

Managing Somatic Cell Counts at 400,000 and Electronic Notification

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Backstory

History of U.S. SCC regulations

- Prior to 1967 no standards
- 1967 1.5 million SCC/ml limit
- 1986 1 million
- 1993 750,000
- 2011 NCIMS proposals to lower actionable SCC limit defeated
 - Next meeting 2013 expect more proposals



Backstory

- U.S. exports 13% of milk production*
 - 1% to EU (7% of all exported product)
- It's about access to European Union market



*USDEC 2012 YTD
total milk solids



EU Export Certification

- EU export certification requires
 - $SCC \leq 400,000$ (U.S. $\leq 750,000$ A&B milk)
 - $SPC \leq 100,000$ (U.S. $\leq 100,000$ A $\leq 500,000$ B)
- New requirements Jan. 1, 2012
 - Changed to testing at individual farm level
 - Applies only to companies manufacturing products for export to EU
 - Provides flexibility (derogation) for farms that exceed EU requirements



EU Export Certification

- Milk supplier must provide a Certificate of Conformance for AMS to link raw milk to finished product
- Milk supplier must notify AMS when milk in products certified for EU export exceeds requirements



EU Export Certification

- All farms tested once a month for SCC
- Rolling geometric mean over 3-month period
- Rolling geometric mean must be in compliance with EU requirements
- 1st rolling mean out of compliance requires notification to AMS
- 3 consecutive rolling means out of compliance after notification requires action



EU Export Certification

Month	Monthly data for	Result of rolling	Actions
	rolling three-month	three-month mean	
	mean for SCC	for SCC	
Apr-12	Jan, Feb, Mar	> 400,000	Milk ok for export in Apr. Notify AMS.
May	Feb, Mar, Apr	> 400,000	Milk ok for export in May. (1st month)
June	Mar, Apr, May	> 400,000	Milk ok for export in June. (2nd month)
July	Apr, May, Jun	> 400,000	<u>Milk NOT ok for export in August.</u> Milk supplier must suspend, segregate, discontinue certification or request derogation.

Source: USDA/AMS Vorgert



Geometric mean vs. average

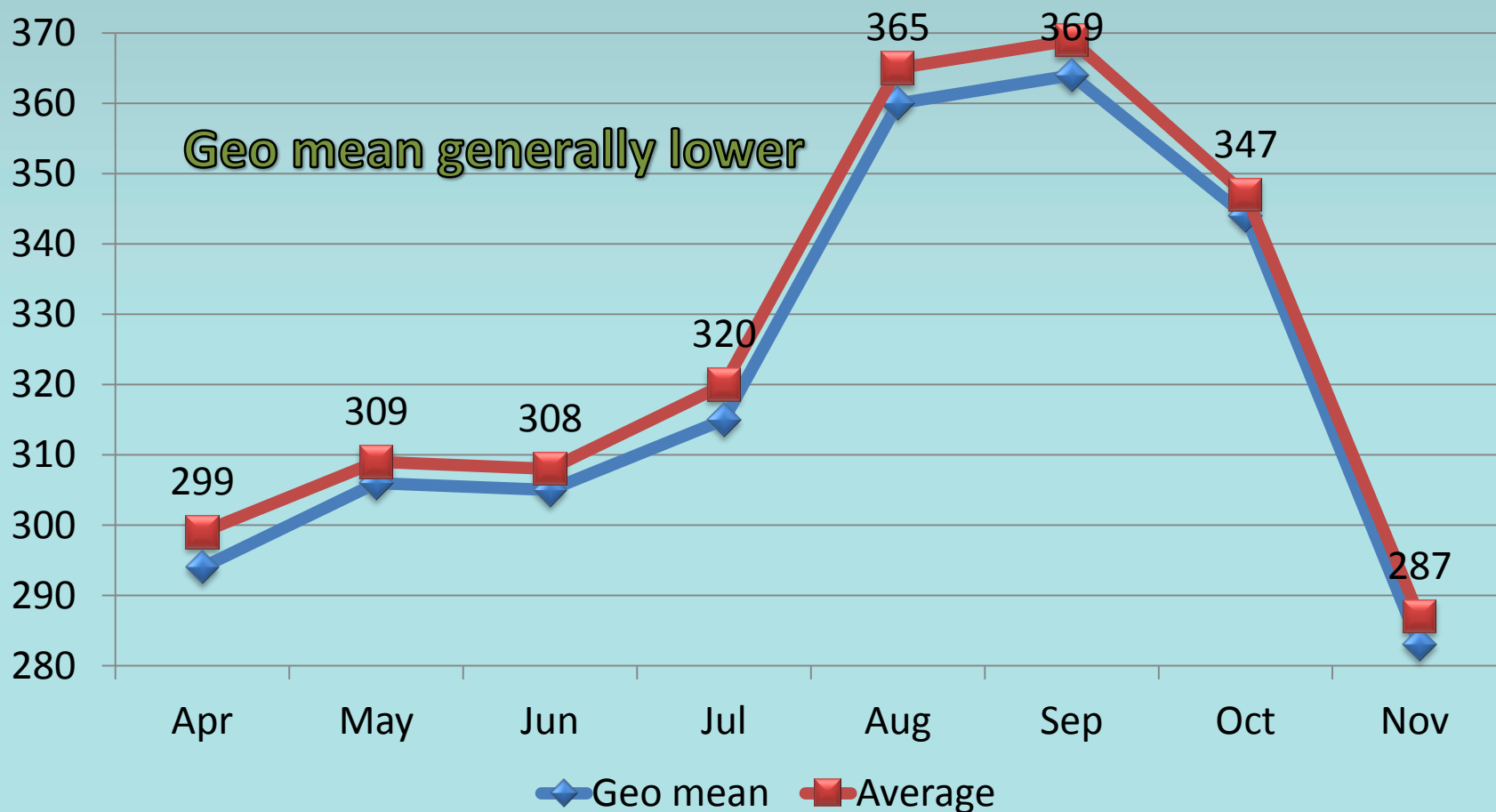
Average: $275 + 315 + 572 = 1162 \div 3 = 387.33$

