

MILK MONEY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

What is this program all about?

"Milk Money" is designed to get dairy producers, local advisors and consultants working together in farmer-directed milk quality teams. These teams work together to improve milk quality on your dairy farm.

Who makes up the dairy team?

Each farm owner decides who to have on their milk quality team. The team members, who are selected by each farm owner, can include an extension agent, dairy plant field representative, veterinarian, nutritionist, dairy equipment dealer, key employees and others.

How often does the team meet?

Each team meets once every month for a minimum of four consecutive months. Many teams may choose to meet longer or decide to form peer groups after completing this program. Monthly team meetings usually are scheduled for a minimum of one hour. (Allow two hours minimum for your first milk quality team meeting.)

What happens at a team meeting?

At each meeting, team members discuss their milk quality goals and what they have done in the last month to meet those goals. Activities are planned for the upcoming month(s) to continue to work toward farm goals. Information is documented on prepared forms. These forms are intended to:

- Encourage discussion about milk quality topics that are often ignored.
- Help calculate often overlooked costs such as: veterinary costs, drug costs, milk production loss from clinical/subclinical mastitis.
- Track farm progress on identified milk quality issues.
- Assure accountability for completing action plans.

