

### Central Milk Testing Lab Now Operating

The pilot program of Dairy Herd Improvement Association testing in a statewide central testing laboratory is proving to be successful and future expansion of the project is planned, it was recently pointed out by Herbert C Gilmore Extension dairy specialist at The Pennsylvania State University.

Gilmore reported on Pennsylvania's central testing laboratory operations at the annual meeting of the American Dairy Science Association convening in St Paul Minnesota.

In October 1968, when the central testing program was initiated, 4,410 samples were tested, the dairy specialist said. During April 1969, 21,612 samples were tested.

"The addition of an automatic Milko-tester this past April added greatly to the testing capacity of the laboratory," Gilmore emphasized. "The automatic device is able to test 180 samples per hour compared to 100 per hour for the hand-operated model. Three technicians are currently handling over 1,500 samples in an 8-hour day," he added.

Milk samples in plastic bags with a potassium dichromate preservative added are shipped to the lab in cardboard containers, the Penn State professor explained. Previous work has shown that this method of handling is satisfactory if all air is excluded from the plastic bags.

"The demand for this service has been great as our ability to expand facilities," Gilmore said. "Plans are now being developed for facilities and equipment to handle 200,000 samples a month."

Assisting Gilmore with this pilot program are Dexter N. Putnam, Extension dairy specialist, and Manfred Kroger, assistant professor of food science.

### Putnam Says Dairymen Satisfied With New Milk Testing Plan

Approximately 1,000 Pennsylvania dairymen have adopted the alternate AM-PM milk testing program since it was made available in October 1968 and a high percentage are satisfied with the results, it was reported in St Paul, Minnesota, recently, by Dexter N. Putnam, Extension dairy specialist at The Pennsylvania State University.


Putnam, who presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Dairy Science Association, explained that under the Pennsylvania plan, milk weights and samples are taken in the evening one month and the morning of the next month.

"Milk weights are doubled to get the daily weight for calculation of production records," the dairy specialist said. "The cost to dairymen is 20 percent less than for herds on test where two milkings are used."

Dairymen especially like the convenience and lower cost of the records, Putnam emphasized. Supervisors have been satisfied because of more desirable working hours. They also are able to receive higher wages because they have more time to test larger herds in one day, or in some cases, two herds in one day, he added.



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