

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

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Grassland Dairy Products Inc, Virtual Teams Meeting

Welcome and Introduction

Call to order:

Gloria Joseph called the meeting to order at 9:01 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, Bob Wills, Andrew Johnson, Gloria Joseph, John Umhoefer, Ben Shibler, Mick Homb, Jeff Kirchberg, and Jason Mugnaini

Others in attendance: Max Huebner, Tyson Villarreal, Adam Brock, Troy Sprecker, Kate Angeles, Michelle Steinmetz, Jim Pikka, Brian Wiegand, Shane Lewis, Shelly Ritschard, Kevin Dulin, and Amanda Rasmussen

Approval of agenda:

Andy Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Ben Shibler. The agenda was approved.

Approve previous meeting minutes:

No corrections to the previous meeting minutes for the DRAC June 10, 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 09-9-2025).

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 questions and assistance.

BMWS Fairground events: 2025 Bulk Milk Weigher and Sampler renewals have been sent out and licenses are set to expire on September 30th. Please arrange inspections prior to September 30th. DATCP will support other group exercises besides fairground events to help industry get these inspections complete. In a group setting, inspections are conducted one at a time.

Tanker Emergency Transfers: If there is a tank-to-tank transfer outside a permitted facility, DATCP needs to be notified and along with plant that is receiving the tanker. If the milk in the tanker is Grade A, the milk will need to be downgraded to Grade B.

ATCP 82 Update: ATCP 82 is in the final step and is waiting for approval by the state legislature. DATCP is hoping to have this rule revision completed by the end of the year.

H5N1 Update: Sample results are available on the webpage: [DATCP Home Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(H5N1\) in Dairy Cattle](#). Currently 13,899 samples have been tested with 0 positives. DATCP is currently working with USDA to decrease the number of samples. The May 19 [news release](#) has industry guidance for if a positive sample occurs.

Plan Review Requirement: DATCP has received a few questions if \$25 needs to be paid each time a change to a plan may occur. There is no additional charge as long as the change is within the same scope of the original plan submitted. DATCP needs to be aware of any plan changes as the project moves forward.

Milk Producers Licensing: Please submit completed new milk producer applications and allow DATCP 1-2 weeks for inspection and licensing prior to the anticipated licensing date.

Cream Cooling: ATCP 65.54(2)(f) Sanitarians have been noticing issues with older facility processors not maintaining cream cooling temperatures. Rules state that cream needs to be cooled immediately. DATCP wants to make dairy processors aware that the 4-hour cooling rule does not apply in this scenario.

Dairy Program: Tyson reviewed the current dairy program numbers as it relates to Grade A and Grade B milk producers and PBF numbers. The Eau Claire office sends out a spreadsheet of the farms that have been re-categorized due to PBF requirements. This spreadsheet has been updated to include well information, last routine inspection to help industry.

Question: Would DATCP be able to send out communication to industry outlining the changes to the spreadsheet? Yes, DATCP can send a GovDelivery with information regarding the change to help industry take advantage of the information provided on the spreadsheet.

Staffing Update: There two vacancies (Sanitarian Supervisor and Advanced Sanitarian) out of the 44 Dairy Staff positions.

Subcommittee Updates

John Umhoefer reported for the Pasteurizer sub-committee. Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association will look into putting together outreach to promote the Emergency Resealer Program for industry. John will work with Michelle Steinmetz-DATCP and Dr. Scott Rankin on the language to use. DATCP reported no new applications have currently been submitted.

Alex O'Brien gave an update for the phosphatase sub-committee. A best practice document was published in the [CDR Pipeline](#) for maintaining pasteurizers so plants can try to avoid having to do phosphatase testing. CDR also published in the CDR Pipeline another article that is [a step-by-step guide](#) for the broken seal process. There is no movement on the plan to do a frozen milk sample study by CHARM but there may be some movement towards the end of the year.

Alex O'Brien gave an update for the hydrogen peroxide subcommittee. There was a [federal registration notice](#) sent on September 3, 2025 to allow hydrogen peroxide in brine applications as an anti-microbial. This new development could allow another food safety tool for industry. DATCP will review internally and discuss with Alex.

Vote on Members with Expiring Terms

The committee discussed members with expiring terms. Lisa Torkelson has declined to renew her term. Tim Anderson with Actus, Ben Shibler with Ron's Wisconsin Cheese, and Elmer Schmucker with Kingston Cheese Cooperative are seeking to renew their terms. There was a motion to approve these members for a new term by John Umhoefer. Andy Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed

Member Concerns

Discussions were had on ATPC 65.54(2)(f) Cream Cooling. Members pointed out the difference in temperature requirements for heat-treated cream and Grade B cream and the differences in temperature for the generating and receiving plants. Alex O'Brien commented that for *Staph aureus* and *Bacillus cereus* the temperature needs to be between 45-50 to inhibit growth. The members discussed that the rule language is very unclear and the need for science-based requirements. It will be at least 2-years before ATPC 65 will be open to change any rule language. The committee discussed if a sub-committee is needed to gain clarification on the enforcement and understanding of the current rule. It was decided to add this topic to the next meeting agenda to allow the committee members to discuss with their own internal/external partners and to do some research.

The committee also discussed raw milk due to the change in perspective on the federal level. DATCP has seen an increase in raw milk sales but DATCP doesn't have the staffing to investigate all these potential individuals. DATCP has received some consumer complaints and do check to see if they are licensed with DATCP. The sale of raw milk is still not permitted in Wisconsin.

Summary of Action Items and Person(s) Responsible

Next Meeting- Virtual meeting Tuesday November 11 at 9:00 am. A motion to adjourn was made by Pete Hesprich, seconded by Andy Johnson. Meeting ends at 10:30 a.m.