

Minutes of the Milk Sanitation Board

Thursday, December 11, 2014

The meeting of the Milk Sanitation Board was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Roger Tedrick in the Bromfield Building at the Ohio Department of Agriculture Campus. The following members were in attendance:

Mr. Chuck Ellis	Mr. Jim Stockert
Mr. Rocky Volpp	Mr. Dennis Sidle
Mr. Doug Longenette	Mr. Tim Shipley
Mr. Gene Phillips	Mr. Roger Tedrick

Also in attendance are: Howard Wise, Assistant Director, ODA, David Gorman and David Miran, Legal, ODA, Brian Wise, Dave Mengel, Keith Thompson, Dairy Division, Scott Higgins, ODPA, Kristin Mullins, Midwest Dairy Products, Ron Geiser and Neil Bendixen, Dairy Farmers of America.

Mr. Tedrick outlines the agenda for the meeting and indicated that other topics are open for discussion, as well as any questions.

He informs all in attendance that this will be Mr. Ellis' last meeting, as he is resigning from the board. He has been a valued asset to the board. He was inquiring and supportive when needed, but also asked the tough questions. We will have a presentation to honor this, at the end of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Volpp moved to accept the Minutes from the July 31, 2014 Milk Sanitation Board Meeting. Mr. Shipley seconded and they were accepted by voice vote.

New Business

Board Member Appointments

Two positions are open on the Board and the opportunity for nominations went out in November 2014. The Grade A producer seat is presently occupied by Mr. Jim Stockert and the Director has reappointed him for another 3 years. The other seat relative to Manufacture Grade Processing, the Director's nomination has been sent to Governor's office for the vetting process. We should have final word before our next meeting in April 2015.

Importance of Proper Hauling Procedures

Mr. Neal Bendixen, Regional Supervisor of DFA, made a presentation about the importance of proper hauling procedures. The role that a milk hauler pays has direct impact on the producer milk check and processor's bottom line. Mr. Bendixen's presentation put into real terms the importance of the milk hauler effect on quality and component accuracy.

Dairy Division Budget and Staffing

Mr. Tedrick presented a quick capsule of how the industry fund, 4r20, is arrived at and invoiced to the processing segment of the industry. Part of the discussion involved a handout of October 2014 total numbers. It was also pointed out that the 4r20 fund, as of July 30, 2014, had a balance of \$260,155.13.

In addition, Mr. Tedrick outlined to the Board that FDA has helped the Dairy Division with a number of field supplies such as flashlights, recirculated heaters and insulated buckets for equipment testing. The National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments, NCIMS, has also helped by providing resources for training and attendance to committee meetings.

Finally, the Dairy Division is working with HR to address future personnel needs. With the addition of the Meijer and Daisy plants towards the end of 2015 and beginning of 2016, along with the growth of small on-farm processors, we will need trained inspectors to keep current with inspection mandates.

State Fair MSB Board Meeting

Mr. Tedrick explained that the Board Meeting on July 31, 2014 was out of line with existing MSB law. With the Ohio State Fair moving to earlier dates and into July, it became apparent that our law needed to change. So, the law now reads “the MSB Annual Meeting shall take place during the Ohio State Fair, between July 1 and August 31st.”

FDA Program Review

Mr. Matt Pitts our FDA Milk Specialist has informed us the “unofficially” that our dairy inspection program is in substantial compliance. This review is held every 3 years and was completely in early December. We now wait on the official write up. Mr. Pitts did point out one mention for improvement in what is called repeat violations. We have taken steps to address that concern.

New Business

NCIMS and Committee Updates

Mr. Tedrick discussed three topics of ongoing concern that have been talked about at previous Milk Sanitation Board Meetings.

The FDA tissue residue milk sampling for 31 different drug compounds has still not been released as of this Board meeting. FDA/CVM, continue to perform quality assurance on the findings and we continue to wait.