Geo mean: $275 \times 315 \times 572 = \sqrt[3]{49549500} = 367.3$

“Geometric mean is more forgiving making it harder to get in jail.”



SCC 3-month rolling average vs. geometric mean



EU Export Certification

- Derogation – delays implementation of producer suspension due to special circumstances
 - Request must ID farm & issue
 - If accepted, 1 year probation
 - Must show effort to bring farm into compliance or further requests will be denied
 - Suspend producer
 - Segregate producer's milk
 - Discontinue certification
- Seasonal derogation
 - Aug, Sep, Oct



EU Export Certification

- Fees
 - AMS charges administrative fee of \$136 (2 hrs @ \$68) to process derogation
 - Some milk marketers pass fee along to producer
- AMS issued 2104 derogations as of 10/22/12*
- Records review
 - Each year AMS reviews each exporter and traces milk products back to producer
 - Failure to provide the necessary records can result in ineligibility to take part in the EU certification program.

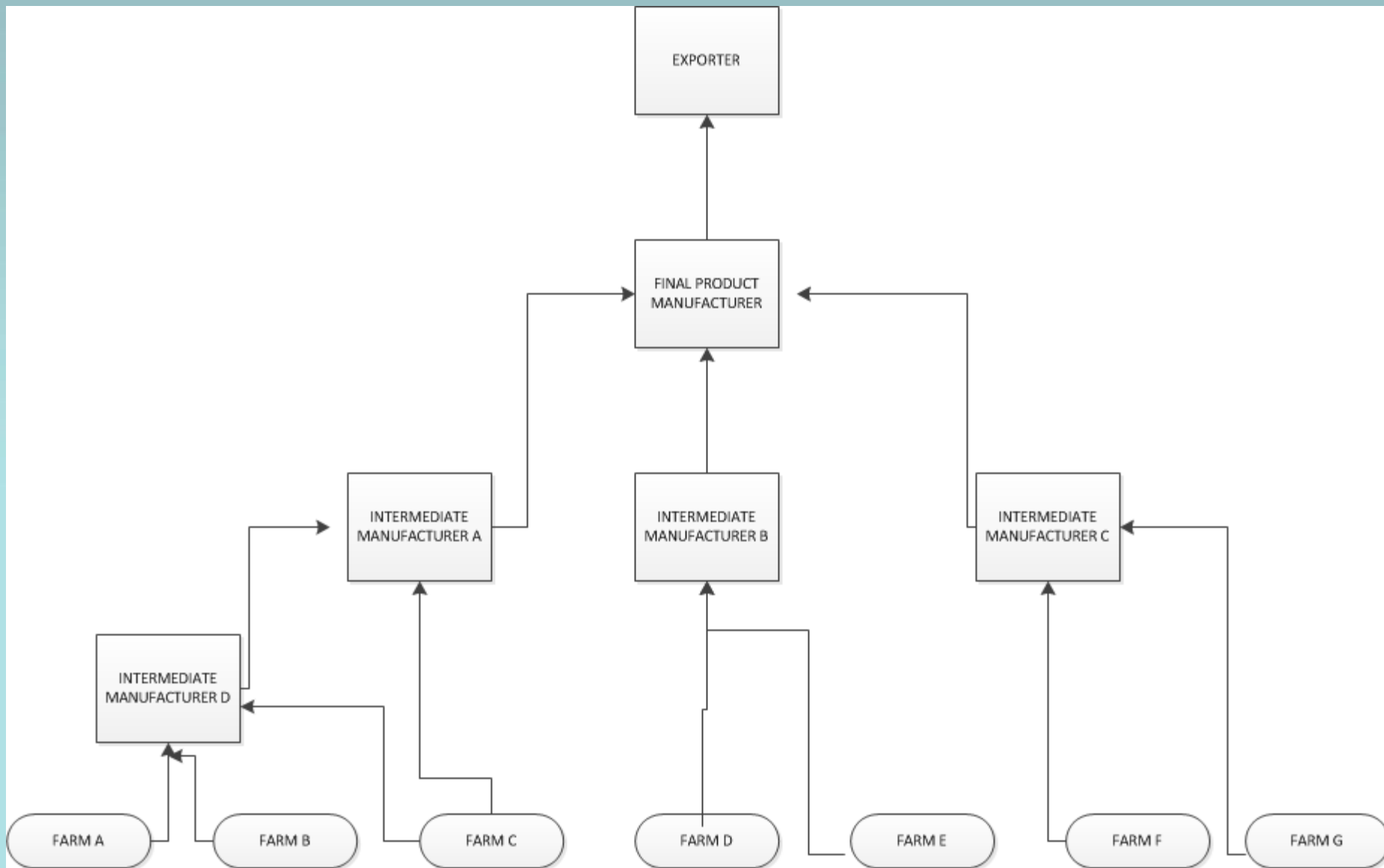
*Source: USDA/AMS Vorgert



Impact Bigger Than You Think

- Producers who think their milk does not go into EU products should think again
- Milk and its byproducts make their way into products that require certification
 - Especially whey, cream, NDM, & butter
- Most marketers need export option
 - Segregating, rerouting, or disposing of milk is costly





Source: USDA/AMS Vorgert



Electronic Notification

USDA **FORM TYPE:** Folder ID: DRF000000481
Date of Request: 4/4/2012

☒ Notification ☐ Derogation ☐ Seasonal Derogation

NAME:
PHONE NUMBER:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:

NAME:
CITY:
STATE:
PLANT NUMBER:
CUSTOMER NUMBER:

NAME OF FARM:
CITY:
STATE:
STATE PERMIT NUMBER:

MEAN COUNT INFORMATION

