

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

Date: June 20, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual Teams Meeting

Welcome and Introduction

Call to order:

Alex O'Brien called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM

Open meeting notice:

Alex O'Brien stated the meeting is a public meeting. The open meeting notice has been posted.

Roll Call:

Members in attendance: Laura Traas, Alex O'Brien, Pete Hesprich, Ben Shibler, Dawn Walter, Jessica Hansen, Helen Schmude, Mick Homb, Andrew Johnson, Jason Mugnaini, Gloria Joseph, Brandon Jonson, Jacquie Papple, Shelly Ritschard, Kristen Houk, Elmer Schmucker, Bob Wills, John Umhoefer

Others in attendance: Max Huebner, Michelle Steinmetz, Jim Pikka, Mary Rollins, Adam Brock, Troy Sprecker

Approval of agenda:

Gloria Joseph made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Bob Wills. The agenda was approved.

Approve previous meeting minutes:

No corrections to the previous meeting minutes for the DRAC February 15, 2024 meeting. Gloria Joseph made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Bob Wills. Meeting minutes were approved.

Public comments: There were no public comments made.

DATCP Update

Laura Traas presented the DATCP Update (see slides from DATCP Update 6-20-2024) and started by stating that a number of the things to be discussed are in the process of being developed so there may be more information to come.

Staffing Update: Sarah Carufel has joined in the Northwest Region (Sanitarian). The only remaining vacancy is a Dairy Technical Specialist Position. Some Sanitarian regions in the South have shifted slightly. Newer DATCP staff continue to move through their training program.

H5N1 Update: No current viable positive tests in the state of Wisconsin. This is an ongoing issue and Laura is regularly discussing this topic with the FDA and other parties. The FDA previously took around 300 samples, 60 of which were positive for the presence of virus particles but none had a viable virus. All the samples were grade A pasteurized samples, which is the first indication that pasteurization was an effective means of combating the virus. All of this information (and more) is available on the FDA website. On June 6th of this year, the FDA

released a letter recommending against the consumption of raw milk, and the letter is on the FDA website. The FDA this week began additional finished product sampling to “fill in the gaps” – in the previous sampling program, some states and some products were excluded. They will focus on testing butter, ice cream, and other things that fall outside of the grade A program. The FDA has indicated that they intend to pull some raw milk cheese samples as part of this finished product sampling. Laura discussed her concerns with this option, since we are unclear what would happen if a positive sample is found. We are not sure if the virus would be able to survive the 60 day ageing process. There have been discussions about the FDA pulling raw milk samples. The FDA is also doing testing of pasteurization systems to verify that it is effective against the virus.

- Here is the link to the FDA website: [Updates on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) | FDA](#)
- Here is a link to the DATPC HPAI News Release: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/InfluenzaATestingMovementofLactatingtoFairsExhibitions.aspx
- Here is a link to the DATCP Biosecurity Standard: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/BasicBiosecurity.aspx
- Here is a link to the Secure Milk Supply Plan: <https://securemilksupply.org/milk-producers/biosecurity/>
- Here is a link to the NMPF Biosecurity Guidance: <https://nationaldairyfarm.com/dairy-farm-standards/farm-biosecurity/>

ACaSS Wording Update: The five year time limit is no longer. It was found that some ACaSS plans were going beyond the five year limit without renewal, and after reviewing those it was determined that language was not necessary. The new language moves the time limit to “as long as the dairy plant operator can show department personnel that they remain in compliance with 21 CFR 117.170”. Every three years, the Food Safety Plans need to be reanalyzed in its entirety – not just the ACaSS portion. In addition, applicable portions of the plan must be reanalyzed when new information about potential hazards becomes available or if there is an unanticipated food safety problem.

ATCP 82 Update: The group has completed the draft. We are currently in a holding pattern while we develop the documents that need to go through the administrative process. This will take a bit of time, since we will need to review the entire document and specifically note each change made to the current draft. Once this is complete, it goes on for additional administrative review.

Other Items: The second year of testing soft fresh Hispanic style cheese is complete with no notable findings. The double blind drug residue testing is still ongoing. The EPA set a limit for PFAS in drinking water, and the testing procedures are made for drinking water – nothing has been done for milk at this time. We may be asking DRAC members to complete the public records training again. This group may be changing from a COMMITTEE to a COUNCIL – this may not change the meetings much, however it will impact the ways members are nominated and how terms are determined.

Subcommittee Updates

John Umhoefer reported that the Pasteurizer sub-committee has not had a meeting since the last DRAC meeting. The group has the tools to pursue the Emergency Testing and Sealing program, but it appears that the process has stalled with industry. Michelle Steinmetz adds that we have not had any new applicants, but we are in discussions with some of our larger grade A facilities who were initially avoided. They are beginning the first steps, so we will see how this goes. DATCP has a few guidance documents that they send out to interested parties as we talk with them about

the program. John Umhoefer stated that he is happy to assist with the marketing of this program so we can get the word out, and Michelle agrees this would be a good idea.

Alex O'Brien gave an update for the phosphatase sub-committee. The group has met twice since the last DRAC meeting, including with a Charm representative. They are working on developing best practices documents that covers all aspects of the process. Charm is putting together a validation study for frozen milk sampling to see if there is any issues with pasteurization.

Member Concerns

Wood Board Variance: Getting a lot of questions on what is allowed as a sanitizer for wood boards. Industry has been using certain sanitizers for a while, but there are not studies specifically analyzing how these sanitizers work on wood boards. Is this something that we need to have a study on, or would the existing studies with other materials than wood be applicable? Would we want to test various sanitizers while we are at it? Would we want to make a subcommittee for this? Wood is not considered one of the sanitary materials in ATCP 65, so if industry wants to use wood boards as a food contact surface, they need to receive approval from the Department. There are other sanitizers that work and have been approved for wood boards, so industry members effected by any decision would have other options available to them. DATCP does have a record of all variances available, however DATCP does not have an easy way to get specifics on how many of the variances were issued for wood boards. Alex O'Brien will work with industry on other options besides a subcommittee to cover the concerns here.

DPC Meeting: Michelle Steinmetz let the group know about the upcoming Dairy Practices Council (DPC) meeting. DPC creates and maintains a number of guidance documents and other materials for industry. The meeting this year takes place in Madison on October 29th and 30th, and on the 28th there will be a workshop on pumps and valves. An agenda will be coming out soon, and the website will go live with opportunities to attend this conference. Michelle wanted to encourage anyone interested in the meeting or the content to attend.

Recalls: Alex O'Brien encouraged anyone who has issues with outbreaks or recalls to reach out to CDR – they have a number of resources available including guidance and studies on how to handle these situations and they are happy to help if requested.

No other member concerns were raised at this time.

Summary of Action Items and Person(s) Responsible

Next Meeting- Tuesday October 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The location is TBD.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gloria Joseph, seconded by Alex O'Brien.

Meeting ends at 10:42 a.m.