



Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

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Dairy Digest

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Food & Dairy Division

Automated Milking Systems

Milk producers in Michigan are expressing increased interest in automated milking systems (AMS). MDARD Milk Safety Inspection staff is working with the Food & Drug Administration (FDA), the Atlantic Midwest Dairy Equipment Review Committee (AMDERC), and AMS manufacturers to resolve mechanical issues unique to AMS, commonly referred to as "robotic milking systems." Dairy Section and FDA staff met with equipment installers and completed a three-farm review of AMS equipment on February 15 and 16 in southwest Michigan. Some possible protection from contamination points were identified during the review, which will help the AMS manufacturers improve systems in the future.

To limit construction and installation issues, all "Intent to Install Equipment" applications and detailed plans must be submitted to MDARD's Dairy Section for review prior to groundbreaking and/or the beginning of construction. This includes all building and equipment construction, whether related to robotic milker installations or any traditional milking system. For more information, contact MDARD's Food and Dairy Division at 800-292-3939 or mda-fooddairyinfo@michigan.gov.

Hauler Identification on Weight Slips

Recent Michigan Grade "A" surveys have shown about half of the farm weight slips do not have hauler/sampler names and ID numbers as required by the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). This information is used to determine whether the hauler/samplers picking up milk from a farm are properly licensed and inspected. Initials alone do not provide enough information.

When hauler/sampler names and ID numbers cannot be found on survey, this results in a debit on the sampling portion of the survey. The name recorded on the weight slip should be the same as the one found on the hauler/sampler's license – not a nickname. The same information is needed if a ledger is used as the milk weight record left on the farm. Inspectors will be debiting Item 23j on routine hauler/sampler inspections if the name and ID number of the hauler/sampler is not recorded on the weight slips or ledger left on the farm.

Certified Industry Farm Inspection Program

During 2011, MDARD's Dairy Section experienced the loss of six staff members due to retirement. Without funding to replace these positions, the Dairy Section, with the cooperation from the dairy industry, instituted the Certified Industry Farm Inspection Program to cover dairy inspections throughout the state. This program, as outlined in Section 5 of the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO), enables Certified Industry Field Representatives (CIFRs) to conduct Grade "A" dairy farm inspections in place of regulatory inspections normally conducted by MDARD staff. In the past, CIFR inspections have occasionally been used in place of the regulatory inspections normally conducted by MDARD staff. However, for the most part, MDARD has had sufficient staff to conduct virtually all of the required on-farm milk safety inspections in Michigan.

Dairy Section staff has oversight of the inspections conducted by the CIFRs as well as the responsibility for training and evaluating these individuals. MDARD conducts routine evaluations of the CIFRs and examines corresponding inspection paperwork. With partial restoration of funding to the Dairy Section, three of the six vacant positions were filled, and the CIFR program was reduced to a nine-county area, effective February 1, 2012. This leaves approximately 77 percent of Michigan dairy farms now under the responsibility of MDARD inspectors.

MDARD Contact Information

Phone:
1-800-292-3939

After Hours Emergencies:
517-373-0440

Email:
mda-fooddairyinfo@michigan.gov

Fax:
517-373-9742

Web:
www.michigan.gov/mda-dairy

Electronic Complaints Submission:
www.michigan.gov/complaints

Licensing/Business Start-up Information:
www.michigan.gov/business

Marketing Information:
www.michigan.gov/mdamarketingguide

Pasteurized Milk Ordinance Streamlined

MDARD's Dairy Program staff led a committee of 24 members from across the nation representing the dairy industry, state regulatory agencies, and the FDA to reduce regulatory duplication for aseptic milk processing plants while maintaining milk safety. The committee developed and implemented a nation-wide program that streamlines PMO requirements for aseptic milk processing. For more information, contact MDARD's Food and Dairy Division at 800-292-3939.

Preventing Contamination in Food Processing Facilities

An increasing number of foodborne illnesses and product contaminations are being linked to bacteria lurking in processing plants and finding their way into finished products. By following several preventative practices, processors can prevent unwanted contamination from entering and moving around processing plants. These include:

- Divide your plant into zones to prevent bacteria from entering, and prevent what does enter from moving to your finished product processing area.
- Determine the bacteria you need to control for -- usually *Listeria* or *Salmonella*. Plants that run dry processes should follow *Salmonella* prevention practices, and plants that run wet processes should follow *Listeria* prevention practices.
- Conduct environmental sampling to determine if you have bacteria that could be contaminating your product. Environmental sampling is considered a much better method of finding potential contamination than just relying on finished product testing.

Visit MDARD's website at www.michigan.gov/mdard and click on "Resources for Industry" to find detailed documents on:

- o Zoning in processing plants
- o Controlling *Listeria* in processing
- o Controlling *Salmonella* in processing
- o Conducting environmental sampling

Dairy Statistics and Enforcement Activity

MDARD dairy inspectors conduct milk safety inspections on all of Michigan's:

- 2,170 farms**
- 84 dairy processing plants, and 36 other dairy facilities
- 1,010 milk haulers
- 704 milk trucks

In FY11, dairy law violations resulted in:

- 221 enforcement letters
- 57 permit suspensions
- 4 informal hearings/compliance reviews
- 2 seizures; \$15,205 in seized products
- \$9,150 in administrative fines collected by MDARD
- Disposal of 860,998 lbs. of contaminated milk (valued at \$173,317)

** *Farm inspections conducted in cooperation with CIFRs.*

New Value-Added Milk Processing Facilities

MDARD's milk safety inspection staff continued to receive inquiries in 2011 from dairy farmers and others who are interested in starting up local, value-added milk processing facilities. These facilities include manufacturers of goat, sheep and water buffalo cheese as well as on-farm milk bottling facilities. The milk safety inspection staff works with these entrepreneurs from the initial planning stage all the way through construction and start-up. A continuing inspection program of these new facilities helps assure a smooth transition from planning to the production of safe, wholesome dairy products. Dairy processing facilities continue to increase in number from 79 in FY10 to 84 in FY11.

Consumer Complaint Hotline

If you see a food-related problem, please report it to the MDARD Food and Dairy Division at **800-292-3939** or through the MDARD website:

www.michigan.gov/mdard

New Dairy Plant Opens in Michigan



MDARD's milk safety inspection staff reviewed and approved plans for a new dairy plant in Coopersville. Staff from MDARD's Milk and Dairy Product Safety and Inspection Program and the Office of Agriculture Development were instrumental in securing the building of the new dairy plant in Michigan. Staff met with company representatives to discuss the requirements for the plant to meet the PMO and USDA milk safety standards for statewide and interstate movement of their milk and milk products. The new plant broke ground in the fall of 2010 and began operation in the spring of 2012.