

**Minutes of the
Laboratory Advisory Committee Meeting
June 19, 2003**

The fifth meeting of the Laboratory Advisory Committee was held in conjunction with the NALMA Workshop at the Crowne Plaza in Madison, WI.

Jere High chaired the meeting and at least 42 persons attended as participants or observers. An attendance list is included with these Minutes.

Michael Rector reviewed the Canadian DHI presentation at the FSAC pertaining to robotic milking systems, stating that the field service providers had approved a recommendation that samples be analyzed individually and combined mathematically with their corresponding milk weights to provide a weighted average.

Paul Sauve reviewed concerns noted during on-site laboratory audits including:

1. Inadequate documentation for tracing sample results through the laboratory,
2. Incomplete training procedures for lab technicians,
3. Overly complicated forms for recording calibration checks,
4. Failure to address issues noted during previous on-site audits, and
5. Inadequate or inconsistent documentation of instrument maintenance.

Paul noted that templates for equipment maintenance logs, pre-calibration check records, calibration checks and adjustments, and daily instrument logs should provide adequate documentation.

Paul stated that he would be requiring more complete maintenance records and better resolution of deficiencies from previous audits before recommending future certification renewals and in some cases, may require follow-up from recent audits before recommending certification renewal.

Paul reviewed the Sample Unknowns analysis and noted the following concerns:

1. There are about three data entry errors reported per month as the result of using the website calculator to determine the 12-sample total,
2. Unknowns samples are not being handled using routine laboratory procedures and are therefore, not representative of normal herd samples,
3. Problem samples are not being reported and therefore, are not identifiable to the auditor, and
4. There are 10-12 laboratories calling each month to verify their In / Out status.

The Committee approved a recommendation to have Paul Sauve, Michael Rector, and Jere High draft a revision pertaining to the *Auditing of Calibration Check and Maintenance Documentation* section of the CDCB laboratory manual that would clarify the documentation and response time requirements and email it to the LAC members for comments.

Paul presented and reviewed a series of spreadsheet templates developed in conjunction with NALMA and California DHIA designed to help laboratories meet the QC requirements and recommended that laboratories begin using them routinely.

The Committee re-elected Jere High to a two-year term as LAC Chairman.

Paul reviewed the issue of MUN tolerances and presented a recommendation to establish multiple levels of certification based on accuracy. The Committee tabled the recommendation until later in the meeting.

During the NALMA portion of the meeting, the following topics were presented:

1. Jennifer Garrett spoke regarding communication, dealing with changes, and motivation,
2. Representatives from Bentley, Delta Instruments, and Foss provided reports from laboratory equipment manufacturers,
3. Representatives from various laboratories and suppliers reviewed laboratory analysis options for John's, forage, and Mycoplasma testing.

Jere High led a discussion regarding the consolidation of the NALMA, LAC, NADMA, and FSAC meetings with the National DHIA Annual Meeting in March. The consensus of the Committee was to pursue this course of action for a 2004 meeting in Anaheim, CA with the laboratory meetings on Wednesday, the field service meetings on Thursday, tours on Friday, and the NDHIA meetings on Saturday.

John Rhoads shared the results of a Sample Unknowns shipping trial held in 2002 and noted that laboratories have choice of shippers.

John also reviewed the Sample Unknowns results for 2002-2003 and confirmed that overall, laboratory results have been very close to reference sample results. The Committee suggested that John submit his findings to magazines for publication.

The issue of MUN certification was re-visited and the Committee acknowledged that this was not a CDCB issue and therefore, no recommendation was made to include it in the CDCB manuals. The consensus of the Committee was to have National DHIA list D-value archs at 0.5, 1.0, and 1.5 on the MUN summary graph to provide better comparison markers.

Jere High reported that NALMA will begin working on a laboratory handbook in the near future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Rector
QCS

Attendance List
Laboratory Advisory Committee Meeting
June 19, 2003

AgSource Cooperative / CRIEric Helms, Joel Amdall, Tom DeMuth

Arizona DHIA.....Kim Layne, Neil Hoffman

California DHIABill VerBoort

Canadian Lab Services.....Paul Sauve, Carol Campbell

Central Valley Dairy Lab.....Harry Thompson

Colorado DHIA.....John Kennedy

Dairy Lab Services.....Dawn Funk

Dairy One.....Dixie Burris

DHI-Provo.....Ken Crandall

Eastern Wisconsin DHIA.....Glenn Schmahl, Dona Winter, Jamie Meyer

Foss North AmericaJeff Boedigheimer

Fox Valley DHIA.....Carol Decker, Joe Drexler

Great Lakes DHIAJohn Mikel

Heart of America DHIA.....Erin Ferdinand

Holstein USADan Meihak

Lancaster DHIAJere High, Jay Mylin

Mid-South Dairy Records.....Mark Witherspoon

Minnesota DHIA.....Bruce Dokkebakken

Minnesota DHIA – Zumbrota Lab.....Muril Niebuhr

National DHIA.....Diane Ross, Greg Marrs, Dave Selner

Quality Certification Services.....Michael Rector, David Youngman

Quebec DHIABrian Corrigan

Rainbow TestPer Jensen
Rocky Mountain DHIA.....Brent Clark, Kim Hatch, Teresa Maughan
Southern Counties DHIA.....Rick Bealer
Texas DHIADebie Van Alstyne
Universal Lab ServicesPaul Proffitt
Vermont DHIAMildred Nault
Washington DHIATim Thomas