

**Meeting:** Wisconsin Dairy Rules Advisory Committee  
**Division:** Food and Recreational Safety  
**Date & Time:** June 8, 2022 9:00 am to 11:00 am  
**Location:** CROPP Coop/ Organic Valley  
One Organic Way La Farge WI 54639  
*\* Lunch will be provided by Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. Please RSVP to Kate Angeles if you plan on attending in-person.*

## **Agenda**

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**8:30-9:00 AM**

### **Networking**

**9:00-9:15 AM**            **Welcome/Call to order**

A. Open Meeting Notice

B. Roll Call

- Kate Angeles, Bob Wills, Dawn Walter, Dean Hines, Gloria Joseph, Jeff Kirchberg, Caitlin Jeidy, Jim Schwartz, Joseph Miller, Kristen Houck, Kara Kasten-Olson, Lisa Torkelson, Mick Homb, Amy Millard, James Pikka, Mary Rollins, Troy Sprecker, Steve Stoner, Andy Johnson, Helen Schmude, Max Huebner, Laura Traas, Tim Anderson, Adam Brock, Alex O'Brien, Tim Neubauer, Gloria Joseph, Nelson Schrock

C. Meeting Minutes Approval

- Approved

D. Agenda Approval

- Approved

E. Public comments

- Statement made by the group to request and encourage open discussions and participation during these meetings
- Request to have members of industry give us a short (2 minutes or less) update on how everything is going
  - **Mick:** Don't believe customers have gone full tilt summer mode. Still hearing that it is hard to find people to drive milk trucks and fill positions. Safety precautions still being taken in the interest of health. Majority of people want to take it a week at a time or a couple weeks at a time rather than a 1, 5, or 10 year plan. Still feeling the impacts of COVID, but producing the same volume of product. Questions about plant shutdowns; still unknown as to what will happen in the future
  - **Tim N:** Adding to what Mick said – many challenges with hauling milk. Shortage of haulers, difficulty purchasing new or used trucks, hard to get parts to fix current trucks. Now that school is out, cheese factories are overfilled and transport is being held up – one breakdown can back them up hours. Plants are getting so old and overcapacity, industry is finding some extreme challenges. Milk hauler owners are getting out of the business due to these challenges and shortages. Sees a backup at receiving. Expenses getting much higher with the rising cost of fuel and other items. Drip sampling on direct ship farms is far too expensive and needs too much training; not sure if farmers will volunteer to do this very easily; will want to have more discussions about this moving forward.
  - **Gloria:** Seeing similar problems across the county as noted by Tim. Purchase of Baker Cheese is a pretty big impact in WI that we need to discuss. Changes in the dairy landscape can affect us all. Not seen the uptick in spring business that is usually seen. Know of 2 plants that are adding several more silos to be able to hold and process more product. The lead time on additional fillers is 2 years currently compared to 6-8 months previously.
  - **Adam:** Be sure to protect our brand and the greater brand of Wisconsin Dairy.
  - **Nelson and Albert:** Biggest issue is how to pass on the rising cost of doing business on to the consumer and finding the resources needed to endure these times. Not protecting margins is the best way to get out of business.

## A. ATCP 82 Rule update

- Scope statement has been drafted and is in internal review; will be sent to the Secretary's office for review and approval soon
- DRAC group will be notified of any upcoming public hearings or impact

## B. Covid and Survey Scores

- Economic disruptions, supply chain issues, milk disposal discussions are still ongoing; production quotas were discussed as well
- Decision was made to follow ATCP rules and only re-inspect for key violations and double debits and not re-inspect for more than 5 non key violations
- We have seen several BTU enforcement failures – this is a reflection of the Department as much as the plant. Options are being considered to correct this, however there may not be any immediate changes in the short-term
  - Q: Would this include federal enforcement failures? A: Yes.
  - Q: Where do water samples come into this? Concerns that late results have caused failures for farms. A: Would fall into the sanitation and enforcement score.
  - Q: Is it still policy of inspections that if there are 6 or more violations, is it still sanitarian discretion for a re-inspection? A: If they find a key violation, they are supposed to mark a re-inspection. If there are 5 or more non critical items, the PMO requires re-categorization – however we are not currently re-categorizing.
  - Andy had some additional questions about how the changes in re-categorization would impact survey (sanitation and enforcements) scores and failures; more discussions will be had regarding this topic moving forward to provide additional clarification.
    - Feeling is that stressors are not being removed but rather delayed – DATCP staff feels they have seen a reduction in stressors but understands that may not be universal. Would like to see this discussed further in DRAC meetings
- CDC guidance is still being followed by the Department with regards to COVID testing and reporting

