

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
(DATCP)
DAIRY RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DRAC)
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: February 14, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Center for Dairy Research in Madison and Virtual Teams Meeting

Welcome and Introduction

Call to order:

Adam Brock called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Open meeting notice:

Adam Brock stated the meeting is a public meeting. The open meeting notice has been posted.

Roll Call:

Members in attendance: Andy Johnson, Bob Wills, Dawn Walter, Jessica Hansen, Gloria Joseph, Jeff Kirchberg, Ben Shibler, Nelson Schrock, Helen Schmude, Jacquie Papple, Peter Hesprich, Adam Brock, Tim Neubauer, Kristen Houck, Joe Miller, John Umhoefer, Jason Mugnaini, Mick Homb, Jim Schwartz, Alex O'Brien, Scott Rankin, Laura Traas, Joe Myers, and Norm Monsen

Others in attendance: Dean Hines, Rebekah Sweeny, Danya Teiwes, Caston Olson, Kate Angeles, Amy Millard, Mary Rollins, Troy Sprecker, Max Huebner, Andrea Northwood, and Michelle Steinmetz

Members not in attendance include: Lisa Torkelson, Daniel Smith, Shelly Mayer, Tom Crave, James Baerwolf.

Approval of agenda:

Alex O'Brien made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Kristen Houck. The agenda was approved.

Approve previous meeting minutes:

No corrections to the previous meeting minutes for the DRAC October 19, 2022 meeting. Scott Rankin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Gloria Joseph. Meeting minutes were approved.

Public comments:

There were no public comments.

Membership Updates:

The committee welcomed Jason Mugnaini for Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Pete Hesprich for Wisconsin Association of Dairy Plant Field Representatives.

DATCP Update

Laura Traas presented the DATCP Update (**see slides from DATCP Update 2-14-2023**) and started with sharing the personnel changes within the Dairy Section. DATCP has sadly lost Milk Sanitation Rating Officer (MSRO) Patrick Zaffino. DATCP has gained 4 new sanitarians: Samantha Solin, Jonae Peterson, Michael Mezera, and Jackie Owens. Michelle Steinmetz has accepted the Dairy Technical Specialist (DTS) supervisor position and Kate Angeles has accepted the MSRO/Laboratory Evaluation Officer (LEO) supervisor position. There is 1

sanitarian, 1 DTS, 1 LEO, and 1 MSRO vacancy. There are 3 sanitarians, 1 LEO, and 1 MSRO still in training.

ATCP 82 is going to the DATCP board meeting on March 2, 2023. There were ATCP 82 issues identified at the first DRAC meeting:

- Overfilled sight glass-doing a stick reading
- Silos on farms
- Sanitizing and inspecting tanks
- How to determine proper agitation
- Avoiding last minute changes on capital projects

There is no guarantee DATCP can address all these items into the new rule. There is a need to address new technology and still protect and preserve food safety and fair trade practices.

The secretary's office has given DATCP approval to talk with industry about performance based farm inspections (PBFi). DATCP would like to request DRAC's help to coordinate this process. DATCP would like input from farms (large, medium, and small) and cooperatives

Laura discussed the new FDA multi-drug raw milk monitoring program. The purpose is to gather data on the prevalence of non-beta-lactam drug residues in Grade A raw milk. The intent of the project is to collect 600 raw Grade A cow's milk Bulk Milk Pickup Tanker samples per year for 3 years. These samples will be analyzed in an FDA milk certified laboratory. Each state will collect a pre-determined number of samples that is based on the milk production of that state. There will be no enforcement action taken on a positive test result. Samples will be double blinded to ensure anonymity with no means of traceback or trace forward. Each sample will be tested for 19 animal drug residues representing 8 drug families: Aminoglycosides, Amphenicol, Anti-parasitic, Fluoroquinolones, Macrolides, NSAID, Sulfonamides, and Tetracycline.

Question: Why is FDA going through this extensive project?

DATCP: FDA was receiving concerns that there is the potential for missing other drugs (besides beta-lactams) and that may be affecting food safety. FDA is hoping that this project will prove that the other drugs aren't a huge concern.

The National Conference of Interstate Milk Shipment (NCIMS) is scheduled for April 3-7, 2023. The proposals have been released and DATCP can share the proposals if anyone is interested.

The first two quarters of testing has been completed for the FDA grant on the testing of soft Hispanic style cheese for *Listeria monocytogenes*. All testing has been negative.

FDA has starting discussing traceability. FDA is looking at having traceability from the time the product leaves the facility until it reaches the consumer. This will be a new requirement and we will need to look at what FDA will be requiring.

Question: Does DATCP want DRAC to set-up a sub-committee to address the traceability

DATCP: At this point, not yet but DATCP will be willing to participate if DRAC would like to

Question: Will this affect raw product also?

