

Dairy Farm Inspection Frequency Options

RE: A current initiative involving the review of dairy farm inspection frequency options.

DATCP's dairy services section, in collaboration and cooperation with the Dairy Rules Advisory Council (DRAC), is evaluating, in detail, the two dairy farm inspection frequency options allowed under the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). This national ordinance sets the basis and standards by which Grade A milk and milk products are allowed in interstate commerce.

Over the last 100 years, Wisconsin has tried both dairy farm inspection frequency options. Up until 1995, and for seven decades prior, dairy farms were inspected once every six months (option 1). Since 1995, and currently, performance-based farm inspections (PBFIs) are conducted (option 2).

With more than 25,000 dairy farms in the state at the time, PBFIs were adopted into rule in 1995 (ATCP 65). This changed the inspection frequency to one based on the farm's performance as reflected via inspection reports, which include the quantities and types of debits that were observed and documented, along with milk quality testing results. Today, with approximately 5,800 dairy farms, Wisconsin is the only remaining state to follow the PBFI frequency of inspections. It is prudent to evaluate whether the PBFI method remains the best fit for the dairy industry in Wisconsin, considering all the pros and cons.

DATCP's evaluative end goals are:

- Goal #1 – To develop a method that ensures the excellence of the highest quality farms continues to be recognized, similar to what occurs today.
- Goal #2 – To receive a well-considered and representative advisement from DRAC that would be used to determine if a potential rule revision to ATCP 65 is needed. This advisement would come after a minimum of two years of data gathering and subsequent analysis, with no predetermined outcome.
- Goal #3 – To make the inspection process as consistent as possible between the state inspection program, state survey, and federal survey.

Your voice matters and your input is deeply desired.

If you want to know more about the vital role performed by the Dairy Rules Advisory Committee, its members, or read previous meeting minutes, visit the [DATCP Home Dairy Rules Advisory Committee](#) page on the DATCP website.

To make a comment about dairy farm inspection frequencies, contact us via email by navigating to the "Contact" section of the [DATCP Home Dairy Rules Advisory Committee](#) webpage.

It is our sincere hope that all viewpoints and perspectives will be considered during this initiative, and that all judgements and predispositions are suspended until such a time that a fully informed advisement from DRAC can be issued.