



# Global Proficiency's NewsChek

Issue 2, May 2020

## DairyChek

Due to not being able to produce sufficient levels of spores the Sulphite-reducing *Clostridia* Spore Count (SRC) test has been withdrawn from the DAE (Milk Powder) category. The withdrawal of this test is effective from 1 June 2020.

## NurtureChek

A number of new tests are available to all labs in 2020 .

- NCK (Proximates, Fatty Acids & other Nutrients) we will be offering the Galactooligosaccharides (GOS) test.
- NUT (Vitamins & Amino Acids) we will be offering the following Amino Acids – Alanine, Arginine, Aspartic Acid, Cystine, Glutamic Acid, Glycine, Histidine, Isoleucine, Leucine, Lysine, Methionine, Phenylalanine, Proline, Serine, Threonine, Tryptophan, Tyrosine, Valine.
- NUT – Due to the volume of tests 2 data entry sub-groups have been setup (1) Vitamins and (2) Amino Acids. Please select the relevant sub-group when entering your round data.

## Soil & Plant RM/QCM

We have soil and plant Reference Materials (RM) and Quality Control Materials (QCM) available.

We offer a sample size of 150g of soil for RM and QCM, with test lists covering most of the routine chemistry tests. If your lab requires a QCM for the other tests available in the SoilChek proficiency programme, please let us know, as we can create these on request.

We also offer a 20g sample of plant RM and QCM with the full list of PlantChek tests available.

For a list of the current available RM and QCM, please visit our website:

[www.global-proficiency.com/  
reference-and-qc-materials/](http://www.global-proficiency.com/reference-and-qc-materials/)

## Covid-19

Global Proficiency continues to operate at fully capacity, as an essential service supporting the food industry and testing laboratories throughout the various alert levels around the globe.

Most staff continue to operate from home, while others remain on-site undertaking production and logistics. We are still contactable during business hours via the normal channels – email or phone.

Thank you to those customers who have already let us know about any changes to their operations during this time. Where possible, we ask you to please keep us updated about any changes so we can make any necessary arrangements.

## Upcoming Rounds

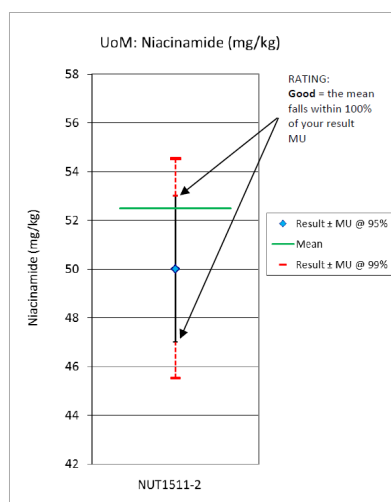
### Round 5

- DairyChek
- Meat, Water, Pathogens, Food (RLP)
- PlantChek
- MilkChek
- WaterChek Chemistry (Seawater)
- Timberchek
- VeriTest® Antimicrobials
- VeriCal®
- BactoChek
- VeriTest® UHT Products
- Carbonated Drinks
- NurtureChek

## Additional Reports

A report which is part of our standard ILCP service is the **Uncertainty of Measurement Summary**. It is not commonly received by labs and only half of labs are aware of it (according to 2020 survey feedback)!

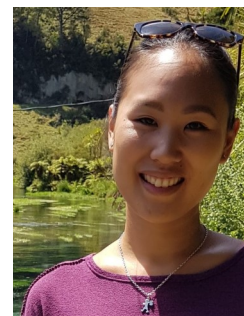
Only labs who report their calculated Measurement Uncertainty (MU) for each test (assuming it is an expanded uncertainty based on a 95% confidence interval), will automatically receive this report. It provides an indication of where your test results and the associated MU sit in relation to the mean and its standard error. The result is issued as a rating, a visual representation of a 'Good' rating is as follows:



For more information about this report, please contact your Programme Leader.

## Meet The Team

Nicole Joe has been employed at Global Proficiency for almost 6 years. She started as a Programme Leader and then assumed the role of Project Coordinator and Programme Development after returning from a 1-year break in Canada. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Auckland, and has hands on experience working in a pharmaceutical testing lab.



Her hobbies include yoga, walking her dogs and cooking.

## Customer Survey

The 2020 Global Proficiency Customer Survey has now closed. We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who responded!

The winner of the \$100 voucher of choice has been drawn and notified. They were very pleased and requested a supermarket voucher.

Your feedback has been thoroughly reviewed to help us identify trends and areas for improvement or development. We will strive to be in contact with you directly to address any issues, and in the long-term we will work on developing any promising prospects to add to our current services and products. We will also be focusing on having more training materials available.

If you did not have a chance to complete the survey, please feel free to send your feedback to us at:

[enquiries@global-proficiency.com](mailto:enquiries@global-proficiency.com)

## VP Plus Functions

Only 42% of customers are aware of the VP Plus function to view registration details (based on 2020 survey feedback).

Virtual Proficiency Plus (VPP) has many 'self-service' functions, and we encourage customers' to access these as their initial source of information.

From the VPP 'Home' page, by clicking the 'View Registration Details' the registration details can be viewed for the selected year(s) and programme(s). These are shown in a table where each row shows the number of sample set(s) registered for each category and each column is the month (and can be used to total number of samples sets the lab is registered to receive).

Registration is usually setup during annual registration (typically in October) and can only be amended by contacting GP staff directly.

## Contact Us

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