



Quality Watch

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MMPA Discontinues Mailing Component Test Results

Maintaining a healthy herd requires the ability to detect and correct problems while they are still small. MMPA works to provide prompt analysis of the milk samples sent with your milk hauler so you can catch problems right away. The test results generated through the lab are linked instantly to the MMPA information network. This data is available to you through the Internet quickly, securely and accurately.

The ability to access quality reports through the Internet, e-mail or by fax alleviates the need to mail the quality reports to our members. It can take up to 10 days to receive quality mailers after a test is conducted, making it an inefficient method for monitoring quality.

With the recently revised milk check format, all components are listed on both advance and final milk check statements, essentially turning the check into a quality report.

The advance check lists all test that are run up until the checks are printed, generally through the 17th of each month, the remainder of

the tests will show up on the final check.

Sending quality mailers through the mail is an expensive and slow way to provide lab information to members. MMPA spends an average of \$1,200 per week on the quality mailers – this quickly adds up to a large expense for the cooperative that will continue to rise as postage rates increase.

To reduce this cost, as of February 1, 2007, MMPA will discontinue mailing quality reports for component tests as well as raw and PI tests. Reports on special tests and high count notices will continue to be sent through the mail.

If you are not currently accessing your lab information by Internet, you should take a look at the vast amount of information available to you in the “Members Only” section of MMPA’s Web site, www.mimilk.com. Many producers view this information on a daily basis to tweak management practices and to closely monitor the health of their herd. You can visually spot trends and track progress after each test run using the built-in spreadsheet

program that will graph the information for you.

For those of you who do not have Internet access, faxing is another great option. Quality information is faxed daily and automatically from MMPA’s information network in the same way information is updated on the Internet.

If you have questions on how to access your records on the Internet or would like to sign-up for fax or e-mail delivery, contact the Member Services Department at (800) 572-5824.

Why Discontinue Quality Mailers?

- Saves the cooperative \$57,000 a year in postage and printing costs.
- All components are listed on milk check statements.
- Using the Internet allows you to access quality reports immediately.
- Quality trends and progress can be tracked by graphs on the Internet.

MMPA Lab results are available via e-mail, fax and Internet, replacing the need for quality mailers.