

**FEED ♦ FERTILIZER ♦ MILK ♦ SEED ♦ SEED TESTING ♦ SOIL TESTING****Dr. Melton Bryant  
Appointed Coordinator of  
Feed & Fertilizer  
Laboratory**

On March 1, Dr. Melton Bryant became Coordinator of the Feed and Fertilizer Laboratory. He will provide leadership and management of the laboratory that annually tests approximately 10,000 feed and fertilizer regulatory samples. Additionally, the laboratory conducts all the mineral analyses for the 30,000 soil samples tested by the Lexington campus soils lab. The feed and fertilizer laboratory has a staff of 14 analysts who perform testing for more than 60 chemical constituents and nutrients.

Mel has agricultural roots and is a Kentucky native from Sebree. His father, Marlo, operated M.F. Bryant & Sons Milling Company, a local feed mill, grain storage and fertilizer business. Upon graduation from Webster County High School he attended Western Kentucky University and obtained a degree in chemistry.

Mel was awarded a scholarship and enrolled at the University of Illinois where he obtained his M.S. and Ph.D in Analytical Chemistry. He also served as an officer in the U.S. Army.

Mel brings a wealth of experience to his position having worked in several research and development laboratories with companies such as Dupont, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, Conoco, Varian, and Leeman Labs. He has a great deal of expertise in analytical instrumentation and laboratory automation. Mel has been involved in the development of analytical methods for trace inorganic impurity in different types of materials such as plastics, catalysts, soils, high purity metals, glasses, and waste solutions. He has also developed methods for the verification of product composition in various materials.

We welcome Mel and his wife, Linda, back to Kentucky.

*Eli Miller – Director*

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## REGULATORY SERVICE'S IMPACT ON KENTUCKY AGRICULTURE

All programs of the Division of Regulatory Services make significant contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Primary goals of the Division include consumer protection, producer protection and service testing.

The feed, fertilizer and seed programs are primarily responsible for consumer protection through administration of respective laws assigned to the Division. Producer and processor protection is addressed by the milk program, which ensures raw farm milk is marketed based on accurate milk weights and tests. Service testing is performed by the seed, milk and soil-testing laboratories. The soil-testing lab also provides fertilizer and liming recommendations with sample results.

Division activities are performed by a dedicated and professional staff who conduct inspections, perform laboratory analyses, audit records, process and compile reports in addition to performing other duties required for administering effective programs.

### **Each program's activities and impact are described below:**

#### **Feed**

The Kentucky Commercial Feed Law provides consumer protection for livestock industries (*beef, dairy, swine, equine, poultry and other livestock*) and pet foods. The law ensures quality, safety and efficacy of commercial feed through specific labeling requirements. Labels should identify the purpose, a guaranteed composition, ingredient list and directions as well as any warning or caution statements required for proper use. A statewide inspection, sampling and testing program monitors feed products for accurate labeling.

The feed program is also involved in the safety of meat, milk and eggs produced for human consumption. Feed manufacturing facilities are routinely monitored for compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice Regulations for Medicated Feed. A significant portion of this activity is conducted through a cooperative program with the federal Food and Drug Administration (*FDA*). The feed program and the FDA are working to prevent establishment and amplification of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (*BSE*), also referred to as "Mad Cow Disease". Activities in this area include inspection of renderers, manufacturers and distributors to ensure compliance with regulations. The Kentucky feed program is part of the nationwide effort by state and federal agencies to ensure safety of human food and to promote consumer confidence in our food supply.

#### **Fertilizer**

The mission of the fertilizer regulatory program is to provide consumer protection for the purchaser of commercial fertilizer distributed in Kentucky. This mission is accomplished by administering the state fertilizer law with integrity, having mutual respect for and by the industry and providing assistance and education to the industry. Goals include rendering fair and equitable regulatory decisions and utilizing science based expertise to effectively regulate the industry and to provide national leadership. Fertilizer quality is vital to the production of grain, forage and other crops produced in the state and the program achieves its mission through statewide inspection, sampling and testing of these products.

#### **Milk**

The mission of the milk program is to ensure fair and accurate marketing of raw farm milk produced or marketed in Kentucky. The program provides support for the producers and processors of the state's \$248 million dairy industry. The program's primary function is to monitor the handling system from the time the producer's milk is sampled and weighed, through delivery and laboratory testing, until payments are calculated. Individuals participating in Kentucky's dairy industry are licensed by the Division and monitored to accomplish these objectives. In addition to our regulatory function, the milk program cooperates with other agencies in educational projects to provide services to Kentucky's dairy producers, processors, and support industries.

