



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF FOOD SAFETY & LABORATORY SERVICES

DATE: August 3, 2009

SUBJECT: Chapter 59a Comment Period / Notice of Hearing

FROM: Paul M. Hoge, Dairy Program Specialist, BFSLS, PDA

TO: All Milk Permit Holders

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has begun the process of revising its regulations relating to Milk Sanitation. The current Milk Sanitation regulations are published at 7 Pa. Code Chapter 59 (and can be viewed on-line at www.pacode.com). PDA proposes to replace the current Milk Sanitation regulations and publish new Milk Sanitation regulations at 7 Pa. Code Chapter 59a.

PDA will publish its proposed new Milk Sanitation regulations in the August 1 edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin. This document can be viewed on-line, on or after August 1, at www.pabulletin.com. This document describes the 30-day window (August 1 through August 31) within which interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed new regulation to PDA.

The Milk Sanitation Law *also* requires that PDA hold a public hearing on those portions of the proposed new regulation that address "... the number and character" of bacteria in milk. Since the proposed new regulation would make several changes to bacteria standards for milk for manufacturing and raw milk, a public hearing will convene on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 202 of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Building, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA, to address these proposed changes. This hearing will be focused only on the proposed changes to bacterial standards – and not on the entire proposed new regulation. You are welcome to attend the hearing or offer written testimony to be included in the record of the public hearing. Written testimony should be received by me, at this address, before August 18.

Should you have questions concerning this information, or the proposed new regulation, please feel free to email me using the address phoge@state.pa.us or call me at 724-443-1585. Thank you for your interest and attention regarding these two important topics