



Animal Health Matters.
For Safe Food Solutions.



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International perspectives of raw milk (quality and safety) monitoring and state control in European settings: Switzerland case

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Switzerland

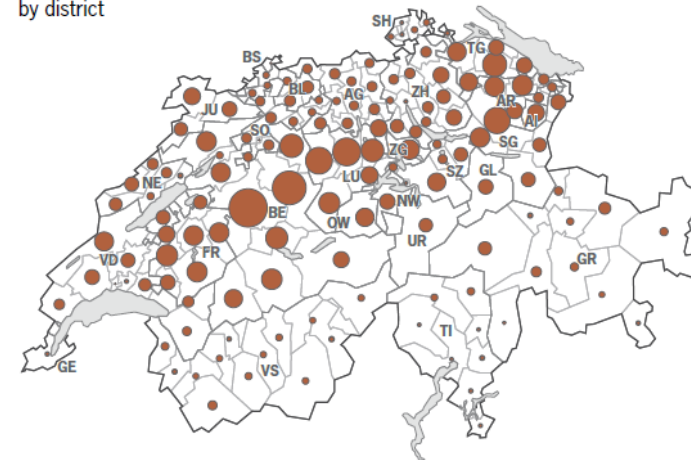
Dairy farming and milk production constitute the **most important** branch of agriculture in Switzerland.

In 2016, some **537,000** cows on **21,090** farms produced **~ 4 million tons** of milk.

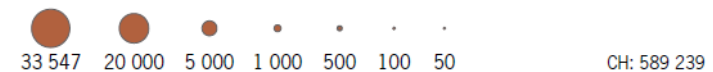
Dairy cows, 2011

M 1

by district



Dairy cows



CH: 589 239

Source: Farm census

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Official control of milk

- The **official control of milk** (OC) is required by public law. The analysis centre **SuisseLab AG** (in Zollikofen) is responsible for implementation of the OC.
- The OC is an essential tool to ensure the hygiene of raw milk and at the same time is also an **essential prerequisite for the ability to export milk and milk products**.
- The OC provides analysis of cow's milk **from all producers twice a month** based on the criteria listed:



Test parameters cow milk

Parameter	Criteria CH	Criteria EU
Plate count at 30 °C	< 80.000 CFU per ml	< 100.000 CFU
Somatic Cell count	≤ 350.000 cells per ml	≤ 400.000 cells
Inhibitors substances	Not detectable (negative results)	Not detectable or according to maximum residue limit (MRL)

Test frequency: 2x per month



Complaints

- When the milk delivered does not meet the requirements regarding the number of germs and cells, a **complaint** is pronounced.
- Normally the results of these tests are notified to milk producers electronically by **e-mail** or **SMS**.
- Processors can download the data of their producers and import them straight into their management system.
- The individual results and the reports of the analyses are available in the **database DBMilch.ch** prior access authorization (<https://www.dbmilch.ch/>).





The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the TSM website. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.tsmtreuhand.ch/index.php?id=milchpruefung&L=1. The website header features the TSM logo with the text 'TREUHAND · FIDUCIAIRE · FIDUCIARIA' below it. A search bar with the text 'Rechercher' and language options 'Deutsch' and 'Français' is visible. The main navigation menu includes 'A propos de nous', 'Statistiques', 'bdlait.ch', 'Contrôle du lait', 'Mise en valeur du lait', 'Fiduciaire', 'Bilan écologique agricole', and 'Contact'. The 'Contrôle du lait' section is highlighted, featuring a photograph of laboratory equipment. Below the photo, the text reads: 'Contrôle du lait' followed by a 'Login' button. The main content area contains the following text: 'TSM Fiduciaire Särl communique les résultats du contrôle du lait aux producteurs de lait, aux acheteurs de lait, aux autorités d'exécution cantonales et aux autres milieux autorisés. La communication se déroule par voie électronique avec accès personnel à la banque de données du lait suisse (www.bdlait.ch). Avec le service SMS, les producteurs de lait ont, en outre, la possibilité de recevoir leurs résultats sur le téléphone portable. En tant qu'interlocutrice pour toutes les questions touchant à la communication des données, TSM offre un service d'assistance ad hoc.' Below this, it states: 'Les acheteurs de lait du premier échelon ont la possibilité de consulter, de télécharger et d'utiliser non seulement les résultats des analyses de leurs fournisseurs, mais aussi les déductions et suppléments de droit privés convenus par la branche laitière pour le décompte de la paie du lait. Dans ce contexte, TSM offre également un programme de décompte de la paie du lait (bdlait.cash).' The final sentence reads: 'TSM fait également partie de la Commission Contrôle du lait. Le secrétariat y relatif, géré par TSM, soutient la branche laitière dans la recherche de solutions techniques, organisationnelles et administratives.'



