



July 2017

# milking TIMES

Published monthly for dairy farmers in Alberta and our industry partners

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## Chairman's Message

Source: Tom Kootstra, Chairman

July 1, 2017 is a milestone for Canada. As a country, we are celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – or our sesquicentennial anniversary. I hope all Canadians and all those that live and enjoy the benefits of our great nation take the time to reflect throughout the year at the many 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations taking place across Canada and right in your community.

I remember as a child Canada's Centennial in 1967 – Expo '67 was a big event that many Canadians travelled far to participate in. A lot has changed in those last 50 years and one of the significant changes has been the introduction of supply management for the dairy and poultry sectors. Our forefathers could never envision the changes due to the rapid use of technology used to help run and manage our farms today, but supply management remains constant and our system continues to provide predictability and sustainability.

We will be acknowledging the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary from July 16 - 19 as Alberta Milk will be hosting the Dairy Farmers of Canada Annual General Meeting. One of the events is to visit Cheslen Dairy which is the Alberta farm that was featured in the book produced by Dairy Farmers of Canada: *Dairy Farmers—Deeply Rooted for a Strong Future*. It honours Canada's dairy tradition and the contributions dairy farmers have made over the last 150 years. Details of the book were reported in the June issue of *MilkingTimes*. The DFC AGM is also a chance for farm leaders from across Canada to

discuss issues, challenges and opportunities that face our industry. The NAFTA review will be a key topic as the federal government prepares to negotiate with the USA and Mexico.

We also have a number of other opportunities over the summer to connect with our elected officials and the public such as the Breakfast on the Dairy Farms, Premier's Breakfasts in Calgary and Edmonton, and Open Farm Days featured across the province. These create opportunities for us to illustrate the value of the dairy industry in Alberta and in Canada and the history we have over the last 150 years.

Another showcase of our industry is that for the period of June 15 to July 20 at the Edmonton International Airport, there is a model Holstein cow with dairy signage. She is there to let consumers know that June is dairy month and then during the DFC AGM the signage will change to welcome those coming to the DFC AGM. If you are in the Edmonton airport over the next month, come get a picture and tweet it out. Let's show our pride. Thanks to Tim Hofstra for getting us the opportunity to have this showcased.

I look forward to the July 1 Canada Day celebrations and the chance to promote Canadian dairy farms and Canadian dairy products. Happy sesquicentennial anniversary, Canada!

## our mission

"Alberta Milk leads Alberta's dairy industry. We support the effective operation and advocacy of the supply management system in a vibrant, sustainable and market-focused industry."

Alberta Milk  
1303 - 91 St SW  
Edmonton, AB T6X 1H1  
1-877-361-1231



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## Give Credit Where Credit is Due

Source: Karlee Conway, Corporate Communications

Celebrate and add to the list of those that have shaped the dairy industry by submitting a nomination for two of our awards. Each of them will be awarded at the AGM/dairy conference banquet this November.

### Dairy Industry Achievement Award

The Dairy Industry Achievement Award (DIAA) is awarded to someone that has dedicated so much to the dairy industry in Alberta.

To nominate someone worthy of the award, consider the following:

- volunteer efforts or committee work in service to the dairy industry
- agricultural education and youth activities in the dairy industry
- lobbying or championship efforts on behalf of the Alberta dairy industry
- scientific contributions to increase production or animal health
- environmental or animal health stewardship and spokespersonship

### Recognition of Service Award

The Recognition of Service award is a way to recognize multiple people who have committed themselves to the provincial dairy industry. It is open to producers, processors, academics and members of government agencies or industries affiliated with dairy in Alberta. Anyone from any of these groups may nominate a recipient.

### Submitting an Nomination

Nomination forms can be found on the Member's Only site or at [albertamilk.com](http://albertamilk.com). Only completed forms will be accepted. The Corporate Affairs Committee will review and evaluate each nomination then submit to the Alberta Milk Board for their final selection.

