The importance of milk quality for the infant milk formula industry





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□ Importance of Milk Quality for IF manufacturers

Milk Composition / Protein Quality

Microbiological Quality

Residues

Conclusions



Why is Milk Quality so Important!

Ireland has an international reputation for manufacture of the highest quality infant formula and ingredients used therein

Reputation is built on the quality of our milk

Ireland is 'Strategically Committed!' to the infant formula sector



Infant Formula Manufacturing in Ireland



Infant Formula Manufacturing in Ireland



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Recent 'Quality Issues' in the Global infant formula sector

□ Melamine scandal - (linked to milk)

Nitrogen-rich and has been illegally added to food products to increase apparent protein content



NZ botulism scare triggers mass global recall - (linked to whey) China suspended imports of all milk powder from Australia and New Zealand, after global dairy giant disclosed that whey protein concentrate contains a strain of Clostridium

Testing Methodologies Disputed

Dicyandiamide (DCD) – (linked to milk)

Milk powder withdrawn under orders from the Sri Lankan authorities - traces of the toxic agricultural chemical dicyandiamide (DCD)



Drivers of Quality Standards in the Infant Formula Sector

- Quality (Compositional, microbiological, functional)
- □ Regulations / New Markets (changing across the world)
 - □ As new scientific data emerges, nutritional limits can change (tightly regulated)
- Requirement for robust formulations
 - Variation in milk composition
 - Increased auditing of ingredient supplier
- □ Advances in analytical techniques
 - More accurate determination of regulatory limits for individual nutrients
 - New biotechnological techniques
- Global competition between ingredient suppliers
- Ingredient functionality (protein quality)

(Milk processors required to respond with melamine free statement!)



Impact of Regulations on Quality Standards (nutrients and/or contaminants)

- □ Finished product : meet the regulations of the supplied country
- Milk Processors can meet (e.g., EU) regulations for skim milk, however, allowable levels are determined by finished product specifications. (e.g., GB regulations for infant formula)

e.g. Nitrate (100 ppm for 1st age formula infant formula). Levels in skim can't exceed specifications for finished product

- Infant formula companies work with ingredient suppliers; general EU is the benchmark
 - Look across global regulations combination of 1) codex, 2) EU and 3) Individual country regulations



Milk Quality Attributes

(What can the producer/processor influence?)

- Composition
 Protein/Fat/CHO
 Minerals / Vitamins
 SCC's
- Micro-organisms
 - □ TBC / Coliforms
 - Thermodurics
 - Bacillus cereus
 - Cronobacter
 - Sulphite reducing Clostridia
- Residue testing
 - Antibiotics
 - □ Anthelmintics flukicide
 - NSAIDS (Nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs)
 - □ Hormones
 - Pesticides
 - Nitrates / Nitrates



The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

- Functionality
 - Protein quality
 - True protein (Seasonality)
 - Physical stability (Heat & emulsion)
 - **Disease Status**
 - Johnes Disease (MAP)
 - IBR
 - BVD (Bovine viral diarrhoea)
 - Leptosporosis
 - Salmonella infection
 - Fluke and Worms
 - BSE

Contaminants

Environmental Veterinary drugs Plasticizers Detergents Lead Arsenic Mercury Cadmium Melamine Fluoride Thiocyanate Protein mimetic's

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Milk Composition & Protein Quality





Milk Protein Quality – Ingredient Functionality



- Poor processability
 - Manufacturing downtime



Evaluating Thermal Stability of Dairy Ingredients used in IF 40.0 3.00

2.50

2.00 1.50

35.0





What's the Solution to ensuring good processablity

- Consistent composition (protein, fat, lactose, minerals and vitamins)
- Good microbiological quality (e.g., psychrotrophs)
 - Low residual enzyme activity (Bacterial proteinases)
- Low SCC, plasmin
- □ Selected milk from optimal part of the season
- Implement functionality testing regime (heat stability, gelation etc.)



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Microbiological Quality — What are they? Where do they come from? How do you control them?

□ TBC – should not be an issue if controlled

Bacillus cereus

□ Sulphite Reducing Clostridia (SRC)



Dr Kieran Jordan (Teagasc, Moorepark)



New Strategies at Teagasc to Support IF Sector

Project 1

Thermodurout: Identification and characterisation of the sporeforming bacteria most common in Irish milk processing plants

Project 2

Dairybiota: Molecular approaches to more accurately investigate factors which influence microbiota of milk - rapid diagnostic approaches (SRCs and SRBs)

SRCs/SRBs: New classification techniques - microbes have been solely identified on the basis of their phenotype (i.e. ability to reduce sulphate). Genetic analysis of these strains will allow new rapid assays to be developed

Dr. Paul Cotter (Teagasc, Moorepark)





Evolving Quality Standards – Global influences

Ingredient manufacturers are using (Biotechnology). i.e., PCR / Pyro-sequencing techniques to determine microbial history in dairy ingredients



Thermal treatment = low microbial growth on agar

Microbial loading of milk tracked back to farm gate (extrapolation to residual enzyme loading !)





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Residues





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Conclusions / Future Direction

Rapid tests for processability

□ Milk quality and protein functionality

New thermal processes

□ reduce activation of vegetative cells from spores

□ Milk quality

Manage evolving quality standards for IMF

□ Validation methods: microbial & chemical quality

- Methodologies that could initially be deployed at milk intake to segregate milk for infant formula applications
- □ Breeding strategies for protein quality
- □ We have the good reputation we need to keep it



Thank You for your attention

Milk Quality

Ensuring Irish Dairy Processors Produce the highest Quality Ingredients for infant milk production for the world market