**Seed**

The seed program provides consumer protection to purchasers of seed products through inspection and analysis of products found in the marketplace. The Division, which administers and implements the Kentucky Seed Law, ensures compliance through facility inspections, sampling and analysis of seed offered for sale. Our staff of field inspectors, laboratory technicians, staff assistants and program coordinators work together to ensure sites are inspected, representative samples are taken, tests are performed and reported quickly and accurately, while keeping the seedsmen involved throughout the process. The seed lab tests approximately 2,800 single and multi-component inspection samples every year.

The Division also maintains the only seed testing facility in Kentucky and provides service testing for producers, dealers and retailers of seed products. The lab performs in excess of 13,500 service tests per year.

**Soils Lab**

The mission of the soils laboratory is to help Kentuckians produce crops and plants in an economical manner. This is accomplished by offering soil, water, greenhouse media, float-bed, animal waste and mine spoil tests and providing subsequent fertilizer and lime recommendations. Chemical analyses and recommendations from the soil testing labs are unbiased and specific to local conditions and crops. Recommendations are based on nutrient needs and fertilizer response as determined by research conducted by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture on crops and soils across the state.

To accomplish this objective, soil testing laboratories operate at the Lexington campus and the Research and Education Center in Princeton. Testing is available to homeowners, producers and researchers. Homeowners and producers can use test results to make management decisions to maximize production and reduce input costs of fertilizer and liming. Research testing is conducted for continuous improvement of fertilizer and lime recommendations. Annually, the combined efforts of both labs result in analysis of over 57,000 samples.

*Eli Miller - Director*

**IN MEMORIAM  
DONALD PENN**

The Division of Regulatory Services was saddened to lose a valued employee and great person. Donald Penn of Danville, Kentucky came to the Division after retiring from teaching in the Boyle County School System. Donald started in a temporary position in 1996 and subsequently became the state's first specialty products inspector. He traveled the entire state calling on stores that distributed pet food and specialty pet products, specialty fertilizer for the lawn, garden and houseplants, and lawn and garden seed.

Donald was a great representative for us and made many friends in the businesses that he called on throughout the state. He often remarked that this was the best job he ever had and it was evident that he truly loved his work. Donald taught us how to enjoy every minute without complaint.

*Eli Miller - Director*

## THOUGHTS ON BIOSECURITY AND MILK HAULING

What is biosecurity? There are many definitions for this term because it encompasses a very broad area. To keep the definition simple, it may be helpful to dissect the word. "Bio" means life, so in essence, biosecurity is "security for life".

Biosecurity is essentially risk management. In the context of the dairy industry, it most often refers to those measures taken to keep problem agents out of a dairy herd or a dairy processing or handling facility. These problem agents can range from disease causing organisms to foreign material found where it should not be.

In recent months, biosecurity has become a major "buzz word" in agriculture. Primarily, two major yet unrelated events brought forth the increased focus towards this area. First, foot and mouth disease spread throughout Great Britain, causing devastation to their agricultural and food production industries. It will take a considerable amount of time for Great Britain and this region to fully recover from this disease outbreak. During the foot and mouth disease outbreak and subsequent recovery period, U.S. producer and industry groups, as well as local, state and federal agencies improved our ability to respond to such an occurrence.

Biosecurity plans evolved to take into account new potential threats after the unthinkable terrorist attacks occurred on September 11, 2001. Everyone involved in the production of food, from the producer to the retail outlet, now must consider the potential of a deliberate disruption to our nation's food supply system.



### How does biosecurity affect the milk hauler?

Biosecurity is implemented at many levels in the dairy industry. Individual producers, cooperatives, processors and hauling companies may have specific policies with varying degrees of strictness. Currently, there are limited regulatory requirements concerning biosecurity measures. However, that may change in the future. We need to keep in mind

that we are all partners in today's modern dairy industry. As partners, we should strengthen our efforts to be aware of each other's biosecurity requirements and suggestions. This is particularly true for milk haulers because you are the link between all of the dairy groups.

The concepts covered within this article are briefly summarized and should not be interpreted as requirements. Biosecurity within the dairy industry affects all of us. It is being addressed due to everyone's high level of concern for biosecurity and the far-reaching impact that it has on our daily activities.

### Biological biosecurity

The primary concern relating to biological biosecurity is prevention of the spread of disease or disease causing agents from farm to farm or from farm to processor. Let's first determine if you can make a bio-secure farm visit. Have you:

- Traveled outside North America?
- Been on a farm with a known disease outbreak?
- Had direct contact with livestock?

Recent travel to a foreign country with a known disease outbreak may restrict you from farm visits for a specified time period. Port of entry officials should inform you of this time period when you return to the U.S.