TYPE: ☒ MEAN SOMATIC CELL COUNT ☐ MEAN BACTERIA STANDARD PLATE COUNT

:DATE OF NOTIFICATION

MEAN COUNT (THOUSANDS PER ML):
MONTH and YEAR of NONCOMPLIANCE:

COMMENTS:

Source: USDA/AMS Vorgert



Electronic Notification

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Date of Request: 4/4/2012

☒ Notification ☐ Derogation ☐ Seasonal Derogation

REQUEST FOR DEROGATION FROM EU REQUIREMENTS

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME:
PHONE NUMBER:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:

REQUESTING MILK SUPPLIER INFORMATION

NAME:
CITY:
STATE:
PLANT NUMBER:
CUSTOMER NUMBER:

FARMER INFORMATION

NAME OF FARM:
CITY:
STATE:
STATE PERMIT NUMBER:

MEAN COUNT INFORMATION

TYPE: ☒ MEAN SOMATIC CELL COUNT ☐ MEAN BACTERIA STANDARD PLATE COUNT

:DATE OF NOTIFICATION

MEAN COUNT (THOUSANDS PER ML):
MONTH and YEAR of NONCOMPLIANCE:

COMMENTS:

Source: USDA/AMS Vorgert



Action plan for <400K SCC

- Producer list ~ herd list
- High SCC
 1. Manage
 2. Treat
 3. Cull
- Counts high July-Sept
 - Peak Aug in Midwest



Action plan for <400K SCC

On-Farm Action Plan

1. Manage

- Highlight \$ incentive
 - <350K SCC = premiums
 - >350K SCC = deductions
- Highlight production
 - Healthy udders produce more milk
 - Infected udders produce less milk, costly treatment and dumped milk



Action plan for <400K SCC



On-Farm Action Plan

2. Treat

- Evaluate farm
 - Cultures
 - ID cows
 - Milking hygiene
 - Equipment function
 - Housing environment
 - Cow comfort
 - Cow cleanliness
- Request derogation
 - More time



Action plan for <400K SCC

On-Farm Action Plan

3. Cull

Two options for continually exceeding 400,000 SCC

1. Suspend farm milk pickup
2. Segregate milk from products for EU export



Possible Roadblocks

Mindset: “Attitude of Quality?”



