



NEWS RELEASE
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PHD's QA Manager certified in International Food Law

PINE HILL DAIRY'S (PHD) QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER, Heather Farrell-Clarke has achieved her Masters in Food Safety with a Certificate in International Food Law.

The certification was attained from Michigan State University through the College of Veterinary Medicine. The programme included courses in Codex Alimentarius, International Food Laws & Regulations, Food Regulation in the United States, Food Regulations in the European Union, Epidemiology and Toxicology. Mrs. Farrell-Clarke's research project was on 'the current status of the food safety systems in Barbados and the role that a manufacturer would play if its product is implicated in a foodborne disease outbreak.

Given five years to finish the distance-learning curriculum, Mrs. Farrell-Clarke, wife and mother of two, did so last December, in a little over two years and with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. The QA Manager said, "I like learning and my area of study was one with which I am comfortable. The challenge was keeping a balance. I would wake up at 3:30 a.m. to study since this was the only time the house was truly quiet and I could concentrate."

Michigan State University Course Manager **Mary Anne Verleger** said, "Mrs. Farrell-Clarke should be especially proud of being one of only a few students to receive a straight 4.0 grade (our highest) in all four food law courses and the first student from Barbados to be awarded the Certificate."

Describing it as a learning experience, Mrs. Farrell-Clarke noted, "Completing a qualification online is a lesson in proper networking and communication. While the first two weeks of the programme was completed on campus, the remainder of my studies was done online. I completed group projects with persons who were in the USA, Italy, Israel, and Canada- all online."

The QA Manager said she is looking forward to using the information she has gained to contribute to the advancement of the Dairy. "The course upgraded my existing knowledge and gave me a better understanding of what is happening in the international market. In recent years, due to increased concerns with bio-terrorism, the need for research and information on food safety has significantly increased. More importantly, PHD has an export focus and we must be able to interpret and meet the food regulations and laws that exist in the different countries."

Mrs. Farrell-Clarke is a member of several national Codex committees, represents the Dairy on the General Council of the Barbados National Standards Institute and has participated in the drafting of the Food Labeling and prepackaging foods regulations.



*PHD's Quality Assurance Manager
Heather Farrell-Clarke is certified in
International Food Law.*