If you have been on a farm with a known disease, special precautions should be taken to ensure the disease is not spread to other farms. This may include limiting farm visits altogether for a certain time period and will likely include a minimum of washing and sanitizing your clothing and any equipment (*including your vehicle*) that you may have taken onto the farm in question.

You should avoid having direct contact with livestock prior to or while picking up milk. If you live on a farm, remember to apply similar precautions to your own livestock. You do not want to put your own operation at risk when you return home at the end of a day's work.

Farm visitors are categorized as low, moderate or high-risk visitors. A good example of a low risk visitor is an urban person who has not had contact with livestock. Moderate risk visitors include salespersons or other folks who make frequent farm visits without having direct contact with livestock. High-risk visitors are individuals who have direct contact with animals. The high-risk group could include veterinarians, artificial insemination technicians and livestock haulers. Milk haulers typically fall into the moderate risk category.

As a milk hauler, you should take the necessary precautions to ensure that you do not elevate your risk potential from a moderate to a high-risk visitor. Some basic precautions you can take when you haul milk include:

- Always wear clean clothing
- Always clean and sanitize dirty or manure laden footwear (*disposable boot covers may need to be considered*)
- Always walk directly from the truck to the milk house (*no unnecessary travel around the barn*)
- Always wash your hands prior to each milk pick-up (*remember, this is required by the PMO!*)
- Always operate a clean milk transport truck and park it in the appropriate location (*avoid driving through manure laden areas when possible*)
- Never take food products onto the farm (*many types of foods may contain animal derivatives*)

When delivering milk to processors, limit your travel to approved areas. Most haulers have been on a number of farms when they deliver milk to processors. Because of this, the areas where you are allowed to travel may be different than for others who have not been on a farm. Remember, the plant's goal is to keep potential problem causing organisms from entering the facility. Good hygiene that includes clean clothing, footwear, equipment and a clean transport vehicle are the basics for



doing your part to ensure sanitary conditions at the plant.

### **Milk tanker security**

Most processors and cooperatives now have “tanker seal” policies in effect to reduce the risk of deliberate contamination of milk. In general, the procedures outlined in these policies require that after washing and sanitizing, tanker openings are to be sealed with an identifiable, numbered seal and that seal numbers be recorded and traced to prevent the tanker and its contents from being tampered with. The seal numbers are usually recorded on the milk weight ticket (*manifest*), wash tag or both. Whenever seals are broken for legitimate purposes such as making farm pick-ups or obtaining tanker load samples, broken seals are kept and replacement seal numbers are properly recorded. Most policies require an extensive investigation when a load of milk is delivered with missing, broken or improperly recorded seals.

A tanker seal is only one tool that can be used to protect your truck and its contents from vandalism. Always be sure to take reasonable measures to ensure your equipment is secure when it is left unattended. Frequently re-evaluate your procedures and keep them current with your daily activities.

### **Make it a priority**

All states require milk haulers to be licensed or permitted by some method. In Kentucky, haulers are required to be licensed by Regulatory Services and permitted by the Milk Safety Branch. As a bulk milk hauler, you are required to adhere to certain licensing and permitting requirements to ensure that milk is properly handled, sampled, and transported as a food product and so that accurate payment can be made for milk. As a partner in the dairy industry, you have an obligation to put forth the necessary effort to minimize potential dairy biosecurity risks. Producers, processors and consumers have high expectations for their biosecurity interests. When it comes to “security for life”, high expectations are reasonable. Make sound, practical, bio-secure hauling procedures a part of your daily routine.

*Chris Thompson – Milk Coordinator*

## VARIETAL LABELING AND BRANDING

The Kentucky Seed Law requires that seed distributed in Kentucky be labeled as to seed kind and, with a few exceptions, variety. The law does not prohibit the practice of labeling seed products with a brand name, as long as varietal labeling requirements are fulfilled on the seed label. A number of problems with the practice of branding of soybeans and corn have surfaced this spring in Kentucky. Some of these problems have resulted in blocks of seed in Kentucky being placed under stop sale orders and in one occurrence, a statewide relabeling effort.

There are some seed kinds, which the Kentucky Seed Law exempts from varietal labeling. These include Bermudagrass, Canada and Rough Bluegrass, Bromegrass, Buckwheat, Canarygrass, Alsike Clover, Chewings and Meadow Fescue, Korean and Striate Lespedeza, Sand and Weeping Lovegrass, Browntop and Foxtail Millet, Japanese and Proso Millet, Redtop, White and Yellow Sweetclover, Common Vetch and Hairy Vetch. All other seed kinds are required to be labeled by variety, or if the variety is not known, the statement "Variety Unknown."

