

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

Date: June 10, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Organic Valley Corporate Office, Virtual Teams Meeting

Welcome and Introduction

Call to order:

Gloria Joseph called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Open meeting notice:

Gloria Joseph stated the meeting is a public meeting. The open meeting notice has been posted.

Roll Call:

Members in attendance: Alex O'Brien, Pete Hesprich, Elmer Schmucker, Errin Nondorf, Helen Schmude, Andrew Johnson, Gloria Joseph, John Umhoefer, Scott Rankin, Shelly Meyer, Kristen Houck, Tim Anderson, Ben Shibler, Jennifer Wickman, Mick Homb, and Jason Mugnaini

Others in attendance: Tyson Villarreal, Adam Brock, Troy Sprecker, Kate Angeles, Michelle Steinmetz, Jim Pikka, Mary Rollins, Justin Jafferis, Kathy Carlson, Amber Kafferty, Peter Kimball, Brian Wiegand,

Approval of agenda:

Scott Rankin made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Pete Hesprich. The agenda was approved.

Approve previous meeting minutes:

No corrections to the previous meeting minutes for the DRAC February 11, 2025 meeting. Meeting minutes were approved.

Public comments: There were no public comments made.

DATCP Update

Tyson Villarreal presented the DATCP Update (see slides from DATCP Update 06-10-2025).

Overview of the Dairy Section Services webpage: [DATCP Home Dairy Services](#) offers useful information regarding licensing questions, DATCP contact information, and support email mailbox for industry to send questions to .

ATCP 82 Update: The rule is in the final step and is waiting for approval by the state legislature. The requirement for cleaning the exterior of the tanker was added back into the rule and was restored to the previous wording.

H5N1 Update: DATCP has started surveillance of H5N1. Animal Health will update sampling results weekly via their webpage: [DATCP Home Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(H5N1\) in Dairy Cattle](#). A [news release](#) was sent to industry with information on the National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS) and industry guidance for if a positive sample occurs. DATCP is currently in Stage 2 of the NMTS.

Q: When will sample testing be determined to no longer be needed? A: The goal is to go from Stage 2 to Stage 4 in the NMTS. It will take 3-4 cycles before Wisconsin will have enough data. The hope is by end of August, DATCP will have enough sample results to submit to USDA for review.

Q: Any situations in other states where abnormal milk is being disposed of? A: Not aware of any situation.

Testing of raw milk cheese for salmonella, EHEC/STEC, L. mono have returned no positive test results to date. Drug residue testing will resume in July. The drug residue testing was paused for January to June 2025. FDA still wants a full year of samples so DATCP will be doubling the sampling efforts. DATCP will be taking 7 samples from 7 different loads of milk. DATCP will be contact plants to schedule the sampling. Samples will be double blinded.

NCIMS will have the FDA concur/non-concur meeting in October. The next NCIMS conference will be in St. Louis, MO in 2027.

Plan Review Requirement Reminders: For Dairy Farms, the installer needs to submit plan review for any alterations that may be made (ATCP 65.1(6)). ATCP 65.15 requires a statement that certifies compliance. This certificate/letter should be maintained with the farm inspection records for easy access by the sanitarian. For Dairy plants, ATCP 65.24(19) requires a plan review for any alteration to floors, walls, ceilings. For CIP or adding equipment to existing CIP systems, ATCP 65.30 requires a plan review. Please send plan reviews to: datcpdfsplanreview@wisconsin.gov

Wood Board Variances: If a plant is using wood boards, the facilities need a variance on file with DATCP. The dairy technical team will help industry through this variance process.

BMWS Fairground events: Please make arrangements prior to September 30th. Inspections are done one at a time.

Staffing Update: There is one vacant Advance Sanitarian position with 3 sanitarians still in training. The Dairy Technical Specialist team is fully staffed. The Milk Sanitation Rating Officer team has one MSRO still in training. Laura Traas will be transferring to a Laboratory Evaluation Officer position on July 14, 2025. Tyson Villarreal is the new Dairy Section Manager and will be the point of contact starting July 14, 2025.

Subcommittee Updates

John Umhoefer reported for the Pasteurizer sub-committee. Michelle Steinmetz and Scott Rankin gave an update of the certification of emergency resealer program. There has not been much participation from industry. The UW online training program (checkout.teachable.com/secure/1114015/checkout/order_wn40hblm) has had a slow response but specific plants are focused on getting this training done. DATCP has communicated with a couple plants that are planning on starting but are still in the process of purchasing the equipment. It will be mandatory for Grade A pasteurizers. ATCP 65 doesn't require the emergency resealer program yet, so DATCP can't enforce it. The Committee discussed bottleneck concerns with the training once this requirement is mandatory. John Umhoefer will look at options for communicating to industry about this opportunity to get into this training program ahead of the requirement.

Alex O'Brien gave an update for the phosphatase sub-committee. Alex is putting together a best practice document to help plants try to avoid having to do phosphatase testing. The next CDR pipeline publish this best practice document in the next 3 months. There was a plan to do a frozen milk sample study that is on pause – CHARM is looking to restart this, and Alex will be in contact with their representatives.

Alex O'Brien gave an update for the hydrogen peroxide subcommittee. They are exploring use in whey, brines, the exterior of cheeses, and as an addition to the cheese milk. From an FDA standpoint, we are not sure how the current administration is going to look at the addition of any chemicals.

Peter Hesprich gave an update for the Performance Base Farm Inspection (PBFI) Sub-committee. The sub-committee met and determined it was best to stay under the PBFI requirements. Currently 56% of producers are on an once a year inspection frequency. The Secretary's Office stated there needs to be backing from industry to switch to a 6-month inspection frequency. With more than half of industry being inspected once a year, it was decided to remain under the PBFI requirements. Enforcement failures have gone down significantly over the past 2 years.

Andy Johnson made a motion to have the PBFI submit a final report and conclude this sub-committee. It was seconded by Shelly Mayer.

Member Concerns

Discussions were held if a FDA Food Traceability Rule would be beneficial for the committee. DATCP currently has a committee looking at the traceability rule from a regulatory perspective. Members will review this rule and vote as needed for next meeting.

Discussions were held if members with expiring terms were voted on during the February meeting. Kate and Gloria will review and bring back to the next committee meeting.

Summary of Action Items and Person(s) Responsible

Next Meeting- Grassland offered to host the next meeting. Andy and Kate will discuss dates in September or October. A motion to adjourn was made by Shelly Mayer, seconded by Alex O'Brien. Meeting ends at 10:51 a.m.