

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Agricultural Development
Agricultural Development & Diversification Program (ADD)
Grant Project Final Report

Contract Number: **DATCP 17055**

Grant Project Title: Development of a Wisconsin Dairy Farm Biosafety Quality Assurance Program

Project Beginning Date: July 1, 2002

Project End Date: June 30, 2003

Amount of Funding Awarded: \$25,500

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Please use the following questions as a guide for writing your grant project final report. In your final report, please answer each question as it relates to your grant project.

- 1) **What did you want to accomplish with the grant?** The objective of the project was to develop and evaluate a comprehensive dairy farm quality assurance program that can be implemented by Wisconsin dairy farms of all sizes and farm structures. The participating farms also serve as demonstration sites for best management practices.

- 2) **What steps did you take to reach your goal?** In Phase I, four dairy farms were enrolled in a model biosafety program to develop and test the program. The four participating farmers and their local veterinarian are true partners in this project and are participating in development of the materials and implementation of the recommendations. During the course of the phase I project, all 4 of the farms have completed the first 3 modules of the program (Biosecurity, Johnes Control and Quality Milk Production). Materials for farm risk assessments, and program materials were developed and tested for each module. Each element of the biosafety quality assurance plan was implemented by the use of a 2 month module. This format allows for risk assessment, planning, implementation of action plans and assessment of follow through. Farms were visited at least monthly by the project coordinator (Dr. Fernanda Hoe – a graduate student in Dairy Science) Each of the 3, 2-month modules consisted of an initial team meetings to assess risk and select action points, farm visits by the project coordinator to assess compliance and a follow-up team meeting to evaluate outcomes.
 - **What worked?** The use of quantifiable risk assessments used at the first meeting of each module was found to be extremely effective. All future modules will utilize the format developed in this phase of the project.
 - **What did not work?** Several different forms and methodologies were tested before arriving at the final risk assessment based format. The initial forms could not rank risks and made it difficult to arrive at definitive action items.
 - **What would you do differently?** We are revising this project as we learn from each module. We have already integrated the antibiotic usage and treatment record module into the quality milk module and added a module (phase II) on “Ensuring Animal Well-being.”

- 3) **What were you able to accomplish?** We met all our milestones in phase I and believe that are on track with phase II. This project is proceeding exactly on schedule.
- 4) **What challenges did you face?** It is extremely evident that motivating producers to adopt best management practices related to future risks (biosecurity, Johne's management etc.) is much more challenging than developing plans to tackle immediate problems such as milk quality.
- 5) **What do you plan to do in the future as a result of this project?** We are continuing to develop Phase II (the final 3 modules) of this project with funding from ADD and WMMB.
- 6) **How should the agricultural industry or the State of Wisconsin use the results from your grant project?** Our goal is to develop partnerships with key industry players to launch a Wisconsin Biosafety Quality Assurance Program that will allow differentiation and premium payments for animals and animal based products originating on participating farms.