

# Changes to Raw Milk Quality Testing, Payment and Penalties

On June 1, 2010 Dairy Farmers of Ontario will be implementing the following changes to the testing of bulk tank milk samples and the application of raw milk quality penalties. For additional information please contact your Field Services Representative or contact DFO's head office (905-821-8970).

Producers can receive their up-to-date test results using the MILKLINE phone system (1-800-386-9109) and DFO's website ([www.milk.org](http://www.milk.org)).

## 1. Increased Frequency of Bulk Tank Testing

- Each milk sample from each farm will be tested for butterfat, protein, other solids, somatic cell count and freezing point estimate.
- One sample per week from each farm will be tested for bacteria.
- One sample per month from each farm will be tested for inhibitors.
  - Note: each load of milk delivered to a processing plant is tested for a broad spectrum of inhibitors.

## 2. Changes to Bacteria Penalties

More frequent bacteria testing, from once per month to once per week, required changes to be made to the calculation of producer penalties for high bacteria test results. Regulation 761 of the Ontario Milk Act outlines all details regarding bacteria penalties.

Previously, producers were penalized if bacteria test results were greater than 121,000 IBC/ml in 2 out of 3 consecutive tests (months). Now, with additional testing, producers will be penalized if they have, **a test result greater than 121,000 IBC/ml in the third month of any three-month period, and at least five more test results greater than 121,000 IBC/ml in the three-month period.**

### Example BSN results (in '000's) and Penalty Level

	May	June	July	August	September
Test 1	196	39	233	30	15
Test 2		17	256	9	832
Test 3		1,600	180	16	768
Test 4		278	102	12	186
Penalty Level			1st		2nd

Penalty range	Elevated
---------------	----------

## 3. Changes to Inhibitor Testing

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs has approved additional inhibitor confirmatory tests to complement DFO's enhanced load screening program. This will result in load losses and costs being incurred to the producer whose milk tests positive for drug residues and has caused the load to be rejected.

#### 4. Changes to Calculation of Component Yield Payments and SCC Monthly Average

Currently, milk pickup composition yield is calculated from the date test results are reported until the next test results are reported. Starting in June, payment will be based on the component yield calculated for each pickup. Each SCC result will also be used to calculate a herd's Monthly Weighted Average SCC for penalty calculations.

If a sample is missed for some reason, the results from the previous test result will be used to determine component yield and weighted SCC. The reason for a sample not being tested will be provided to producers on the DFO website. The table below shows an example of how the calculations will be done.

#### Example Component Yield and SCC Monthly Average Calculation

Milk Pick-up	Volume	BF		PT		OS		SCC
	(litres)	(kg/hl)	(kg)	(kg/hl)	(kg)	(kg/hl)	(kg)	('000's)
1	4,803	3.86	185.40	3.18	152.74	5.78	277.61	127
2	4,302	3.91	168.21	3.14	135.08	5.80	249.52	104
3	4,276	3.96	169.33	3.14	134.27	5.75	245.87	117
4	4,397	3.83	168.41	3.16	138.95	5.74	252.39	110
5	4,682	3.83	179.32	3.17	148.42	5.72	267.81	95
6	4,853	3.76	182.47	3.18	154.33	5.73	278.08	107
7	4,813	3.76*	180.97	3.18*	153.05	5.73*	275.78	107*
8	4,808	3.71	178.38	3.18	152.89	5.77	277.42	110
9	5,098	3.76	191.68	3.24	165.18	5.79	295.17	92
10	5,122	3.74	191.56	3.23	165.44	5.80	297.08	93
11	4,958	3.84	190.39	3.21	159.15	5.80	287.56	88
12	4,923	3.86	190.03	3.16	155.57	5.79	285.04	109
13	4,828	3.93	189.74	3.16	152.56	5.80	280.02	107
14	4,813	3.94	189.63	3.17	152.57	5.78	278.19	75
15	4,796	3.88	186.08	3.15	151.07	5.76	276.25	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,472</b>		<b>2,741.60</b>		<b>2,271.27</b>		<b>4,123.80</b>	<b>101**</b>

\*Sample not available for testing - previous test results used for calculation

\*\* SCC Total is the Monthly Weighted Average for the month

#### 5. Changes to Freezing Point Estimate and Absolute Freezing Point

The scale used to determine freezing point in milk samples is changing from Hortvet to Celsius. Currently a sample is selected for confirmatory testing for absolute freezing point if the freezing point estimate is  $-0.524^{\circ}\text{H}$  or higher, which is equivalent to  $-0.506^{\circ}\text{C}$  which will now be used. Any sample with a confirmed freezing point of  $-0.506^{\circ}\text{C}$  or higher will be in penalty range. The table below outlines the old (Hortvet) and new (Celsius) scales for freezing point.

Degrees Hortvet		Degrees Celsius
-0.524 or higher	Penalty Range	-0.506 or higher
-0.533 to -0.525	Elevated	-0.515 to -0.507
-0.534 or lower	Normal	-0.517 or lower

June 1, 2010