



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Division of Food and Recreational Safety

May 27, 2020

Information on Resuming Dairy Operations

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Dairy Services Section staff will resume modified operations the week of June 1, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all dairy staff—except dairy technical staff—have been staying safer at home but continued supporting the dairy industry by phone or electronic communication.

A return to inspection work plan has been developed with the goal of providing a consistent and measured approach. This approach is based on a combination of FDA Grade A Dairy Inspection Priority Guidance, CDC Guidelines, and industry requests for licensing inspections. It will be a few months before we return to operations that may be considered normal. Each phase of the rollout plan will be communicated to industry before it is implemented.

Beginning with the Phase 1 rollout, surveys will resume on June 1, 2020. On June 4, 2020, dairy farm inspections will resume. We will focus on milk producer inspections that were missed in March, April and May, which will be considered routine inspections, along with the pending June 2020 farm inspections. We will also conduct licensing inspections for milk producers, including the licensing inspections for milk producers who received a temporary license during in the last few months.

Phase 1 work also includes administering onsite permitting inspections to bulk milk weigher and samplers (BMWS) who were issued temporary

permits since March. New BMWS applications will also be processed. We will continue to issue temporary permits for new tanker applications without an inspection until we enter the next phase of the rollout plan.

Finally, under Phase 1, sanitarians will conduct Appendix N monitoring using a modified process at Grade A dairy plants and confirmation labs. This process includes Grade A receiving stations and transfer stations. Appendix N monitoring at Grade B only plants will resume next quarter.

It is important to understand that we will be taking measures to protect both staff and industry during the Phase 1 rollout. All of our staff will be issued personal protective equipment including face coverings and hand sanitizer. When possible, we will maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet; practice appropriate personal hygiene; refrain from bringing laptops into the milkhouse; and follow department guidelines for sanitizing our footwear.

DATCP requests your assistance by sharing this Phase 1 plan with others in industry who may not receive this notice directly. We also ask that industry maintain social distancing when you work with us. Most importantly, we ask for your continued patience as we work our way through this pandemic.

Should you have any questions regarding the Phase 1 rollout, please contact your appropriate dairy staff or their supervisor directly.



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