



Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

Kevin Besey
Director
Susan Esser
Dairy Program Manager

Dairy Digest

Spring 2011

Food & Dairy Division

MDA Adds Rural Development to Mission

Governor Rick Snyder recently signed an executive order officially adding rural development to the department's mission and changing its name to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), effective March 13, 2011. The executive order charges MDARD with integrating resources across government in order to make infrastructure improvements and expand educational opportunities, helping producers of food and other agricultural products anchors in rural communities, as well as providing sustainable, long-term jobs. MDARD will focus on expanding agriculture's role in Michigan's economy by making sure regulations are based on sound science. It will also work to improve customer service by providing technical assistance to food processors and farmers that need help solving permit and regulation issues.

Dairy Processing Plant Expansions

In 2010, MDARD's dairy inspectors worked with several existing dairy processing facilities during their expansions. These processing plant expansions were designed to increase production capabilities and efficiencies. Both traditional and state-of-the-art equipment was reviewed by MDARD for compliance with milk safety requirements. These dairy plant expansions indicate the dairy industry's faith in a continuing, plentiful supply of high quality milk in Michigan and reinforce the reputation for cooperation for which MDARD is known.

Swank Named Pasteurization Specialist

Beth Swank has been promoted to Pasteurization Specialist for MDARD's Dairy Section. Swank has served as a dairy inspector in the Dairy - West Region for the past 17 years, and has 21 years of service. The Pasteurization Specialist is responsible for testing milk pasteurization systems statewide and ensuring compliance with all legal requirements to assure the safety of milk and dairy products for consumers. The Pasteurization Specialist also provides training and guidance to Food and Dairy Division staff relative to pasteurization, conducts industry training, and acts as the statewide pasteurization system resource. Swank replaces Tony Vitu who retired in December 2010. In addition, Paula Dankert was promoted to Laboratory Evaluation Officer.

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/mda**

Promoting Michigan's Dairy Industry

Michigan has seen growth in small, on-farm dairy processing facilities, thanks in part to joint marketing and promotion efforts among the dairy industry, MDARD and academia. Of the 83 dairy processors MDARD licenses, 25 are producer handlers (meaning they process their own milk into value-added dairy products). These on-farm dairies include cow, sheep and goat operations that process and market bottled milk, yogurt and cheese. MDARD participates with the United Dairy Industry of Michigan at promotional activities funded with industry check-off dollars, including Dairy Expo, The Great Dairy Adventure, and June Dairy Month activities across the state. For more info about dairy product promotions and cooperative marketing efforts in Michigan, visit: www.UDIM.org; www.productcenter.msu.edu; www.greatlakesgreatcheese.com; or www.MichiganFarmFun.com.



On-farm cheese maker adding ingredients to pasteurizer.

Marketing Guide Available for Michigan Food and Agriculture Businesses

A new tool designed to assist those interested in starting or expanding a food and agriculture business in Michigan is now available. "Growing Michigan's Future -- A Guide to Marketing Your Michigan Food and Agriculture Products" aims to serve as a one-stop resource guide to help expand and strengthen agri-businesses in the state. The guide includes advice and resources for identifying marketing opportunities, selecting a market, creating a business plan and budget, and meeting regulatory requirements. The guide is available online at www.michigan.gov/mdamarketingguide.

MDARD Contact Information

Phone:

1-800-292-3939

After Hours Emergencies:

517-373-0440

Email:

mda-dairyinfo@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

News for Those Who Move the Milk

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.

What You Need to Know About Back Hauling in Milk Tankers

Milk haulers are facing some of the highest fuel costs in history. These high fuel prices have milk haulers scrambling to find ways to offset costs (e.g., back hauling).

According to Michigan's Grade A Milk Law, back hauling of raw milk after leaving the dairy plant is only permitted if you can wash and sanitize your tank truck, pump, and hoses at a licensed wash facility or an MDARD approved facility. Potable water or other wholesome liquid food products may be hauled if the milk contact surfaces are washed at a licensed wash facility after hauling these products and before picking up raw milk. Pasteurized products may only be hauled in dedicated tankers from dairy plant to dairy plant, and MDARD requires plants to have these tankers identified. A standard operating procedure (SOP) must also be in place, noting which tankers are approved for hauling pasteurized dairy products and how they are washed and sanitized.

Complaints regarding back hauling are handled as a top priority investigation for MDARD to ensure the safety of dairy products. If MDARD learns of any improper back hauling practices, the department will investigate and take appropriate enforcement action. Enforcement could include an administrative fine to the milk transportation company of up to \$1,000 per violation. If the material back hauled in the tanker is found to have contaminated any milk, the milk and dairy products produced from the milk may be subject

to a recall. Dairy plants may decide to hold the milk transportation company liable for the recalled product and any costs or loss involved. In addition, a milk transportation company may be charged with a criminal violation depending on the findings of the investigation.

If you have questions, please contact your MDARD inspector prior to back hauling products other than milk.

Certified Industry Field Representative Dairy Farm Inspection Program Initiated

Because of several recent retirements, and vacancies in the Dairy Section due to budget constraints, MDARD initiated the use of certified industry field representatives to conduct official milk safety inspections on some dairy farms in Michigan to maintain marketing options for Michigan dairy farmers.

Michigan is one of a few states in the U.S. with a Certified Industry Field Representative Dairy Farm Inspection Program. Other major dairy producing states, including Pennsylvania and New York, have had a certified dairy farm inspection program in place for many years.

The requirements of the program are outlined in Michigan's Grade A Milk Law, Manufacturing Milk Law and Section 5 of the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance. The program enables certified industry field representatives to conduct dairy farm inspections in place of regulatory inspections normally conducted by MDARD staff.

Implementation of the program began in December, 2010. As of May 1, 2011, the dairy industry certified industry field representatives are responsible for inspecting about 69 percent of the state's dairy farms. MDARD staff has oversight and conducts audits of the inspections being carried out by the industry. Beginning June 1, dairy farms that currently utilize a certified industry field representative will be inspected by industry and audited by MDARD inspectors.

MDARD staff continues to inspect Michigan's 83 milk processing plants and other dairy businesses, including milk transportation.

Dairy Statistics and Enforcement Activity

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

- 2,200 farms
- 83 dairy processing plants, as well as other dairy facilities
- 813 milk haulers
- 626 milk trucks

In FY10, dairy law violations resulted in:

- 276 enforcement letters
- 91 permit suspensions
- 12 informal hearings/compliance reviews
- 5 seizures; \$11,023 in seized products
- \$11,380 in administrative fines collected by MDARD
- Disposal of 1,442,294 lbs. of contaminated milk (valued at \$239,421)