

Illinois Dairy Subcommittee

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Food, Drugs and Dairies
Illinois Food Safety Advisory Committee

Friday, February 22, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Committee Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Donna O'Shaunessey, Green Farms
Molly Lamb, IDPH
Roger Hooi, Dean Foods
Tom Kocal
Guy Sprouls, IDPH
Steve DiVincenzo, IDPH
Kevin Olson, Prairie Farms
Tony Graves
Dr. Jack Hermann, University of Illinois
Matt Kilgus
Margie Suwikie
Jim Fraley, Illinois Farm Bureau
Dave Lattan
Joe Delaney, Prairie Farms
Leslie Cooperband
Leonard Shaffer
Don Mackinson
Larry Terando, FDA

Meeting Summary Take-away Points

- The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairperson Steve DiVincenzo.
- Introductions were made and a synopsis and purpose of the subcommittee was given.
- The goal of the subcommittee concerning the rules for the sale of raw milk to individual consumers is to clarify the procedure in rules, making it less ambiguous. The target timeframe was to have the rules finalized for the Fall

regulatory agenda. In order to make the Fall agenda, the rules would need to be completed by the end of May. As this is a targeted deadline, if concurrence is not reached in May and additional discussions are needed, then that deadline will be moved back to September for the November State Board of Health Meeting. The full Food Safety Advisory Committee would then review in August 2013 for voting and approval to move forward to the rulemaking process and the State Board of Health Rules Committee.

- Under section f of the draft rules, it was decided that it was more appropriate to test for Salmonella instead of testing for Staphylococcus.
- There were concerns about putting a volume limit on the amount of raw milk that can be distributed per month. Some expressed that there should be no limit. The State's concern was to minimize the potential health concern with drinking raw milk. We will look into this matter to gather data to determine what the average amount of raw milk is actually distributed per month.
- There were also concerns as to how long a period time the raw milk would be safe. Should there be a code date?
- There were questions raised as to who would pay for the pathogen testing. Once we have data as to the number of farms that sell raw milk to the consumer, we will then be able to better make a decision. It was stated that it costs approximately \$100 to have pathogens tested for one sample of raw milk.
- The question was raised as to how often the quality tests should be run and who should pay for these tests. The cooperatives are responsible for paying for the tests for the producers that ship milk to milk plants. There were suggestions that these tests be performed monthly, several times a month and weekly. No decision was made on the frequency.
- There was a concern over the Grade A grade rules applying to all herd sizes, including those farms that only have one cow. Data will be provided concerning the range in herd size.
- The issue of liability insurance was discussed. This insurance is needed to protect the farmer as well as the cooperative. This type of insurance can cost \$1,000. There are insurance companies that will cover farmers that sell raw milk to consumers.
- There was a question raised about the sign that must be posted on the farm which is to read "NOTICE: RAW MILK SOLD HERE. RAW MILK DOES NOT PROVIDE THE PROTECTION OF PASTEURIZATION." This appears to be a conflict with the State's statute prohibiting the advertising of raw milk for sale. The Department will work with its Legal for an opinion.

- There are several terms that need to be clearly defined, which include “sanitary,” “cowshare,” “unsolicited” and “dispensing”.
- The issue concerning the standard for somatic cell counts will be determined at the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments in April 2013. This is the standard we will use for our proposed rules.
- We will be using a non-validated drug residue test kit on individual cow samples since there currently is not a validated test kit available.
- It was decided that if a consumer wanted to be notified if his raw milk was not safe (being recalled), their contact information would be included on the farmer’s log concerning the sale of raw milk.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Action Items

- Donna O’Shaunessey will conduct some research to provide to the Department an average number of raw milk sales per week for dairy farms selling raw milk.
- Donna O’Shaunessey will provide to the Department an estimated number of farms in business to only sell raw milk.
- Chairperson will distribute statistical research articles to promote accurate data discussions in Subcommittee.
- Chairperson will make changes to draft working rule document and re-send to Subcommittee prior to the next meeting on May 1, 2013.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at the Illinois Farm Bureau building in Bloomington.