Alex O'Brien: FDA is targeting certain products and has a Food Traceability List. Semi soft cheese made the list. FDA is not targeting milk to have traceability back to the farm. The FDA website shares the basics.

Question: If a producer uses my cheese to make a three cheese blend, I wouldn't need to know what they are doing in the front end.

Adam Brock: Correct.

Subcommittee Updates

John Umhoefer reported that the Pasteurizer sub-committee met on February 6th, 2023. The DATCP Emergency Sealer Pilot Program has had some setbacks with staffing changes. Participants in the pilot program have had training by Dr. Rankin and have also submitted their SOPs. The next step is to be approved by a DTS on their pasteurizer. This can be scheduled on the day of a DTS inspection. Candidates will only be tested on the most complex pasteurizer in the plant.

This will be mandatory for Grade A processors but will be optional for Grade B who are not producing any Grad A products. If a plant makes a Grade A cream or whey, participation in this program will be required. DATCP will still be accepting phosphatase test results. Some plants do not have a detailed SOP available on what to do with a broken seal. There are a couple plants that are willing to share their broken seal SOP with others. There needs to be more participation in the pilot program from industry.

The sub-committee discussed Electronic pasteurizer controllers. There are two technologies being tested. FDA will be sending out generic approvals for the new pasteurizer controllers instead of going system by system. There would need to be an update for the PMO for this. Laura Traas will look to see if current proposal can be tweaked for the upcoming NCIMS conference. If FDA sends out a M-a or M-I, then Wisconsin could issue a guidance for approval at the state level.

Question: Would outside vendors and contractors be able to participate?

DATCP: Yes, the PMO states "employed by the plant" and DATCP views that a third party contract would be acceptable.

Alex O'Brien gave an update for the phosphatase sub-committee. The sub-committee is looking to find a chemical that is more stable potentially, gamma glutamyl transferase. Currently the sub-committee is still looking for funding. CFR 121 133 for the phenol component has to compare to phosphatase. The subcommittee isn't getting much interest on this topic from FDA at this point.

Vote for next term positions

The following stakeholders have expiring terms: Lisa Torkelson, Jessica Hansen, Ben Shibley, Nelson Schrock, and Jacquie Papple. Bob Wills mad a motion to renew everyone term for the next two years. The motion was seconded by Tim Neubauer.

Member Concerns

Tim Neubauer: We might be involved in a pilot program looking at the traceability from the milk to the plant.

One issue milk haulers are coming across is counties wanting to issue permits for the routes of milk trucks. It is concerning if one county does it and then other counties would follow this model. This would be a huge financial burden for the haulers. With the spring/thaw and heavy loads, the haulers need to be efficient. The haulers are trying to get on an exempt list. We have a

lot of backing from law makers and associations. Please contact Tim if you would like to help with this issue.

Bob Wills: Has there been any more discussion on the 24 hour rule with cheese curds? Is that moving forward?

Alex Obrien: Yes, CDR has had some discussions and are going through some of the details. We would like to involve industry to discuss the risks associated with this.

Question: Since it is a rule, should we have a sub-committee?

Adam Brock: The last outbreak was in 1998. We need to balance how to protect the economic part and food safety.

Alex O: There has been a study with E.coli but nothing with Salmonella, Listeria, or Staph. I think we would need to take these steps with cheese curds.

Question: What would the goal of the sub-committee be?

Alex O: Being able to increase the time of the rule

Ben Shibler: This would help industry on the distribution chain and on the times the cheesemakers need to come in.

Alex O: There would need to be a standard of identity and we would need buy-in from the curd makers. There is no data on the current rule. In the past, it looks like a compromise occurred and the 24 hour rule was agreed upon with no data to back it up.

Scott Rankin: In the face of FISMA, it may be good to revisit this item.

It was decide to table this point and discuss at the next meeting.

Adam Brock: PFAS has the potential to affect industry. This may need to be looked at in the future and will need a higher level of discussion. There is not a standard test for milk yet. Be aware of any documents you sign that uses language saying there is no PFAS in your product. I don't think there is a need for a sub-committee at this point.

The committee formed a Performance Based Farm Inspection (PBFI) Sub-committee. Pete Hesprich will be the Chair of this sub-committee. John Umhoefer, Adam Brock, and Andy Johnson have also volunteered to be on this sub-committee. DATCP is looking for input from a diverse set of farmers.

Summary of Action Items and Person(s) Responsible

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin will be hosting the next meeting on Wednesday June 28th, 2023 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Foremost Farms will be hosting the fall DRAC meeting on Thursday September 7th, 2023 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Tim Neubauer motioned to adjourn meeting. Bob Wills seconded. Motion passes.

Meeting ends at 10:32 am.