

11.7.1 Test day policy utilizing proper recording practices when using electronic milk meters and electronic ID simultaneously

11.7.1.1 Definition

On test day, utilizing on-farm electronic milk meters with on-farm electronic identification (hereby addressed as ID) information, it has been substantiated numerous times that not all ID programs are complete, accurate and successful. Realizing that there are currently on-farm electronic milk metering devices standards that are in place it is the intent of this publication to substantiate the proper use and guidelines of electronic ID usage on test-day to give the most accurate and precise information possible for use in genetic evaluations and management practices.

11.7.1.2 Examples of proper recording systems/practices on test day

First group of cows entering milking parlor all need to be visually identified and cross-referenced to the electronic ID system; henceforth two stalls are randomly selected to observe on each group to insure proper ID test day procedures – to substantiate verification of visual observation a paper trail or computer notebook protocol would be used to insure accuracy

First group of cows entering milking parlor all need to be visually identified and cross-referenced to the electronic ID system; henceforth every fifth group is visually identified to insure proper ID for test day procedures – to substantiate verification of visual observation a paper trail or computer notebook protocol would be used to insure accuracy

First group of cows entering milking parlor all need to be visually identified and cross-referenced to the electronic ID system; henceforth each first and last animal is visually identified to insure proper ID for test day procedures – to substantiate verification of visual observation a paper trail or computer notebook protocol would be used to insure accuracy
It is advisable that if there are any misidentified animals then proper notification needs to be made to the dairy producer as to the problem discovered and the entire test day needs to be completed using visual identification until the problem is corrected

11.7.1.3 Validation

It is advisable the electronic ID system should have inbuilt validation checks/software to ensure each row has the correct cow sequence. Such checks would include but not limited to:

“Cross out” check - in the event cow A is “read” by sensor but withdraws her head and is “passed out” by another cow B, then when cow A enters properly the sequence is corrected....

“Random Check” – the system can be programmed on recording day so that the electronic system selects a % of units at random on each row for checking – operator must verify cow at the selected units (accept button) and only when all selected units are “accepted” is the row allowed out....

“Narrow Entrance funnel” – as most errors occur at entry-gate to row, it is advisable for parlor installations to have entrance funnel of “one cow length” thereby distancing the jostling activity from sensors.

Note – experts from manufacturers should be consulted here to decide and agree on the best way to “build” quality checks into the system.

11.7.2 Test day policy utilizing proper recording practices when obtaining milk samples on individual animals

11.7.2.1 Definition

On test day, various sample vial recordings are used in the world-wide marketplace that adhere to proper test day procedures; however as has been identified by various entities, shortcuts are being made that limit proper identification of samples with individual cows on test day. With the milk sample platform being used for disease, genetics, DNA, and health tests along with the routine component test day requirements it is essential that all milk samples collected on test day be properly identified to the corresponding animal that it is collected from using proper collecting procedures.

11.7.2.2 Examples of proper recording of sample vials on test day

Each animal is recorded on sample vial with name or number corresponding to animal ID that is used on-farm that corresponds with proper laboratory practice procedures

Each animal is recorded on sample vial using bar graph information systems that corresponds with proper laboratory practice procedures

Each animal is recorded on sample vial via RFID chip installed or embedded within the sample vial that corresponds with proper laboratory practice procedures

It is advisable that every sample vial is properly identified with the corresponding correct cow ID in whatever system is approved for proper usage that will follow proper laboratory practice procedures