Herd Testing in the United States

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Overview of Herd Testing In the U.S.
Quality Certification in the United States

- **Program is user-driven**
  - Guidelines developed by service providers
  - Review and recommendation by Audit Review Committee
  - Approval by Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (Records Providers, Breed Associations and A.I. Organizations)

- **Administered by Quality Certification Services, Inc.**
  - Specific auditors for each service area
  - Serve as compliance auditor and educational resource

**Our Mission**

*Provide a reliable source of information to people interested in the U.S. dairy records industry*

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Assuring Data Accuracy is the Role of QCS

Consultants, Vets & Nutritionists

Dairy Farm

Field Service Provider

Meter Center

Laboratory

DRPC

AIPL

Breed Associations

AI Organizations

Interbull
27 Field Service Providers in the U.S.

- **Wide range of ownership or management**
  - Private testing businesses
  - Federated associations
  - Vertically integrated organizations
  - Non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses

- **Working with 3,018 Field Technicians**
  - Employee Field Technicians
  - Employees of County Testing Organizations
  - Independent Milk Testers/Testing Organizations
Certified Field Service Affiliates

Continued Growth in Cows on DHI Programs
Though Herds on DHI Programs Declined

Year
2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
Field Service Providers
Number of Herds
26,236 25,077 24,297 23,611 23,005

DHI Programs for Herds of Any Size

Number of Cows per Herd
Field Service Providers
Number of Cows
1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 8,000 9,000
1-99 100-249 250-499 500-999 1,000-1,999 2,000-3,999 4,000+
938,186 791,468 722,802 654,545 545,467 533,110 282,093
Certification of Field Service Providers

- Guidelines developed by DHI Managers
- Certification program administered by QCS
  - Annual Certification – alternating on and off site
  - Education resource for all providers

Annual Certification

- Initial Training of Field Technicians
- Calibration of Portable Meters
- Calibration of Scales
- Verification of Dairy-Field Service Member Agreements

Continuing Education of Field Technicians

- Calibration of Electronic Meters
- Comparison of Test Day and Milk Shipped Data
- Use of Only Certified Meter Centers and Labs

Meter Centers & Technicians

Sievert, 2008 ICAR, DHI Manager’s Session, 11

Sievert, 2008 ICAR, DHI Manager’s Session, 12
Calibration of Milk Meters a Priority

- 45 Certified Meter Centers in the U.S.
- 92 Certified Meter Technicians calibrating
  - 108,139 Portable Meters annually
  - Tru-Test, Waikato, Foss and TeSa meters

Three Components of Certification

- Biennial On-Site Meter Center Audit
- Biennial On-Site Meter Technician Audit
- Meter Technician Training School Once Every Five Years

Certified Meter Centers

 Mileage

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Certified Meter Centers

Map of the United States showing the locations of certified meter centers.
49 DHI Laboratories in the U.S. and Mexico

- **Varying business structures**
  - County DHI laboratories
  - Privately held laboratories
  - Labs operating as part of integrated field service provider

- **Offering varying services**
  - DHI component testing only
  - Analysis of DHI and payment samples
  - MUN testing (29 labs)
  - ELISA testing of milk samples (7 labs)
  - Microbiology services
49 DHI Laboratories in the U.S. and Mexico

- Sample analysis includes
  - 4.7 million milk samples monthly (2-year mean)
  - Smallest lab analyzes 16,000 samples per month
  - Largest lab analyzes 410,000 samples per month

Two Components of Certification

- Biennial On-Site Audit
- Monthly Samples Unknown Analysis
Handling the Data

- Four Records Processing Centers in the U.S.
  - Process monthly DHI data for herds on both Official and Management Programs
  - Provide technical training for field service providers and field technicians

Two Components of Certification

- Annual Off-Site Audit
- Monthly Test Herd Processing
Dairy Records Processing Centers

DHI Herds Processed in 2007

- AgSource Cooperative: 4,826 herds, 21%
- Agri-Tech Analytics: 587 herds, 3%
- Dairy Records Management Systems: 15,435 herds, 69%
- DHI-Provo: 1,663 herds, 7%
The Dynamic Nature of Herd Testing in the U.S.

- Vibrant and Growing
- Competitive and Service Driven
- Committed to Accurate Data
- Employs Thousands of Talented People
- Programs for Herds of All Sizes
- Developing New Services & Programs