The Appendix N Committee tasked with addressing testing for compounds other than beta lactams. The committee has asked for a risk assessment and FDA had a face to face with the committee and presented a risk assessment model. We are now waiting on results and release of tissue residue milk sampling. At the end of this process, there may be proposals to the conference relative to additional drug testing that should be included to what is being performed presently.

Finally, Mr. Tedrick talked about the work on the Liaison Committee relative to FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act). This committee has been tasked with taking the known gaps in the PMO relative to FSMA mandates and trying to close them. The gaps as the committee determined, are; allergen control, recall plans, hazard analysis, record keeping, supplier verification, traceability and environmental monitoring. It is the goal of the committee to create proposals for the conference to evaluate and pass to change PMO to be FDMA compliant.

Dairy Division Quality Conference

Mr. Wise pointed out that the quality conference was held on October 14th and was well attended as over 100 participants attending. It seems that it has steadily grown through the years. Planning for next year will begin late April or early May. We always try to pick topics that are trending in the dairy industry. Mr. Wise also said that the planning committee puts some effort into reviewing comments from each conference.

Plant and Hauler Update

Mr. Mengel, Plant Section Supervisor, gave an update concerning new processing starts both large and small. The numbers seems to be increasing which increases the time devoted to consulting on start-up mandates.

Mr. Mengel reiterated the repeat violations that are drawing increase scrutiny. He points out that he is sending warning letters out after the 3rd same violation and includes highlighted inspection copy of the previous violations.

In conclusion, Mr. Mengel announced that ODA will host an Appendix N training class on February 11, 2015.

Farm and WST Update

Mr. Thompson, Farm Section Supervisor, reported farm numbers with a handout. Although farm numbers are down, which they typically are during the winter months, production continues to be slightly increasing. One major trend is that of robotic milkers. Presently, the state has over 65 units in Ohio and come spring of 2015 there are plans to be over 90 automatic milking units. Mr. Thompson mentioned that a new facility has plans for 12 and the Dairy Division meets with them next week.

During the farm update section, Mr. Ellis brings up the incident with an animal rights group in Wisconsin regarding on-farms practices. Mr. Ellis said that producers are getting to the point wanting to limit cameras, phones or recording devices from their farms.

Mr. Scott Higgins of ODPa informed the Board of a program through Ohio State University that helps to train farmers of their rights and current social media trends. Mr. Wise interjected that veterinarians might also look at this training.

Survey Section Update

Mr. Wise talked about the role of Ohio's state survey section and pointed out that they are presently ahead about 3 months. They oversee our enforcement efforts and highlight where improvement is needed.

At this point in the meeting there was a short discussion of GMO in dairy production.

Ethics Forms and Attendance Guidelines

Mr. Tedrick points out the ethics form and attendance guidelines in the Board packets. The Board was asked to acknowledge and sign. The guidelines point out mandatory 60% attendance. Mr. Gorman further mentioned that the Board is subjected to the State Meetings law and ODA legal plans to hold a training session relative to State Boards.

ODA Update

Mr. Wise took a few minutes to talk about Senate Bill 150. That is the bill that if you apply fertilizer to 50 or more acres, you have to be certified and you have until spring of 2017 to do that. The initial trainings were held this fall at three locations in NW Ohio. Mr. Wise told that hundreds attended and went very well. Also there was no cost to the training. If you take the training as part of your pesticide training it only adds 2 hours. If you take it as a stand-alone, it will be 3 hours.

Mr. Wise then talked about HB 490 which deals with manure application and it apparently has died in the Senate. This bill transferred authority from ODNR to ODA and prohibiting manure application on snow covered, frozen fields and under certain rain events. There were also a couple of controversial items in it, one being a tele-communication part, land lines would go away and the Governor did not want that in the bill. The other item was withdrawing water from Lake Erie.

Thirdly, Mr. Wise took some time to recognize Chuck Ellis with a certificate of recognition for his years of service to the Milk Sanitation Board. Mr. Wise had declaration certificates from the Governor Kasich and Director Daniels.

Adjourn

It was moved by Mr. Longenette to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Phillips. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next meeting is set for April 2, 2015