

By Dean Letter
Director, Member Services



MDARD Makes Code Changes to Pressure Washer Systems

On May 1, 2014, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) made some code changes that will impact Michigan dairy farms.

MDARD inspectors regulate pressure washer systems to ensure pressure washers do not contaminate the potable water system. Their codes attempt to prevent pressure washers from drawing a vacuum (creating the potential for contamination) on the water system.

After an audit of MDARD's dairy inspection, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration informed MDARD that Watts N36 valves used at dairy facilities to prevent water backflow in pressure washer applications do not comply with the Michigan plumbing code.

Existing systems will be grandfathered in, but new or modified systems will have to use one of three other approved applications to replace the use of the Watts N36 valve:

1. A low-pressure cutoff switch
According to the FDA, "An effective low pressure cut-off switch may be installed on the suction side and immediately upstream from the pump. This switch must deactivate the pump when the pressure on

the suction or feed line drops below 10 pounds per square inch." A low-pressure cutoff switch can be mounted in the same location as an N36, but pressure washers need to be wired through the switch.

They are only conducive to electric systems and can be purchased through the MMPA Merchandise Warehouse.

2. A separate water reservoir
Installing a separate water reservoir is MDARD's preferred solution as it severs the direct connection between the potable water and pressure washer systems, therefore eliminating any possibility for contamination. This setup requires the installation of a separate tank or barrel. If a pressure washer is supplied by water from a source other than that which provides potable water to the milkhouse (such as repressurized plate cooler water) no protection is required.

While a separate water reservoir is an option for both gas and electric systems, it's not a one-size-fits-all fix for all washers. Some pressure washers may not function without being supplied by water under pressure, and therefore won't function in this configuration.

3. A Reduced Pressure Zone Backflow Preventer (RPZ)
Lastly, Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) backflow preventers are another MDARD-approved alternative to the Watts N36 valve. The RPZ is installed on the inlet

side of the pressure washer and has an intermediate vent open to the atmosphere when there is no pressure on the water supply line to the pump. The theory is the atmospheric vent will pull air through the system as opposed to contaminants.

RPZs are already being used on many dairy farms in other applications to prevent backflow. They can be utilized in both electric and gas systems and can also be special-ordered through the MMPA Merchandise Warehouse. A RPZ is large, expensive, and is not well-suited to portable systems. It also requires annual testing by licensed personnel.

According to Gordon Robinson of MDARD, during routine inspections, dairy inspectors will inform dairy producers of necessary changes in order to comply with the Michigan plumbing code. MDARD inspectors will note which power washers are grandfathered in on their farm inspection record and no changes will be required for those power washers. Newly installed or modified power washers after May 1, 2014 will be marked by the MDARD dairy inspector and orders to comply with one of the approved solutions will be required. Those farms with a sanitation score less than 90 will be put on reinspection and a date set for correction of all the items on the inspection report.

continued on page 9

Shirley Hazle Passes

The Michigan dairy industry has lost a truly remarkable person. Shirley H. Hazle died suddenly Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at the age of 82.

She was born March 3, 1932 in Victor Township, Clinton County, Michigan the daughter of Dana and Dorothy (Morrison) Parker. Shirley was a graduate of Rodney B. Wilson High School in St. Johns, Class of 1950. She was an active and energetic member of many farm and agriculture organizations. Shirley was active in the county and state 4-H, was a MMPA Dairy Communicator, UDIM Dairy Diplomat and a board member of the Farm Women Symposium. She was a member of the Michigan Holstein Association and very active in District 6 of MMPA. She served on the Victor Township Planning Board and worked for several years as a DHIA technician.

On November 25, 1950 she married George Hazle and he survives her. Also surviving are two daughters, Dana Sue (Kevin) Kirk and Kathy Hazle all of St. Johns; three grandchildren, Kevin (Rachel) Kirk of Luna Nagel, CA, Dana (Andrea) Kirk of Charlotte, Lindsay (Calby) Garrison of Adrian; three great grandsons, Carson and Wesley Garrison and Jeffery Kirk. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Dana and Allan Parker.

Memorials may be made to Clinton County 4-H - Dairy, 4389 E. Pratt Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879 or the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation, Michigan State University, 1250 Anthony Hall, 4747 Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824.



Shirley Hazle (pictured with her husband, George) was a tireless supporter of the Michigan dairy industry and served as a 4-H dairy leader for 58 years.

Quality Watch

Continued from page 6

Critical water violations, such as an improperly protected power washer, are a five-point debit. In most cases, the MDARD dairy inspector will need to conduct a reinspection if a power washer is debited.

As the MDARD dairy code no longer approves Watts N36 valves for use in pressure washer systems, the MMPA Merchandise Warehouse will no longer carry them for our members. If you are interested in purchasing a low-pressure cutoff switch or a RPZ, please call the MMPA Merchandise Warehouse at 989-681-2334.

Contact your member representative with any questions about what setup will work most efficiently with your system.

MMPA Advisory Committee

District One

Carlton Evans, Litchfield 517-398-0629
 Perry Cisco, Hudson 517-547-3231
 Glenn Preston, Quincy 517-639-4182
 Art Riske, Hanover 517-524-6015

District Two

Donald Bever, Delton 269-671-5050
 Michael Oesch, 574-825-2454
 Middlebury, IN
 Danny Ransler, Gobles 269-628-4218
 Richard Thomas, 574-825-5198
 Middlebury, IN

District Three

Jim Good, Caledonia 616-891-1414
 Frank Konkol, Hesperia 231-854-8041
 David Pyle, Zeeland 616-772-1512
 Bill Stakenas, Freesoil 231-757-9340

District Four

Marvin Rubingh, Ellsworth 231-588-6084
 Dave Folkersma, Rudyard 906-478-3023
 Corby Werth, Alpena 989-379-3772
 Jeremy Werth, Alpena 989-464-4022

District Five

Bruce Benthem, McBain 231-825-8182
 Tom Jeppesen, Stanton 989-762-5399
 Bill Jernstadt, Big Rapids 231-796-4650
 Mike Rasmussen, Edmore 989-762-5380

District Six

Aaron Gasper, Lowell 616-897-2747
 Jamie Meyer, Ionia 989-587-6732
 David Reed, Owosso 989-723-8635
 Kris Wardin, St Johns 989-640-9420

District Seven

John Bennett, Prescott 989-345-4264
 Eric Bergdolt, Vassar 989-652-6500
 Rod Fowler, Chesaning 989-845-6131
 Scott Kleinhardt, Clare 989-386-8037

District Eight

Mike Bender, Crosswell 810-679-4782
 Tim Kubacki, Sebawaing 989-883-3249
 Dale Phillips, Marlette 989-635-7917
 Steve Schulte, 989-479-9339
 Harbor Beach

At-Large

Bill Blumerich, Berlin 810-395-2926
 Pat Bolday, Emmett 810-395-7139
 Mark Crandall, 269-660-2229
 Battle Creek
 James Droscha, Charlotte 517-543-5577
 Scott Lamb, Jeddo 810-327-6135
 David Lott, Mason 517-676-4593
 Chuck White, Fowlerville 517-521-3564
 Tom Wing, Bellevue 269-660-0498