DBMilch.ch

The results transmitted from the laboratory to **DBMilch.ch database** must contain the following information:

- company's unique identification (AGIS-ID)
- unique identification of the sample (AGIS-ID)
- laboratory
- state the competent executing authority to the producer
- date of sampling / analysis date
- analysis result of the bacterial count
- analysis result of the SCC
- results in case of the presence of inhibitory substances
- geometric mean of the number of germs and somatic cells in the first and second monthly sample
- number of complaints regarding the analysis of the load of germs in the last four months
- number of complaints regarding the analysis of the burden of somatic cells in the last five months
- suspension of milk supply



Suspension of the supply of milk and revocation

- The cantonal executing authority orders the **suspension** of milk supply in the following:
 - **any** verification of the presence of **inhibiting substances**
 - or to the **third complaint** in the **number of germs** over four months
 - or the **fourth complaint** in the **number of cells** in the space of five months.
- In case of suspension due to the presence of **inhibitory substances**, the manufacturer can resume to provide milk only after proving the competent authority that it has taken the necessary measures in order to eliminate the cause and after that the milk intended for the supply is negative to the test.
- In case of suspension due to repeated disputes for the **number of germs** or **cells**, the cantonal competent authority is required to perform an inspection. The milk must also conform to all legal requirements.



Costs

Article 9 of the «Order for Milk Testing»

1) The **state can** contribute to the **costs of the milk testing program*** (in 2017 = 3 million CHF/year)

2) Costs that **exceed** the contribution of the state for the **milk testing program, administrative costs and costs for further development** of the test program are covered by **producers and processors (in 2017= about 700.000 CHF)**

3) The **costs for the sample collection** are covered by **producers and processors (additional costs, ToBeConfirmed)**

*The state contribution is defined by the “*Milk testing commission*”



