

# **MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**



**SCHOOL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**MILK CENTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM**

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# CHAPTER ONE

## 1.0 Introduction

Milk Centers are independent collecting points, mostly owned by individuals, where farmers take their milk produce to be checked for quality, weighed, stored and then transported to various factories and local retail shops. Most centers use a manual approach to store their records. Each farmer's produce is weighed in litres and results are recorded and stored in files. The price paid for milk is usually dependent upon the milk-fat content, and this is determined using a piece of equipment known as a butyrometer. Farmers are paid between 24 and 34 shilling per litre depending on the quality. After collection, the milk should ideally be stored at a temperature of 4°C or below. This is necessary to slow the growth of any contaminating bacteria. The milk cooling tanks can hold up to 14,000 litres of milk.

The activities of milk centers include receiving and selling which makes it necessary to have an inventory. The milk brought in is recorded to keep record of the amount of milk in store. This helps to meet customer's demand as the milk centers know just the right amount of milk to purchase. The major customers of most milk centers include the factories that process milk. These factories have their own delivery trucks which are used to transport the milk from the milk centers to their respective factories. The excess milk is sold to the local community. Centers normally own their delivery trucks for this purpose. The factories make payment to the Milk centers through cheque payment every month. The centers help the local community by providing market for the farmer's milk and therefore a source of income plus provide the local community with quality milk.

## 1.1 Background Information

Most milk centers use a manual approach to manage information. The information managed includes details of each employee, customer and supplier such as identification number, name, and address. The manual system basically involves carrying out transactions manually, where the employee has to record information of