

901:11-2-03

Bacterial count.

(A) During at least four separate months within any consecutive six month period, the director shall collect, at irregular intervals, and submit producer raw milk samples to a laboratory for examination to determine the bacterial count.

(B) Samples shall be analyzed at a laboratory approved by the director. Each producer raw milk sample shall be tested for bacterial count using one of the following methods or any other method listed in the "Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products", 17th edition, published by the American Public Health Association; or by any other equivalent method approved by the director:

(1) Direct microscopic clump count;

(2) Standard plate count;

(3) Plate loop count;

(4) Pectin gel plate count;

(5) Petrifilm™ aerobic count;

(6) Spiral plate count;

(7) Hydrophobic grid membrane filter count; or

(8) Impedance/conductance count.

(C) Whenever the producer raw milk bacterial count indicates the presence of more than 500,000 bacteria per ml. for milk shipped from the farm bulk milk tank, or more than 1,000,000 bacteria per ml. for producer raw milk shipped from the farm via cans, the following procedures shall be applied:

(1) The producer shall be notified of an excessive bacterial count; and

(2) Whenever two of the last four bacterial counts exceed the bacterial standard as stated in paragraph (C) of this rule, the director shall send a written warning notice to the producer. The notice shall be in effect so long as two of the last four consecutive samples exceed the bacterial standard.

(D) An additional sample shall be taken no sooner than three days and no later than twenty-one days after sending of the warning notice required in paragraph (C)(2) of this rule. If this sample also exceeds the bacterial standard, the producer license or registration shall be suspended until satisfactory compliance is obtained. Shipment may be resumed and the producer license or registration reinstated by the director when an additional sample of the producer raw milk is tested and found satisfactory. The producer license or registration shall remain in a warning status as long as two of the last four bacterial counts exceed the standard. The director shall

suspend the producer license or registration immediately, in accordance with section 917.22 of the Revised Code, whenever three of the last five bacterial counts exceed the standard.

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Certification

Date

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