

Maryland, Virginia Milk Cooperative Welcomes Two New Employees

RESTON, Va. — Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative recently hired two new employees to work in its quality and member services and milk accounting departments.

Lisa Perrin is the new member services and quality assurance administrator and Susan Smith has joined Maryland and Virginia as its milk accounting manager. Both bring with them excellent experience in the dairy industry.

Perrin has a bachelor's degree in animal science from Cornell University and joined Maryland and Virginia as the member services and quality assurance administrator in October. Previously she worked as the communications intern for the cooperative, assisting with all aspects of the communications department.

In her new capacity, Perrin generates and distributes milk quality and regulatory information to producers, field representatives, customers, and state agencies. In addition, she assists the member services and field programs with the overall coordination and administration of the department.

Raised on a 60-cow dairy near Buffalo, N.Y., and working as a herdsman on a 225-cow dairy after graduation, Perrin enjoys the opportunity to work directly with producers. "It's important that producers know they have someone to talk to," she said.

"I am looking forward to all the contributions Lisa will make to Maryland and Virginia. She brings with her a strong dairy background and is very knowledgeable about the dairy industry. We are very pleased to welcome her to the cooperative," said Jim Howie, manager



Susan Smith

of member services.

Susan Smith began her duties as milk accounting manager in early October. She directs and coordinates the milk accounting operation and oversees the pooling of milk in order to maximize the return to producers. Smith comes to Maryland and Virginia after an 11-year career with the Federal Order Milk Marketing system. She began her career working as an auditor and most recently was in charge of statistics and all producer information at the Market Administrator Office in Atlanta, Ga.

"I have the background and



Lisa Perrin

now I will get to see the whole picture and how everything fits together. It's going to be challenging and interesting all at the same time and I'm looking forward to it," Smith said.

Mike Asbury, director of support systems and milk accounting, said, "Susan will be involved in all aspects of milk accounting for Maryland and Virginia and her knowledge of Federal Order regulations will help market Maryland and Virginia's milk in the most cost efficient manner."

Smith is a 1989 graduate of the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

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Mad Cow Disease Not A Problem In The U.S.

WASHINGTON, DC — Consumers worldwide benefit from more than 10 years of aggressive, coordinated government and industry efforts that have kept the U.S. cattle herd free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), better known as 'mad cow' disease, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) said recently.

"While the European Union suffers through crippling consumer concerns and behind-the-curve government efforts to deal with the current European mad cow disease scare, no cases of BSE have been found in the United States, said NCBA CEO Charles P. Schroeder. "And we believe our continued prevention efforts resulted in the October scientific report by the U.S.-based Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) that found a very low risk for U.S. occurrence of BSE."

"In today's global marketplace, producers and consumers worldwide have an interest in a safe global beef supply and confidence among world consumers," said Schroeder. "We stand willing to offer any assistance to help Europe eradicate this disease and restore consumer confidence. The United States has had great success in preventing and eradicating animal diseases and our scientific-based systems could prove useful to EU government officials and beef producers."

Schroeder explained that the U.S. began an aggressive BSE surveillance program in May 1990 to ensure timely detection and quick response in the event BSE was ever introduced into the United States. The surveillance program involves several government agencies and more than 250 federal and state regulatory veterinarians who have been trained to diagnose foreign animal diseases including BSE.

The cooperation cited in the CAST report, both within the industry and between the industry and the government, is a

hallmark of the U.S. BSE program and a major reason for our success in preventing this disease, according to Schroeder.

"An example of swift response and cooperation was the U.S. industry's reaction to information that feed which included meat and bone meal might have caused the spread of BSE in England," Schroeder said. "Within a couple of weeks following the March 20, 1996, British announcement that BSE might be related to a human disease, the U.S. cattle industry implemented a voluntary ban on use of these supplements in cattle feed."

In addition, Schroeder said the NCBA also urged the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine to review the science and develop regulations regarding use of meat and bone meal in feeds for ruminants (chewing animals such as cattle, goats, camels and deer that have a four-chambered stomach).

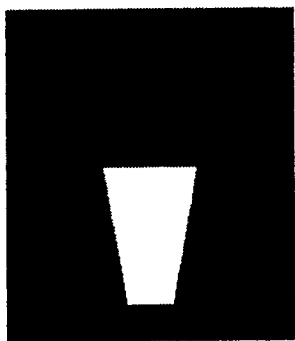
Even prior to instituting the surveillance program in 1990, U.S. government response to the BSE issue was decisive and aggressive. With U.S. cattle industry support, in July 1989, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) instituted a ban prohibiting importation of ruminant animals from countries with confirmed cases of BSE. This was followed in November 1989 by an additional ban on most ruminant products from those countries.

While the EU is only now beginning to impose wide scale bans on use of animal-derived protein supplements in cattle feed, the U.S. took that step more than three years ago, Schroeder says. In June of 1997, the FDA issued a regulation banning the use of most mammalian protein in ruminant feeds.

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