

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

**Date:** February 17, 2026  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Virtual Teams Meeting

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Call to order:**

John Umhoefer called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Open meeting notice:**

The open meeting notice has been posted.

**Roll Call:**

Members in attendance: Elmer Schmucker, Errin Nondorf, Andrew Johnson, John Umhoefer, Helen Schmude, Jennifer Wickman, Kristin Houck, Scott Rankin, Tim Anderson, Alex O'Brien, Peter Hesprich, and Tim Neubauer.

Others in attendance: Max Huebner, Tyson Villarreal, Adam Brock, Troy Sprecker, Kate Angeles, Michelle Steinmetz, Lucas Dawson, Jim Pikka, Mary Rollins, Brian Wiegand, Kevin Dulin, Heidi Jenks, and Tanner Argall.

**Approval of agenda:**

John Umhoefer will give an update on behalf of the cream cooling sub-committee. Peter Hesprich announced Betty Lund will be representing the Wisconsin Association of Dairy Plant Field Representatives as his 3-year term for the association is expiring.

**Approve previous meeting minutes:**

No corrections to the previous meeting minutes for the DRAC November 11, 2025, meeting. Scott Rankin made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Alex O'Brien. 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 02-17-2026**).

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.

Staffing Update: There are three sanitarian vacancies out of the 44 Dairy Staff positions. DATCP will be completing interviews for those vacant positions this week. The sanitarian map has been updated.

VersaCheck Backflow Preventers: DSPS updated the [approval letter](#) on September 11, 2025. The approval letter states in Table 3 that the VersaCheck Backflow Preventers are not approved for farms or dairies with chemical feeders and/or booster pumps connected to potable water.

DATCP will work with industry to gain compliance on replacing the VersaCheck with an approved backflow device.

ATCP 82 Updates:

- Electronic records are acceptable documentation for wash tags.
- Milk sampling procedures now include silo sampling and in-line sampler
- Milk collection records no longer require the expiration date of the BMWS license number.

H5N1 Update: Sample results are available on the webpage: [DATCP Home Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(H5N1\) in Dairy Cattle](#). The May 19 [news release](#) has industry guidance for if a positive sample occurs. Wisconsin has only had one positive sample and is currently testing 100% of producers.

Interpretative Memo: DATCP released an Interpretative Memo that allows whole milk to be heat-treated. The language currently excludes whole milk. DATCP is planning on submitting a proposal at the 2027 NCIMS Conference to update the language in the PMO.

Question: For wash tags, does the sanitizer used need to be listed? This is not a regulatory requirement but is needed for organic rule compliance.

Does the wash tag need to identify the plant? Yes.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

John Umhoefer reported for the Pasteurizer sub-committee. There has been no meeting since the last sub-committee update. ATCP 65 needs to be updated to require participation. DATCP reported no new applications have currently been submitted. DATCP will be going through an FDA state program evaluation this year and does not know how FDA will handle this deficiency.

Alex O'Brien gave an update for the phosphatase sub-committee. There is no update for the test methods. FDA has had some discussion on what could possibly be changed in the CFR. A best practice document was published in the [CDR Pipeline](#) for maintaining pasteurizers so plants can try to avoid having to do phosphatase testing.

Alex O'Brien gave an update for the hydrogen peroxide subcommittee. Updates to the Federal Registrar allows for hydrogen peroxide use if it is not detected in the final product. CDR is working to write an article with the data from a study. This data will be shared with DATCP. Some drawbacks noticed are pitting in the stainless steel faster.

John Umhoefer reported for the Cream Cooling sub-committee. The sub-committee discussed issues that occur with trying to immediately cool cream. There was discussion on the term "immediately" and how does regulatory define this term. The committee will investigate taking a PC approach with Grade B plants. The sub-committee proposed a risk assessment guidance document for industry to use. CDR can provide studies to assist in the PC approach. CDR can also provide additional documentation for a hazard guidance document.

### **Member Concerns**

Alex O'Brien discussed a study that was conducted using peracetic acid sanitizer and chlorine on wood boards. The study showed that chlorine was the most effective. Alex can provide the study for anyone interested.

Erin Nodorrf discussed Grade B plants having a Grade A RS and if they needed a water flush study. They have a SOP stating they do not water flush and this was in violation. DATCP

recommended talking with the sanitarian, Technical Specialist, and Rating Officer for the area. DATCP is currently working on a guidance document for water flushing.

Tyson Villarreal showed where industry can obtain a list of [Grade A Bulk Milk Tank Cleaning Facility](#) License Holders on myDATCP. This list is updated daily.

### **Summary of Action Items and Person(s) Responsible**

Next Meeting- Virtual meeting Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. A motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Wickman and seconded by Alex O'Brien. Meeting ends at 10:10 a.m.