



Quality Watch

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MMPA Director Member Services/Quality Control

MMPA Member Services Goals

Every year, the MMPA Member Services Department establishes goals for the upcoming year. Over the years, the goals and responsibilities of our member representatives have changed significantly.

In the past, member representatives were basically limited to solving high bacteria or somatic cell count issues along with making farm inspections to ensure their farms passed Grade A surveys.

Today, like our dairy farmer members, we're involved in an array of other farm related issues. In order to provide a wider range of information and services to our members, MMPA has extensively trained our member representatives. MMPA's Member Services Department is committed to providing the most accurate updated information we can to our members on issues that impact them.

Over the next 12 months, your member representative will be providing information and working with you in the following areas:

- **Delivering MAEAP Livestock*A*Syst program information.** MMPA member representatives will provide you with a copy of the MAEAP Livestock*A*Syst booklet. If you wish, the member representative will review the booklet with you and conduct an on farm environmental assessment with you. It is up to you to decide if you want to take further action, however,

all members should keep in mind that environmental penalties for a discharge are the same for a 20 cow dairy as a 2,500 cow dairy. The big difference is that dairies with less than 700 cows are not required to have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

- **Delivering Animal Care Guidelines.** Beginning next summer, member representatives will be delivering Animal Care Guidelines to all MMPA members. Members can decide if they want the member representative to review the guidelines.

- **Water Use Assessments.** Recently passed Water Legislation effective July 9, 2009, requires that if a farmer either drills a new well or makes new water withdrawals from a stream that the farmer must complete the Water Use Assessment Tool. MMPA member representatives have the ability and knowledge to access the Water Use Assessment Tool online on their laptops while they are on the member's farm and can walk through and complete the tool with the member. All member representatives have the information concerning the new water legislation timelines and how the new legislation works in the Water Resource Guide, developed by Michigan Farm Bureau. Member representatives are in the process of delivering the books to all members that have the capability to withdraw water from wells or streams at the

rate of 70 gallons per minute or more. The member representatives will review the registration requirements that are a part of the new law. Many members have already registered with MDA.

MMPA's member representatives are involved with a wide variety of issues that impact our members. MMPA is committed to providing information to members and training our staff to assist and work through these issues with members.

I encourage all members to thoroughly review and participate in MAEAP Livestock*A*Syst and Animal Care Guidelines. These programs are voluntary but are extremely important to the future of dairy farming. I also encourage members to obtain and review the new Water Resource Guide and keep it. This program is required for all new water withdrawals.

If you would like further information, please contact your member representative or me at the Novi office.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a great New Year!