A REPORT ON A SERIES OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING SEMINARS FOR MILK SANITARIANS AND MILK INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH DURING JULY, 1953

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This article describes a series of in-service type training seminars for milk sanitarians and industry quality control men which were sponsored by the Division of Dairy Products, Indiana State Board of Health. These seminars gave particular attention to current milk sanitation problems and new developments in the field of milk production. The Public Health Service frequently conducts such seminars for its own milk and food consultants, and assists states and regions in holding seminars for state milk sanitation control officers.

The plan of operation may prove useful to milk control officials in other areas.

INTRODUCTION:

In-service training seminars for public health personnel are not new. They have been conducted previously by a number of agencies. The Public Health Service frequently conducts such seminars for its own milk and food consultants, and assists states and regions in holding seminars for state milk sanitation control officers.

Indiana recently held a total of sixteen in-service training seminars which were unique in some respects. First, the meetings were planned whereby one per week for four consecutive weeks were held in four separate locations during the month of July, 1953. This plan was used to allow persons to be present who could not afford to be away from their regular duties for an extended number of days. While such a program is rather tiring on the traveling staff, the results, as far as attendance was concerned, would indicate that this plan was quite successful.

Another point somewhat unique in character involved the fact that not only were milk sanitarians from official agencies present, but milk plant sanitarians and, in many instances, milk plant owners and operators were present as well. The State Division of Dairy Products had recognized for some time the important place milk plant sanitarians play in an overall milk control program, and it was a wise decision that these men were invited to attend. Their contributions were outstanding and they were an interested and alert group throughout.

Another noteworthy feature of the program was the fact that discussion leaders were represented by industry, by county agricultural agents, members of Purdue University faculty, and a representative of the U. S. Public Health Service.

GENERAL CONTENT OF THE SEMINARS

Topics were selected which seemed most pertinent and timely. Particular attention was given to aspects of milk sanitation which were new or are in the developmental stage. No attempt was made to go over item by item many of the interpretations and policies outlined in the revised U. S. Public Health Service Milk Ordinance and Code. Rather, discussions were limited to changes in methods of milk production and milk handling, both at producing farms and at milk plants.

The matter of animal health was considered because the 1953 recommendations of the Milk Ordinance and Code require a change in emphasis concerning both the tuberculin testing and brucellosis testing of dairy animals. One-half day of the first meeting of the series was devoted to a discussion of these two diseases. Some of the problems facing the dairy industry in Indiana, involving both the tuberculin testing program, but more especially brucellosis control, were emphasized. Discussions clarified both what is being done and what can be done to foster and encourage more rapid testing of dairy animals for these diseases. Members of the state sanitarians' staff lead the discussions at these sessions.

Also, at this first meeting the subject of private water supply specifications and sanitary methods of sewage disposal were discussed. The location, construction, and operation of private water supplies is a critical matter in most milk sheds, and it was felt that this discussion on water supplies and sewage disposal was particularly important for the entire group.

The second meeting gave consideration to three separate subjects. In the morning session the discussion pertained to changes in definitions and standards of identity for milk and dairy products as outlined in the 1953 Public Health Service Milk Ordinance. These were compared with definitions appearing currently in State regulations. Following this, a procedure was outlined which could involve changing both state regulations and local milk ordinances from the 1939 edition to the revised edition. The second subject on the agenda of this meeting gave consideration to in-place cleaning of sanitary pipelines at milk plants. The third topic covered at the afternoon session involved tests and special equipment that is needed for checking high temperature short time pasteurization. The session was opened by showing a film strip on the basic theory of high temperature short time pasteurization. This was followed by a 16 mm film showing exactly how thermometer and other accuracy tests and other determinations should be made on high temperature short time pasteurization equipment. The group then adjourned to a local milk plant where one of the state milk sanitarians demonstrated the actual testing of a high temperature pasteurizer.

The third meeting of the series gave consideration in the morning to the newer method of handling milk by the so-called "cold wall tank", method which is becoming more popular at milk producing farms. Many of the problems surrounding this type of milk handling were discussed, including the transportation of the milk from farm to plant, the connections from the farm tank to the tanker, care of the milk in transit, and the cleaning and sanitizing of the cold wall tank by the milk producer.

The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of laboratory procedures used for checking the
held in the southern part of the state, several of the Louisville, Kentucky, health department milk sanitation staff attended. At the first meeting four men from Louisville were present and this increased in number until at the third meeting there were eight representatives present, five from the health department and three from Louisville milk companies.

GENERAL RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS

It appears to the writers that these meetings realized two definite values. First, they gave persons involved in milk control work the best and latest thinking on new developments in the field of milk production, distribution, and handling. While cut and dried answers could not be given in all instances because standards still have to be revised and studied, the general discussions brought out many points which milk sanitarians and industry representatives should watch with alert interest. Audience participation was very good, and the question and discussion periods were always lively and interesting.

The second value, it is felt, is that the fact that these meetings cemented more firmly the relationship between the State Board of Health and local milk sanitarians. The sessions demonstrated the fact that the State Board of Health had made a special effort to organize and sponsor a series of meetings where both official and industry sanitarians could discuss mutual problems and obtain views on newer developments in milk production and control.

SOME CONCLUSIONS

1. Meeting of milk sanitarians from official agencies and plant sanitarians aid in promoting good relationships. Both are in frequent contact with producers, and uniformity of interpretation in regard to milk production requirements is essential. Joint meetings encourage this objective.

2. Holding a series of meetings one day per week, rather than on two or more consecutive days in the same week, appears to encourage attendance and is generally favored by participants.

3. This series of in-service training seminars has stimulated local sanitarians and industry quality control men to organize and to hold meetings among themselves for purpose of discussing mutual problems.

4. As a result of meetings with local milk control officials, the staff of the State Dairy Products Division became better informed on local problems and local activities.

5. Production, handling, and distribution of milk from the farm and from the plant is presently changing due to new developments. These must be carefully watched and appraised. These meetings offered an opportunity for full discussion of these newer procedures and an opportunity to formulate uniform plans for dealing with them effectively.

FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG AND COSMETIC ACT

Continued from Page 288 not in the public interest. As a member of the retail food industry, I am impartial as to products. The point I want to make is that the Act, or regulations under it, should not be used to protect an industry against competition, to discourage the development of new and cheaper foods or to deprive consumers of wholesome, properly labeled food products.

I have no sympathy with the demands for bigger and better governmental control of business so often heard during the last decade. However, regulation such as that under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, is in the public interest and has a place in our present day business world. We can only hope that experience under the Act may in time influence industry to voluntarily operate in a way that will accomplish its objectives, thereby making the Act unnecessary.

Food and Drug Law Conference Los Angeles, California May 13, 1964

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Resolutions Committee is herewith requesting the membership to present to it matters of assignment for its consideration before the next annual meeting at Atlantic City. The members of the Committee are: Owen Owens, Rochester Dairy Cooperative, Rochester, Minnesota; Harold Barnum, Department of Health and Hospitals, West Sixth Avenue and Cherokee Street, Denver, Colorado; and K. G. Weckel, Department of Dairy and Food Industries, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Subjects for consideration may be presented to any one of the committee members."