

Vets Important To Milk Quality

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STATE COLLEGE (Centre
Co.) — Included in the changes in
the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance
(PMO) that occurred this last sum-
mer were several that affect bovine
practitioners in Pennsylvania.

The most significant of these
changes is the new role for veteri-
narians in the recertification of
producers discovered with a viola-
tive antibiotic residue in their bulk
tank milk.

In this role, veterinarians will
certify that these producers have
participated in the 10-point quality
assurance program.

Although this program will be
required for producers with an
antibiotic residue violation, the
original intent of the program was
to be voluntary throughout the
dairy industry.

There are many compelling rea-
sons why the veterinary profession
should actively promote this pro-
gram as a voluntary program. A
Milk and Dairy Beef Quality

Assurance Program (DQA) that is
actively recruiting participants can
directly address some of the criti-
cisms from consumer advocacy
groups against the dairy industry.

These criticisms have centered
on pharmaceutical residues in
foods of animal origin and the
belief that antibiotics are used irra-
tionally in the dairy industry.
These criticisms have already
prompted the Center for Veterin-
ary Medicine to tighten up rules for
use of extra-label drugs in veteri-
nary medicine.

The possibility is quite real that
dairy practitioners could lose the
right to prescribe drugs in an extra-
label manner.

Because of the above criticisms
and their potential impact on the
dairy industry, the American Vet-
erinary Medical Association and
the National Milk Producers Fed-
eration designed the 10-point
DQA program.

It was intended as a cooperative,
educational program involving
veterinarians, milk receivers, and

producers, and principally con-
sisted of a booklet that was
received by Veterinary Extension
this past summer.

Although presented with mater-
ials, there were no guidelines on
how the program would be imple-
mented in Pennsylvania, and what
roles in the implementation the
three principals would have.

As a consequence, a pilot pro-
ject was designed to investigate
producer, veterinarian and sanita-
rian attitudes regarding implemen-
tation of the DQA.

The project included a total of
40 producers, 7 sanitarians/milk
receiver field representatives, and
5 veterinarians in one Ohio and
three Pennsylvania counties.

The project was begun in July
and ended in October. The 10-
point plan was initially introduced
to the participating veterinarians
and field representatives at small
county meetings.

At these meetings, field rep-
resentatives and veterinarians
were asked to select mutual clients

who would cooperate in the study.
Field representatives were asked to
recruit the producers and introduce
the program and booklet to these
"volunteers."

The veterinarians were asked to
subsequently contact the coopera-
tors and arrange a visit to review
the booklet with the producer. At
the completion of the visits, all
participants in a county were asked
to attend meetings where attitudes
about the DQA were discussed.

Field representatives took differ-
ent approaches for introducing the
program to producers. In some
cases, the booklet was delivered to
the producer with little or no expla-
nation, and in other cases the entire
booklet was reviewed with the pro-
ducer but filled out in large part by
the field representative.

Visits lasted from 20 minutes to
3 hours, with most visits lasting
more than 1 hour.

The participating veterinarians
made special visits to the farms to
review the booklet with the pro-
ducers. Visits lasted from 30

minutes to several hours, with
most visits lasting approximately
30 minutes.

Veterinary visits were expedited
if the producer had completed the
booklet (either by themselves or
with the help of the field represen-
tative) before the visit.

There were many important
concerns and opinions about the
program that emerged from the
discussion groups with producers.
Some of these were:

- DQA was an important and
needed program that could help
mold consumer opinion, avert
negative publicity, and provide
educational benefits for all
producers.

- DQA would not work as a vol-
untary program, especially if there
were no incentives for volunteer-
ing. These producers felt that the
program might best be targeted at
new producers or violators, but
paradoxically, if they were forced
or provided incentives, most of
these producers would
"volunteer."

- The DQA booklet was diffi-
cult. Many producers felt that they
did not have the education or back-
ground to understand the many
types of drugs and residue detec-
tion kits that were included in the
booklet.

- Many of the producers felt that
veterinarians needed to have an
expanded role in monitoring anti-
biotic use on farms and take more
responsibility for the prevention of
residues. These producers felt that
veterinary participation in the
program was essential and looked
forward to the opportunity for
increased contact with their
veterinarian.

- It was generally perceived that
the milk receivers would be the
best choice for introducing the
program on farms.

The veterinary profession has
two choices in dealing with the
DQA program.

The first is to be reactive and let
veterinary participation in the
program be dictated by regulatory
action.

The second is to be active by
promoting the program to clients,
providing educational opportuni-
ties to producers, and contacting
receivers and working with them
on programs.

This is an opportunity for veteri-
narians to provide an important
service to their clients and to them-
selves by promoting the rational
use of antibiotics on dairy farms.

? QUESTIONS? USE THIS PROBLEM SOLVER

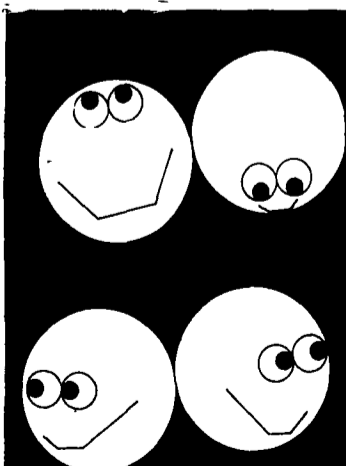
WITH DRAG AUGER FEEDERS			WITH BIG DUTCHMAN CHAIN FEEDERS		
PROBLEM	CAUSES	SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS			
System Stalls	Bad braise Kinked auger Feed level too high Too many feed cycles	File or grind excess braise Cut out kink and re-braise Lower feed level Delete a feed cycle	Chain never needs brazing Chain does not kink Chain runs at high or low levels of feed		
System runs, stops then reverses	Foreign object in trough Bad braise at drive	Find and remove object Make sure feed cleaner is working Determine drive and repair	Chain virtually is unaffected by foreign objects. Feed cleaner is unnecessary and system cannot run backwards		
Feed on floor at row ends	Elbows worn through again	Cut auger, remove elbows and couplers, replace and re assemble	Chain feeders have no elbows to wear out.		
Feed line is not running	Failed motor	Determine which motor(s) out of the four are bad, replace and reset.	Only one motor per feed line.		
Auger jumped out of trough (and is wound all over the walk ways).	Auger broke	Gather a welder, torch and grinder. Replace auger in trough, and braise. Be careful not to stretch auger.	If chain breaks, it is easily repaired with a hammer and chain breaker tool. Chain does not stretch.		
Too many smaller sized eggs	Birds not getting enough feed	Add yet another feed cycle. (May require at least 8 per day.)	Chain feeders provide 2½ times more feed space than drag auger feeders allowing it to be run as few as 3 times per day.		
Too many cracks	Feeder runs too often causing excess bird movement in the cage during laying periods.	Delete feeding during laying period. (Beware that reduction may result in smaller eggs.)	More feed space allows less feeding cycles, which means you don't have to feed during laying period.		
Wasted feed in the walk ways	Feed trough lip is not high enough	No solution	Big Dutchman has high-lip trough.		

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