Milk Recording Workshop

Whose milk is in the vial?

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Agenda

• Demographics of AMS in Canada
• Sample Collection
• Cow - Vial link
• Main issues with Cow – Vial link
• Future Plans for Improvement
AMS herds in Canada

820 AMS herds - 97,825 cows on Milk Recording

11.2 % of our customers (14.8% of cows) and growing

Avg herd size ~ 119 cows = 2 boxes
Largest herd ~ 1600 cows - 30 boxes

Market Share ~ 55% to 65% of AMS herds
Lower compared to conventional milking systems = 72%+
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Sample Collection
Sample Collection

- 70% of customers rent samplers from us
- 50% of customers set up sampling themselves
- Samples are collected from a single milking
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Two systems of vial ID:

West:
Vials with pre applied non specific barcode (cap or side). Vial is linked at the farm to a specific cow via entry or scan by MR staff.
Cow – Vial link

East:

Pre printed barcode that is specific to a farm/cow and applied to a vial at the farm
Cow – Vial link
For AMS:

- Use/Rely on the AMS ‘sample report’ that indicates which cow was sampled in which of the sampler position #

- Report is printed/viewed on AMS software screen, and barcode is entered/scanned to cow ID in MR staff laptop or cow ID label is applied to corresponding vial
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Potential issues:

- Cow ID within AMS box is very good – no issues
- Rest of process is open to human error
  - Reading sample report correctly
  - Keying/scanning/applying labels correctly
  - 50% of time, busy farmer does this process vs trained MR staff
  - Some cows are not sampled, and can throw sample order out of sequence if not paying attention
Process can have human error – focus is to minimize.
Best Management Practices:

– Specialized, well trained AMS MR field staff
Training of MR staff and customers.
Cow – Vial link

Best Management Practices:

– Specialized well trained AMS MR field staff
– Observe & confirm first 2-3 cows being sampled
– Use of a secondary report – has cow order and is time stamped as to when each cow was milked
– Write cow ID on label/vial when removing from sampler
– Put vials in boxes in same order as out of the sampler
Observation...

Some of the issues surrounding cow & sample ID are not unique to AMS systems, could be in parlours as well.
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Cow – Vial link

Future Plans for Improvements:

• Ongoing training of MR Staff & Customers
• Built in vial barcode reader in samplers, that auto links with cow ID in AMS software…?
• Etransfer of sample report info…?
• AMS operation/software improvements…?

Don’t skip any cows, or clearly list cows that were skipped and not sampled
Merci!

Questions?