

Proficiency Update

Winter 2009

Volume I, Issue I

Attention Program Contacts

Cherney Micro is working to get you faster, more high quality results from proficiency programs in 2009—so we're making a few changes.

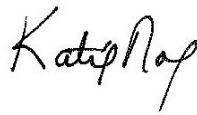
This year, we will implement a new software system and we are currently building a plan to accommodate all our proficiency programs to bring continuity to the results you receive. The new software will allow us to email the results of the Cheese Analytical proficiency, as well as introduce new applica-

tions that were not available to you in the past. For example, our program will give you the ability to track your facility's results either by quarter or by individual tests.

We are making these changes to continue our commitment of bringing you the highest quality, reliable and timely test results possible. We are always striving to make the programs better for you, so please feel free to share your comments or suggestions. You may respond in the

comments section on a results reporting sheet, call, or email me at any time.

Thank you for your continued participation in the Cherney Microbiological Proficiency Programs.

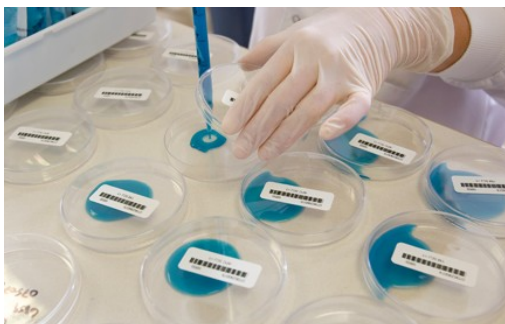


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Since it was founded in 1989, Cherney Microbiological Services has earned a reputation for providing nationwide clients with precise microbiological testing and associated services on a highly customized level.

One of the select few woman-owned businesses in the science-based industry, Cherney Microbiological Services is proud to be a member of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council.

New Group For Basic Micro Proficiency



Thanks to your business, our Basic Micro Proficiency Program has experienced rapid growth and we will split testing into two groups.

Each of the two groups will contain

approximately half the current participants. Your facility will fall into the appropriate group according to the type of test samples you receive. Our schedule will remain the same; both groups will receive samples in the second month of each quarter. Please share the schedule with the technicians who participate in the programs so that they may prepare for testing in advance.

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In addition to Proficiency Testing, Cherney Micro offers comprehensive lab services.

An Easier Way To Report Your Results

In the past, all proficiency results have been returned to Cherney via fax. Beginning with the first quarter of 2009, we ask you return all results via email.

Throughout the year, on each day of sample shipment, we send an email reminder to the program contact from each facility receiving samples. In addition, we will attach a file to that email which has the spreadsheet used for reporting results. The results can be recorded electronically on this spreadsheet, then emailed back. For facilities with more than one participant, there will be additional tabs on the spreadsheet so all data

is saved in one workbook. Hard copies of the spreadsheet will still be sent with the samples so that each technician can record results as the tests are completed.

We will still accept faxes, however sending your facility's results by email will be faster, more convenient and will deliver the results directly to the coordinator.

Because this is a new process, please be advised of a few important steps:

- Please make certain we have accurate contact information for your facility.
- If there is a personnel change, please inform us.

- If the current program contact will be away during the testing period and a temporary contact is to be assigned, please inform us.
- If a temporary contact is being set up in someone's absence, please give a time frame for their eligibility to receive the proficiency notifications and results.

Changes can be made at least 72 hours prior to sample shipment and an email notification sent to Katie Noe (knoe@cherneymicro.com) including the new contact's name, email address and phone number are required.



Introducing Temperature Controls

Beginning with the first quarter of 2009, we will be including temperature control vials for the Dry Whey and Basic Micro Proficiency programs.

Each quarter one additional sample vial will be sent along with your regular sample shipment. This vial will be different in color than the regular samples for testing and will be clearly labeled as a temperature control. The control vial will contain uninoculated sample of the same consistency as the regular proficiency samples for testing. This control will be used only as a means to accurately measure the sample temperature upon arrival by inserting a thermometer directly into the potatoes. Do not analyze the temperature control.

Please visit us online at www.cherneymicro.com
 For Proficiency Testing questions, please contact Katie Noe
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