The Dairy Goat Digest

Issue # 7 May 2005

The Dairy Food Safety Unit at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) wants to keep you informed of changes and updates to the Raw Goat Milk Quality Program and ongoing quality issues. This newsletter should provide you with the information you need.

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Planning to Build or Renovate?

All goat milk producers need to be aware of the necessity to have construction plans reviewed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) before they begin work on a milking area or milk house. Whether it's a renovation or a new building, OMAF Raw Milk Specialists need to be notified and are available to visit the farm to examine plans and make recommendations. This pre-approval step helps to ensure that regulatory requirements will be met once the construction is complete. Modifications 'after-the-fact' can be a hassle and costly, especially when it involves relocating a milk house drain or moving equipment to make it accessible for inspection.

Lack of planning for new facilities can also effect the proper installation of equipment. This can result in operating and cleaning problems which may take a few weeks to surface in the form of high bacteria counts, and are not uncommon with new installations. Make sure your equipment installer performs a thorough testing of the equipment before use, and can certify that it is operating properly.

Once all construction is complete and the equipment installed, a final inspection by OMAF is required prior to putting milk in the tank. You are encouraged to make your request for a final inspection at least one week in advance to ensure a Raw Milk Specialist is available when you are ready to use your new equipment. For pre-approval of plans and a final inspection contact one of OMAF's Raw Milk Specialists: Phillip Wilman 1-888-466-2372 ext. 63746, or Mike Foran 1-888-466-2372 ext. 64061.

Where to find the **Dairy Goat Digest on line** plus access to related links:

http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/livestock/goat/news.html

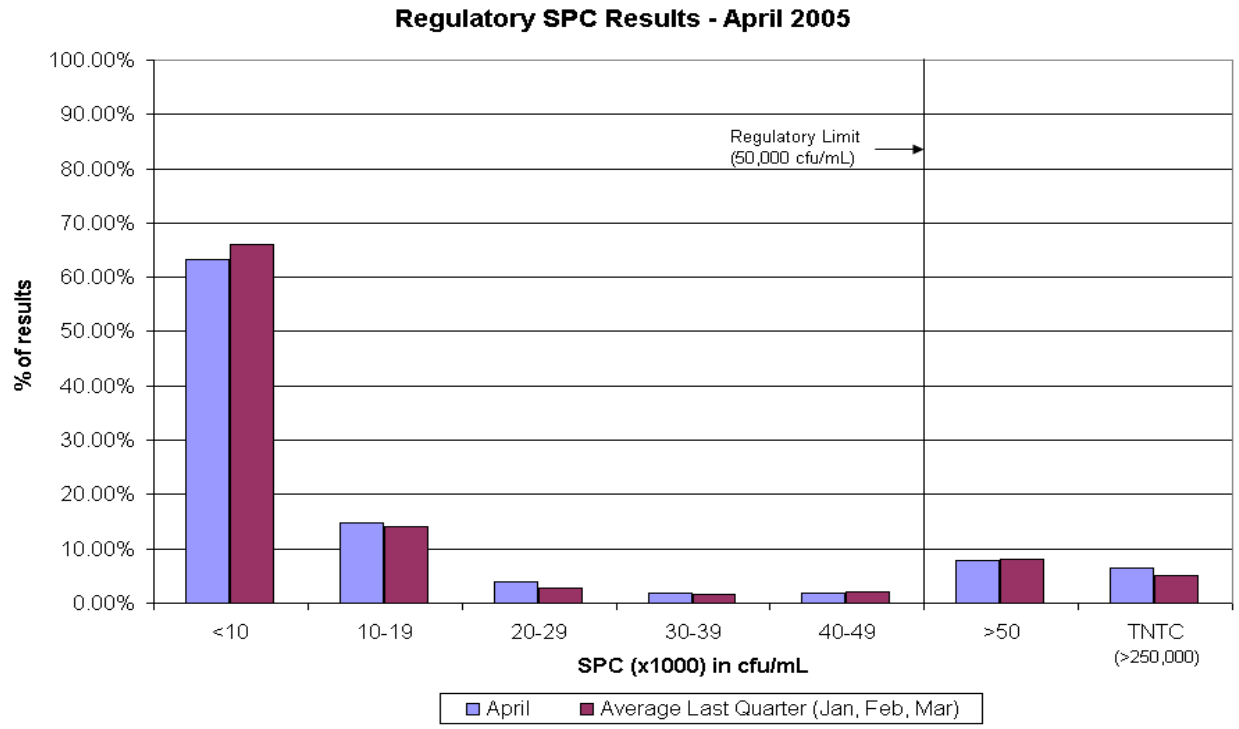
Standard Plate Count Summary

In the table and graph below are a summary of regulatory test results of goat milk samples which are conducted once a month on a random basis. Results of additional testing conducted by the goat milk marketing organizations is not represented here.

In the month of April, 155 out of the 161 licensed Ontario goat milk producers, received a regulatory test representing over 96 per cent of producer samples tested. Of those test results, 85.8 per cent had a count of less than 50,000 colony forming units per milliliter(cfu/ml) and therefore met the regulatory standard. Just over 14 per cent of results had SPC levels equal to or greater than 50,000 cfu/ml.

	# Licensed Producers	# Regulatory Tests	% Tested	% of tests		
				<50000	>50000	NR
April 2005	161	155	96.27%	85.8%	14.2%	0.00%
March 2005	159	153	96.23%	80.4%	19.6%	0.00%
February 2005	158	128	81.01%	90.6%	9.4%	0.00%
January 2005	156	144	92.31%	90.3%	9.7%	0.00%

NR = test not reportable; test malfunction



Send us your comments at: dairygoatdigest@omaf.gov.on.ca