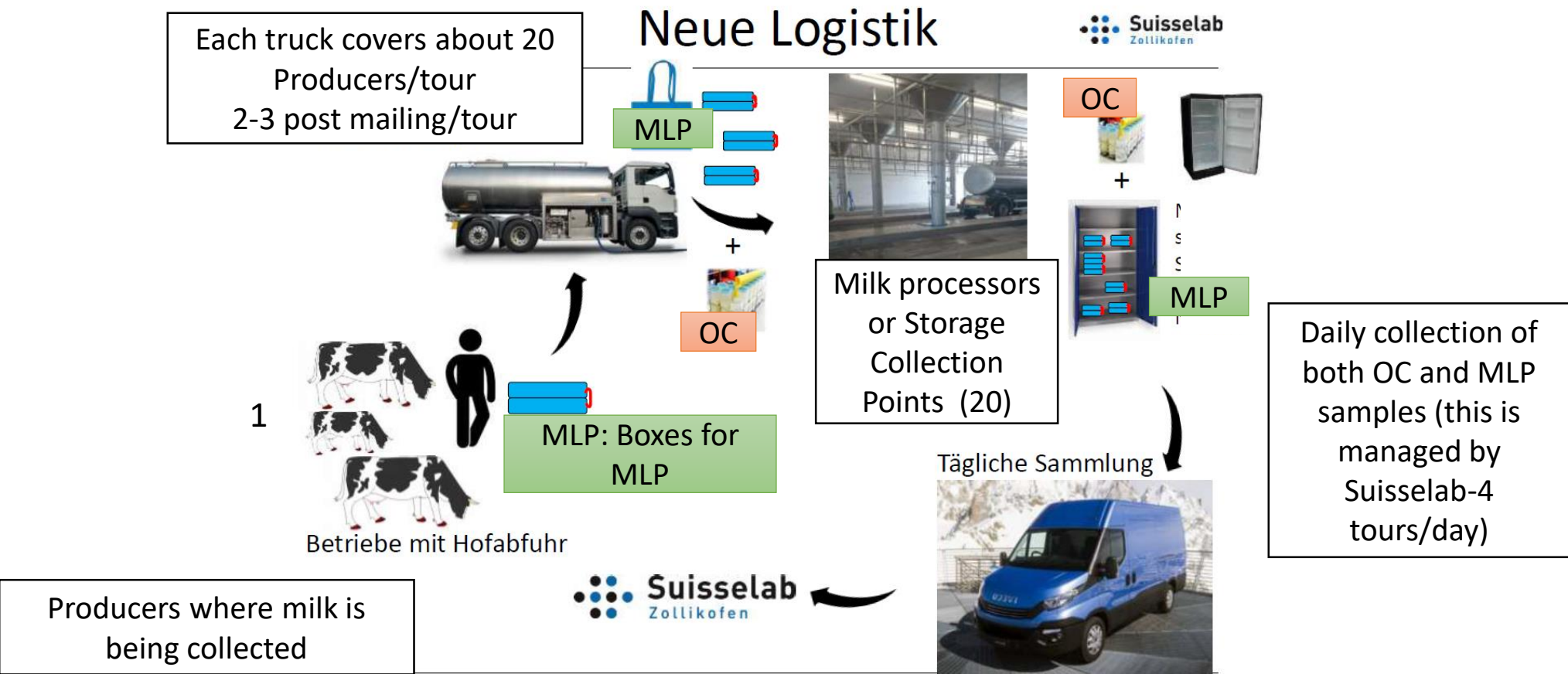
Transportation of milk samples

- 500'000 samples/year for the official control (bulk milk tank-SCC, TBC, Inhibitors)
- Analysis after a maximum of 30h
- 48% manual samples
- 52% automatic milk samples

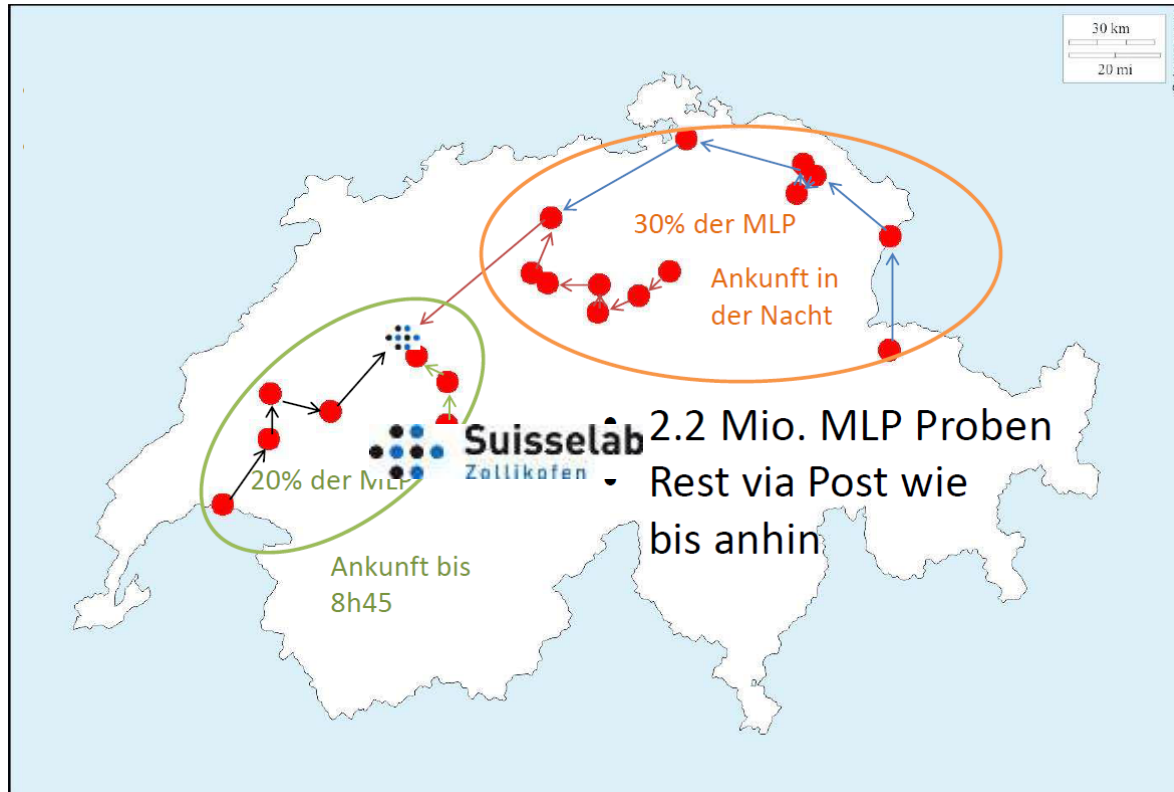
The collection of samples for the *official control* is coordinated (logistically-see next slide) with the *private milk sampling scheme* of the breeding associations (Milk quality data testing (MLP), individual cow samples twice a month).



New logistics since 2017



New logistics



System

- 20 storage/collection points (red dots)
- 4 daily tours (of blue car from previous graph)
- Official samples are collected together with 50% of private samples of the breeding associations (MLP, individual cow samples).
- The other 50% of MLPs goes by mail
- 40 transport companies and 7 processors are involved



Invoicing

- Invoices are directly sent (by DB Milk) to the milk processors.
- Then the milk processors send the invoices to the milk producers (private arrangement)
- There is no rule on how to share the costs between milk processors and producers, this can be arranged between the processors and their producers (individual contracts).

Good to know: Milk producers are allowed to deliver their milk to one processors only.