Cow cleanliness



Milking hygiene



Possible Roadblocks



Equipment hygiene



Bulk tank interior

“Attitude of Quality?”



Possible Roadblocks



Facilities, drug storage

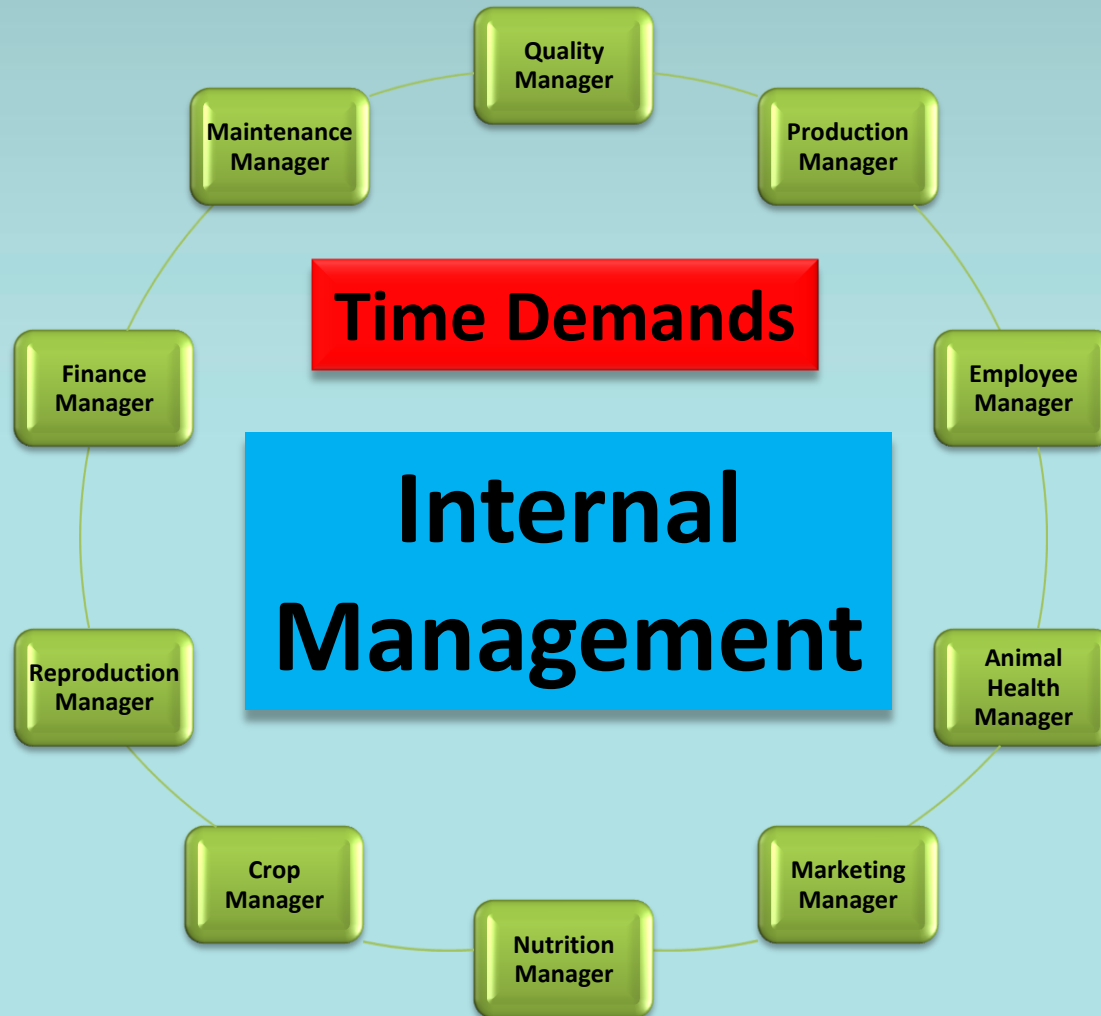


Water stock tank

“Attitude of Quality?”



Possible Roadblocks



Possible Roadblocks



Possible Roadblocks

Technology adoption by producers

- Computer usage
 - Upgrades needed
 - Outdated operating systems, slow
 - Changing software
 - Email, Internet, social media
- Smart Phones
 - Texting
 - Internet, social media, e-mail



Possible Roadblocks



Facility Upgrades Needed

- Milking parlor or barn
- New equipment involves more computerization
- Costly capital improvements



Next Chapter

- Credibility: ensure compliance at all levels
- Need to communicate & educate
- Customer demand driving this
- Exports markets critical
 - Producers' price
 - Industry health





Questions?

