financial loss to milk producers. Please notify MDA's producer security coordinator, Shari Blonde, immediately at the number listed below if you experience any default in any milk payment.

If you have questions or concerns about producer security or licenses, please contact Shari Blonde at (517) 373-9741 or at BlondeS@michigan.gov.

Voluntary Johne's Program

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the livestock industry, has implemented the Michigan Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program. Johne's disease is a bacterial disease affecting the digestive tracts of ruminants. Estimated to be present on 30-50% of dairy farms, the disease results in decreased production and increased costs on these farms. Dairy farm operators must focus on specific long-term management practices not only to prevent Johne's disease but to lessen the impact on farms where it already exists.

The new control program focuses on reimbursing private veterinarians to visit your farm and conduct a risk assessment and herd management analysis. This process takes three hours or less to complete. The information obtained can help you focus on the areas that impact the start or spread of Johne's disease on your farm. The program also provides a partial cost offset for specified Johne's testing that assists in herd management plan development or monitoring. A national certification program is available through USDA for interested herds.

If you are interested in participating in the program, contact your herd veterinarian or Jennifer Pickworth at the MDA Animal Industry Division (517) 241-1557 or pickworthj@michigan.gov.

Web Sites for Dairy Information

e-mail us at MDA-info@michigan.gov

www.cfsan.fda.gov/~ear/prime.html all milk safety references, PMO, Memorandums

www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html Federal Register

www.3-a.org/ 3-A standards

www.michiganlegislature.org/mileg.asp?page=print&objName=mcl-Act-266-of-2001 Grade A Milk Law

www.michiganlegislature.org/mileg.asp?page=print&objName=mcl-Act-267-of-2001 Manufacturing Milk Law

www.msue.msu.edu/home/ Michigan State University Extension

www.michigan.gov/mda Michigan Department of Agriculture

www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases Information on Bovine TB and Johnes

www.dairypc.org/ Dairy Practices Council

www.foodsci.uoguelph.ca/dairyedu/home.html Dairy Science and Technology Educational Series from the University of Guelph-Ontario, Canada