The seed kind must always be declared. The use of brand names or designations without stating a variety (*unless the seed kind is one of those listed in the previous paragraph*) is not allowed under the provisions of the Kentucky Seed Law. Hybrid designations are actually varieties and are recognized as such. Once the variety has been introduced into commerce and marketed under a specific varietal designation, this varietal designation cannot be changed. Prior to their introduction, many varieties going through the selection and breeding process have experimental designations which are then changed upon introduction into commerce.

Some seedsmen prefer to use brand names to gain and maintain customer recognition of the seed products they offer in the market. Brand names have been used to market a company's entire line of seed products or to identify one specific variety.

The Kentucky Seed Law does not prohibit this practice as long as the correct variety (*or varieties, in the case of seed mixtures*) is declared on the labeling. It is not uncommon, nor illegal, for different seed companies to market the same varieties by different brand names.

The Kentucky Seed Law does not specifically address branding of seed products. The law is specific to seed kind and varietal labeling. Branded seed products offered for sale must have correct varietal labeling. Mis-stating a variety name, regardless of whether it is branded, is illegal. Changing the variety used when the same brand designation has been associated with a different variety is clearly false and misleading.

Customers and seed dealers should take care to recognize the difference between a seed variety and a brand designation. The variety is required by law, notwithstanding the seed kinds which are exempt. The seed label is required to show the variety designation and this designation should be beside the word "variety." Everyone should be aware that seed companies may have different brand names, but that these brands, although different from one another, can be used to market the same variety. One particular soybean variety is currently being marketed in Kentucky by three companies with three different brand designations. Brand designations on seed tags for soybeans and corn have been observed to be far more prominent than the variety name of the seed kind.

Selection of seed for planting, especially for row crops, demands that the varietal characteristics of the seed be known. These characteristics include maturity dates, disease resistance, lodging performance, and other items important to a satisfactory yield. Make an informed decision. Check the seed tag for a variety name.



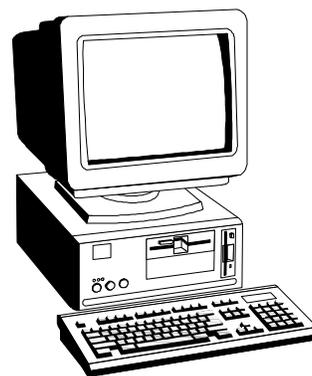
David Buckingham – Seed Coordinator

## TRACE ELEMENTS IN FERTILIZERS

A recent forum on trace elements in fertilizers (*formerly known as heavy metals*) was held in Lakeland, Florida in February. The meeting's focus was on the importance of using acceptable, standard methods of analysis. There have been some confusing and misleading comparisons in the media related to trace elements found in fertilizers and soils. The Division of Regulatory Services monitors trace elements in fertilizers by analyzing selected official samples taken throughout the year. We have found no abnormal levels of trace elements in farm fertilizers using an AOAC test method. We plan to continue this monitoring and to participate in the upcoming collaborative study on trace element methods of analyses.

### Fertilizer Tonnage Reporting

We have not been very successful in getting registrants to report tonnage electronically using the standard computer 'text' file format. The reporting of tonnage via the text file reduces errors and speeds up our accumulation and reporting of fertilizer tonnage. We have available a free 'DOS' program where a registrant simply enters their tonnage information into the database and the program outputs the text file. The format of the standard text file may be downloaded from our web site: <http://www.rs.uky.edu/fert/fertreg.html>



Our latest tonnage reports are also available on our web site. The reports will always be available on our web site before they are mailed. Tonnage reporting forms may also be downloaded from our web site. Contact D.L. Terry for details.

### Registration and Licensing

We will be sending out to each registrant/licensee their current registration/licensing information soon. Please check your information carefully and report any corrections. It is important that each fertilizer you sell in the state be registered before it is offered for sale. Registration information and forms may also be found on our web site.

*D. L. Terry – Fertilizer Coordinator*

## MILK PROGRAM LICENSE RENEWALS

Each year licenses issued by Regulatory Services' milk program expire on June 30. All licensees (*milk handlers, laboratories, transfer stations, testers, and sampler-weighers*) should receive a renewal notice and application in June. If you do not receive a renewal notice by June 15, 2002, contact our office to request an application.

It is important for all licensees to submit their application and fee to Regulatory Services on time. License fees for renewals that are past due are subject to a penalty fee. To avoid this late penalty, be sure to submit your application and fee to Regulatory Services promptly.

If you have any questions, or if you need a license renewal application, you may contact Chris Thompson at (859) 257-2785 or by e-mail at [cthompso@uky.edu](mailto:cthompso@uky.edu).

*Chris Thompson – Milk Coordinator*



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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