

## Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Environmental Health Laboratory & Office of State Veterinarian

5251 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1293 Main: 907.375.8200 Fax: 907.929.7335 www.dec.alaska.gov

March 20, 2017

RE: Termination of Non-Regulatory Dairy Surveillance and Testing

To Whom It May Concern:

The Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV) and the Alaska State Environmental Laboratory (EHL) has done a collaborative review of the dairy sanitation sampling and testing activities. In consultation with federal advisors with the Food & Drug Administration (FDA), it has been decided to stop collection and testing of dairy samples for the following non-regulatory tests.

The non-regulatory tests being terminated are determined to be related to 'truth in labeling' and not present imminent public health threat.

Effective immediately, samples will no longer be collected, tested, or reported for the following parameters:

% Butterfat

% Solids

Added Water

Freezing Point

This review and decision is to reduce activities and public compliance to those required by federal requirement or regulation as well as cost cutting. Both the dairy sanitation and the dairy testing activities use undesignated general funds.

If you have any further questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us.

Regards,

Patryce D. McKinney, MBA

Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory

Dr. Robert Gerlach, VMD

State Veterinarian