

### **How to Conduct a Verification Test**

The verification test can be done instead of or in addition to the regular monthly test. **It can also be done as a one-day test**, either at the farm or at another site. However, if the test is done at another site, the regular monthly test must also be done.

The herd owner should locate a certified DHI tester who has not tested the herd within the last two years. He will need to be at the farm for the preliminary milk out, and for at least two more milkings in the 24 hours following the preliminary milk out.

Registration certificates should be ready for all does being tested. All does' tattoos/microchips shall be checked against the registration papers. Only those does whose identification matches the registration papers exactly will be considered verified.

Scales calibrated by a USDA approved facility with an the sticker dated within a year of the test date shall be used. If miniature breeds will be tested, an official AGS measuring stick shall be used. The scales should be adjusted to subtract the weight of the milking pail used for weighing. All milk will be weighed in the same bucket.

A preliminary milk-out is held 12 hours before the official test begins. The does shall be milked in the same order at each of the official milk-outs as they were in the preliminary milk-out.

When each doe is on the stand for the preliminary milk-out, the tester checks each tattoo/microchip against the registration certificate, and they must match.

The does shall be milked out completely by the owner/agent 12 hours before the first official milking. The tester shall determine that the udder is empty. The tester will enter the time the preliminary milk-out began. He shall enter the milk weights in the preliminary milk weight column, but no samples shall be taken.

Official measurement of the miniature breeds can be done at the preliminary milk-out or any of the other official milkings of the test. It is suggested that it be done after milking so as not to affect the milk production through the stress of measuring.

If the tester does not know the does being tested, he should check tattoos/microchips at each milking, so registration papers should be available. Each doe shall be milked into the weighing bucket or into a container and then poured into the weighing bucket. The weighing bucket is used to weigh all does' milk after rinsing and drying between milkings. Each doe is milked in the same order as the preliminary milk-out.

Samples shall remain in the possession of the milk tester and should be refrigerated or protected from freezing.

As each doe is milked out, the milk is weighed, and the weight recorded by the tester on the Report Form. The tester shall label a sample bottle either with the order of milking or by name. The tester shall gently stir the milk several times from top to bottom with a DHI dipper and take a sample, pouring the sample bottle half full. After closing the bottle securely, the tester shall gently agitate the sample bottle to dissolve the preservative in the milk.

The entire procedure shall be repeated in 12 hours, except that the sample bottle shall be filled to the top line. Although 12 hours is usually the standard time between milkings, a herd can be officially tested three times, if it is usually milked three times during the monthly test.

When all does have completed the 24-hour test, and all milk has been weighed and sampled, the tester shall check the form that all information has been entered, the tester will date and sign it.

The tester places the sample bottles in the mailer with the barn sheet & Verification form and mails it. Please make sure to enclose an envelope addressed to the AGS DHI Coordinator (address on form) so that the lab can send the results to AGS.



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## Report Form for Verification Test

*To be filled out by milk test supervisor only (except for name and reg. # of does)*

Registered Name Of Doe	REG#	TATTOO	HEIGHT (MINIS)	PRE MILK WEIGHT	AM MILK WEIGHT	PM MILK WEIGHT	TOTAL MILK WEIGHT	<u>LAB ONLY</u>	<u>LAB ONLY</u>
								FAT %	PRO %

Date of test: _____ Herd hand-milked?: _____  Supervisor's name: _____  Time of preliminary milking: _____ Time of first official milking: _____ Time of second official milking: _____	<p style="text-align: center;">I hereby attest that all does and equipment meet NDHIA guidelines for a DHI verification test. I have not tested this herd within the last two years. I am an approved milk test supervisor.</p> <p><i>Give item and reason for not meeting guidelines:</i> _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I have checked each doe's tattoo/microchip against her registration papers and have personally measured all miniature breed does.</p> <p>Milk test supervisor's signature _____</p>
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