



# Monitoring

The farmer is working to improve the health and wellbeing of his or her cows on a daily basis. Dairy companies also hold health and wellbeing in high regard, which is why dairy farms are monitored for this. Next to durability – of which animal health and wellbeing are a part – other aspects such as food safety and quality are also important. Every dairy company therefore has dairy quality system guaranteeing these aspects. In order to supply milk, all farmers have to meet the criteria of the dairy quality system. This system is based on European and Dutch legislation, supplemented with demands from the dairy industry and customers world wide.

## Why is milk monitoring important?

Milk coming directly from the cow (farm milk) has to be of good quality as this is the basis of a range of dairy products.



On collecting the milk from the farms, the certified milk truck chauffeur checks the milk for smell, colour and temperature. The chauffeur also collects a milk sample from the milk cooling tank at each farm. An **independent and specialized laboratory** analyses these samples. The milk is checked for composition (fat and protein content) and several quality aspects. Before the milk enters the dairy company, it is always tested for absence of antibiotics. Only when the milk is tested negative for antibiotics, it can be used for produce. Should any antibiotics be found, the complete cargo of milk is destroyed and the farmer receives a fine.



Next to regular milk analysis for dairy quality systems, the Dutch Dairy Association (DDA) carries out the **Monitoring program** contaminants and residuals. In this program the milk is tested for pesticides, melamine and various contaminants.

# Factsheet Monitoring

## What types of monitoring are there on the farm?



There are demands for **animal health and well-being**, amongst other subjects. When a farm does not comply with these demands, the farmer is obligated to remedy this within four weeks and it is likely the farm will be audited more frequently.



Each farm is **obligated to** monitor animal welfare. In the Dutch dairy industry, there are three systems for monitoring and providing insight of animal health on the farm. Every farmer is obligated to use one of these systems. Furthermore every dairy farmer is supported by a permanent Certified Veterinarian. Every year the farmer and the veterinarian draft a farm health plan together and a farm treatment plan.



During the **physical check-ups** the inspector checks – among other things – for housing, care, feed, drug use and farm hygiene. In this fashion the demand for hygienic milking and storing of the milk are incorporated in the quality systems of the dairy companies for dairy farmers. These hygiene criteria are focused on for instance clean cows, a clean milking machine and milk storage. The basis for this can be found in European legislation. The Dutch quality systems however are even more specific and elaborate, and go beyond normal legislation.



An example of **administrative monitoring** is checking of the feed. According to the demands stated in the dairy quality systems, dairy farmers in the Netherlands are allowed to buy their animal food only from companies who are a member of Secure-Feed, the organization that guarantees safety for all animal food producers.



These administrative and physical audits are always carried out by an **independent audit agency**.

## Who manages general monitoring?



Dairy farms, dairy companies and independent monitoring agencies are in turn monitored by the Dutch Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Dutch government manages oversight of quality and safety of dairy products through a dairy chain focused monitoring organization, the **Central Organ for Quality matters in Dairy** (COQD)



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## Did you know ...

- ✓ ... everything in the Dutch dairy chain, from the grass the cow eats to the milk carton in the store, is audited strenuously?

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- ✓ ... regulations and monitoring in the dairy sector is based on European and Dutch legislation, demands from the dairy industry itself and customers worldwide?

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- ✓ ... audits consist of analysis in laboratories and administrative audits? Also the inspectors carry out physical audits at the farms.

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- ✓ ... the audits are carried out by an independent agency? The Dutch government supervises this strenuously.