Michigan to Adopt 2013 PMO
During 2015, the MDARD Food and Dairy Division plans to work with the state Legislature to adopt the 2013 Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) into Michigan’s Dairy Laws. The PMO, published by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), outlines minimum standards and requirements for Grade A milk production and processing. Grade A standards are recommended by the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS), which is comprised of voting representatives from state and local regulatory agencies, and non-voting representatives of the dairy industry and FDA. As a general rule, FDA concurs with the Conference recommendations and incorporates them into the revised PMO. State dairy regulatory agencies, including MDARD, adopt the PMO standards as minimum requirements for state Grade A dairy licensure.

Michigan to Host 2017 NCIMS Conference
Grand Rapids, Michigan has been selected as the location for the 2017 National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS). The conference is held biennially, in odd-numbered years, for the purpose of deliberating proposals submitted by producers, processors, consumers, researchers, or government agencies at the local, state or federal levels, who have an interest in ensuring that dairy products are safe. The 2015 conference will be held April 24-29 in Portland, OR. Proposals submitted for consideration are assigned to one of three councils, who then discuss the merits of each proposal, with a resulting recommendation to the delegate body. The delegate body is comprised of dairy industry representatives, FDA and regulators from each state and U.S. territory that chooses to participate. Each state/territory has the equivalent of one vote (some states split their vote among two representatives, each with one-half of the state’s vote). Only the state delegates are able to cast their votes for final passage of the proposal. Michigan looks forward to serving as host of the 2017 conference and playing a role in protecting the safety and wholesomeness of our nation’s milk supply.

Consumer Complaint Hotline
If you see a food-related problem, please report it to the MDARD Food and Dairy Division at 800-292-3939 or through the MDARD website: www.michigan.gov/mdard
Dairy Staff Updates

The Dairy Section at MDARD has seen some major staff changes over the past six months. Three dairy inspectors joined the team. They are responsible for inspecting Grade A and Manufacturing Grade dairy farms, milk haulers and tankers, and dairy processing plants in their respective work areas. Mike Booth has 17 years of experience as a sanitarian with the Isabella County Health Department. He has a Mt. Pleasant work station and covers Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, and Midland counties. Patrick Hash previously worked as an inspector for the Indiana Board of Animal Health. Patrick has a North Branch work station and covers Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair counties as well as several dairy processing plants in the greater Detroit metropolitan area. Ellen Carr was a registered public health sanitarian in Iowa before joining the MDARD team. She grew up on her family’s farm in Homer, Michigan in Jackson County. Her work station is located in Paw Paw and she covers Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties.

In November 2014, Karen McNamara, MDARD’s long-time Dairy Specialist, passed away suddenly. Karen was a dedicated supporter of the dairy industry, a valued co-worker and a friend, and is dearly missed.

Brian Cogar was hired in February 2015 to assume Karen’s duties. He came to MDARD from the Indiana Board of Animal Health where he worked as a Grade A Rating Officer. Brian’s work station is in Southwest Michigan. He is responsible for conducting Grade A surveys of Michigan’s Grade A dairy farms that are part of bulk tank units with Interstate Milk Shipments (IMS) listings and IMS listed dairy plants, in accordance with the requirements of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

Lindsey Giles-Austin was promoted to a Dairy Specialist position. She has worked for MDARD as a dairy inspector and senior dairy inspector for several years and came to us from Leprino Foods – Remus. When Lindsey becomes certified as a Grade A dairy farm Rating Officer she will be responsible for assisting Dennis Hunt and Brian Cogar with completion of Grade A dairy farm surveys. Lindsey’s other responsibilities include USDA plant surveys, equipment and plan review, helping with the hauler, tanker, and pasteurizer programs. Lindsey’s work station is in Ithaca.

Shawn Lee has been a dairy inspector with MDARD for two years. He came to MDARD from the New Jersey Department of Health where he was the Laboratory Evaluation Officer (LEO) for industry milk laboratories. Shawn was recently promoted to a dairy senior inspector and serves as a back-up LEO, responsible for evaluating drug residue testing sites and accredited laboratories for compliance with the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance in addition to his normal inspection duties. His work station is in Big Rapids.

MDARD Contact Information

Phone: 1-800-292-3939
After Hours Emergencies: 517-373-0440
Fax: 517-373-9742
Email: MDA-FoodDairyInfo@michigan.gov
Web: www.michigan.gov/MDA-dairy
Electronic Complaints Submission: www.michigan.gov/complaints
Licensing Information: www.michigan.gov/business
Marketing Information: www.michigan.gov/miagbusiness