



Quality Certification Services, Inc.

QC assures milk records' accuracy and reliability

Whether it's on the dairy, at the computer or within the walls of the Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory (AIPL) at USDA, you and the dairy industry rely on consistent and accurate records to effectively manage dairy cattle and operate profitable businesses. To see that this happens, the Quality Certification (QC) Program run by Quality Certification Services Inc. (QCS), a subsidiary of the National Dairy Herd Information Association (National DHIA), operates behind the scenes with dairy records providers, AI organizations and breed associations to monitor the accuracy of data submitted to AIPL for genetic evaluations and every day management uses.

The QC Program works with milk testing laboratories, meter calibration centers, records processing centers and DHI field services to provide verification and audit services to assure data accuracy. While the QC Program is more commonly known for its role in auditing and compliance verification with Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding Guidelines and DHI Uniform Operating Procedures, it also carries out several proactive tasks. Working with dairy industry partners, the QC Program provides educational instruction for those involved in on-farm collection of milk samples, laboratory milk testing, milk meter use and field services. Additionally, the QC Program conducts regular monitoring to assure the accuracy and reliability of data entering the Genetic Evaluation Program.

"The processes and systems that the QC Program monitors and evaluates are vitally important to marketing U.S. dairy cattle genetics domestically and internationally," stated David Kendall, Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association and American Milking Shorthorn Society executive secretary. "Before I worked for a breed association, I had no concept of how much was involved in getting accurate data from farms, laboratories, processing centers and AIPL so dairy cattle breeders and others involved in dairy cattle breeding can make effective management decisions. There are so many levels that rely on accurate data, which the QC Program assures. This reliable, consistent and accurate information does not appear magi-



At the August Meter Technician Training School, John Johnson, AgSource Cooperative Services, Dorchester Wis.; Gary Wolf, DHI Cooperative Inc., Columbus Ohio; Mike McCollor, NorthStar Cooperative-DHI Services, Lansing Mich.; and Terry Hopper, Dairy Lab Services, Dubuque Iowa; fine-tune their milk meter care, maintenance, operation and calibration skills. QCS places strong emphasis on proactively educating those involved in milk sample collection, milk testing and data generation.

cally. The QC Program is there throughout the entire process – from the farm all the way to AIPL and out to the entire dairy industry."

For quality certification to be effective, several "partners" must work in tandem. These partners include local field service affiliates and their technicians, meter centers, laboratories analyzing milk components and dairy records processing centers. The QCS staff works diligently to ensure there is accurate data flow among service affiliates, processing centers and AIPL.

Dairy producers, AI studs and breed associations around the world all rely on accurate and reliable data. Through its regular monitoring and educational programs, the QC Program will continue to assure milk records' accuracy, reliability and consistency to help you effectively manage your business.

For more information about the QC Program and QCS, contact Steven Sievert, manager, QC Program, at 608-848-6455, ext. 113, e-mail: sjsievert@dhia.org, or Jay Mattison, administrator of QCS, ext. 111, e-mail: jmattison@dhia.org. Or, log on to www.quality-certification.com.