



Use of the Tru-Test Electronic Milk Meter (EMM) in France

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Abstract

The Tru-Test Electronic Milk Meter (EMM) was updated over 2007 in close association with several French herd testing regions and France Controle Laitier. While the original EMM read bar-coded milk sample vials, this later model EMM uses RFID vials instead. Other new features have also been added including longer battery life, user-friendly menu software and Bluetooth in the Data Handler control unit.

Controle Laitier Du Pas Calais started using the RFID version EMM for commercial herd testing in early 2008. This service is based around the farmers doing their own testing.

EMM's are installed on herd test day, with a milk sample from both the evening and morning milking sessions automatically dispensed into one single RFID vial. The EMM and Data Handler control unit ensure the correct vial is attached.

After the milking, the test data is downloaded from the Data Handler to a PDA and this file is remotely transmitted to the database centre used by Controle Laitier Du Pas Calais. Herd test results are available on-line later the same day after the morning milking.

Trialling of RFID anklets linking the cow numbers wirelessly back to the EMM and Data Handler is underway and will become a standard feature of the herd testing service provided to farmers by Controle Laitier Du Pas Calais.

Keywords: France, Controle Laitier Du Pas Calais, Tru-Test Electronic Milk Meter, RFID EMM, RFID vials, farmer testing, Bluetooth, PDA, RFID anklets