## C. Emergency sealer update

- With certified industry timer sealer staff:
  - Immediately notify state of the time of shut down
  - Break the seal
  - Assess and make needed repairs
  - Obtain permission to reseal equipment
  - Run appropriate PMO test procedures
  - Apply temporary industry seal
  - Go back to production
  - State to reseal within 10 days
- Program benefits:
  - Plant staff trained to better deal with pasteurizer issues.
  - Properly completed broken seal report.
  - Ability to run Appendix I test procedures.
  - Apply an industry seal.
  - Phosphatase testing is optional, not required
  - Brings Grade A facilities into compliance with the PMO.
  - Plant is in control of its product and process.
  - **This all equals less product placed on hold or diverted when broken seals occur.**
- Pilot Program
  - 4-5 different plants are in the pilot group
  - Initial plan was for a soft start
  - We will assess the process and make any needed adjustments
  - Move forward with volunteers
  - Our priority is to the plants invited to the pilot
  - We will evaluate the process before moving forward
    - Q: Mentioned one pilot company had dropped out, why? A: Change in production and ownership
    - Q: Is phosphatase testing is optional and not required, are having the SOPs in

place sufficient? Do we need to show sanitation results? A: DTS staff will check all the equipment, and if it is found to not be in working order there will be ramifications. If the plant sealer has done their job, and everything is found to be in order, then there is no problems. They will be getting checked

D. Updates on staffing changes were provided by Tim Anderson – 3 retirements and 3 current open positions; 5 new staff have recently started their positions

E. Celebrate June Dairy Month

- Tim Anderson provided details on the number of licenses and inspections that took place for calendar year 2021
  - Q: Do we have guidelines on cleaning requirements for bulk tanker facilities? A: We will see if we can provide more information
- Took time to reiterate the Departments vision and mission
  - **Vision:** Ensure Wisconsin Dairy products are produced and distributed following state and federal regulations to produce a safe and quality dairy product.
  - **Mission:** DATCP Dairy Section is responsible for implementation of state and federal programs for all dairy farm and dairy plants including licensing, inspection, technical reviews, personal licenses and grading services.

### **10:00-10:30 AM          Sub-committee Updates**

A. Pasteurizer sub-committee (John Umhoefer)

- Reiterates the benefits for the program discussed earlier in the meeting
- Met on April 21, 2022
  - Dr. Rankin spoke about the program itself at the meeting; discussed the requirements for completing the program and earning a certificate
  - Discussion about not having an SOP for the process; the group worked together to share their processes
  - Discussions regarding the flow of the program; surveyed industry about the amount of people who would be interested in the program and found promising numbers
  - Goal is to set up a list of requirements so anyone who is interested in participating in the program has the necessary knowledge to do that
  - CDR and DATCP have worked on and are continuing to work on resources to assist with this process
  - Discussed what you can do when your product is on hold (market channels for product, WDATCP looking into better nomenclature to describe product on hold)
  - Discussed product phosphatase testing, along with electronic records and how they can be utilized in situations of broken seals

B. Phosphatase testing methods for cheese (Alex O'Brien)

- Met 3 times over the past 6 months (last meeting in March)
  - Approved method that is out there is out of date and nobody is currently using it
  - Looking to see if they can validate other methods; however, there are some issues that need to be considered and addressed prior to this occurring
  - One other option is currently being researched which is slightly more stable than phosphatase, however there is still more work necessary and some hurdles to get past before it becomes an option for industry
    - Currently working with the biochemistry department with UW to review potential other options that are available

### **10:30-11:00 AM          Member Concerns (members can bring forth issues to the committee)**

- No additional concerns mentioned

### **11:00 AM                  Summary of Action Items and Person(s) Responsible**

A. Next meeting date and location

- Looking at October for the next meeting
  - October 19<sup>th</sup>
- Location Options for the Meeting
  - Will continue to talk through our network to schedule

- Feel free to contact Max Huebner or Kate Angeles with options
    - Potentially the new CDR conference room
- B. Wrap-up and summary
  - Further discussions and action items from this meeting will continue to be discussed with this group
  - Notes for the meeting will be coming in the next few weeks
- C. Adjourn
  - Meeting adjourned

**11:30 AM**

**Lunch provided onsite by Dairy Farmers of WI**