### Deadline

All nominations must be received by Alberta Milk no later than October 2, 2017, by 4:30 p.m.

You can request information, specifically historical records, from Alberta Milk prior to September 15, 2017, to support your nomination.

For more information contact Karlee Conway at 780-577-3305 or [kconway@albertamilk.com](mailto:kconway@albertamilk.com).

## Why Not Try it This Year?

Source: Karlee Conway, Corporate Communications

Save the date! Alberta Milk's AGM and Dairy Conference is shaping up for this winter. If you haven't attended in past years, why not try it this year? This is YOUR event where you can provide direction for the organization, learn about new things you can take back to your farm, and it provides an opportunity to connect with other dairy farmers in the province.

**Date:** November 21-23, Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton

### What is the schedule?

Three days total breaks down into two days for the AGM and one for the dairy conference, specifically:

November 21, AGM day, *producers only*: 11 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

November 22, dairy conference day: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

November 23, AGM day, *producers only*: 8 to 11:45 a.m.

**Why should I attend?** The AGM offers producers a platform to speak about issues and offer perspective, while the dairy conference informs producers on issues affecting the industry and topics of interest.

**How much?** Accommodations and meals will be covered for one producer per farm.

**Remember:** Hotel rooms will be reserved under your credit card. If you do not show up or give us very limited or no notice, your card will be charged with the balance owing on the room. Alberta Milk will cover the balance if you attend the event (but not any charges or damages to the room).

We will keep you updated with more information in the coming months. Registration opens online at [albertamilk.com](http://albertamilk.com) and on the Member's Only website early this fall.

## Next Generation Forum: We Need Your Feedback!

Source: Daria Taylor, Corporate Operations Manager

Every few years, Alberta Milk hosts a Next Generation Forum aimed at young farmers who wish to start their own dairy farm or eventually take over the family farm.

### Are you:

- Under 35 years of age?
- Wanting to own or currently own your own dairy farm?
- Wanting to learn more about what Alberta Milk does and can do for you?
- Are you serious about becoming the next owner or starting your own dairy farm?
- Wanting to connect with other young farmers from across Alberta?
- Wanting to know more about the dairy industry beyond your farm gate?

Did you say yes to most of the above questions? In our hopes of developing a conference that is meaningful and full of information that you want to learn about the most, we would appreciate your participation in a short survey.

To participate, please go to the Member's Only site or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NextGen2018>.

## EIA Helps Celebrate Dairy Month!

Source: Karlee Conway, Corporate Communications

Travelling soon? Check out the Holstein at the Edmonton International Airport! She will be greeting travelers and welcome our guests to the DFC AGM this July.

Thank you to the Hofstra family and the Edmonton International Airport.



### deadlines

#### quota transfers

July 17, at 4:30 p.m.

#### credit transfers

July 24, at 4:30 p.m.

### services

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Holstein heifers, fresh or springing. **Phone 403-330-9558.**

Breeding age Jersey bulls. Dams many generations. VG, EX + high LPI. Make Holstein heifers easy to freshen. Rochester, AB. **Phone 780-698-2267.**

Breeding age bulls available from top sires with high LPI and production. Tested for semen, Leukosis and BVD. Also, milking heifers and embryo's available **Phone 403-315-4536.**

Fresh, springing & open heifers for sale. **Phone 403-556-0842.**

Breeding age Holstein bulls from dams scored VG/EX/ME and sired by high ranking sires. Semen tested and delivery avail. **Phone 780-689-9576.**

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## Alberta SPCA celebrates 50 years of legislated protection for Alberta's animals

Source: Alberta SPCA and Alberta Milk staff

### The Animal Protection Act of Alberta turns 50 this year.

Since it brought in the first version of the act in 1967, the provincial government has entrusted the Alberta SPCA with protecting Alberta's animals from situations of neglect or abuse.

"Over time, as Alberta's cities and towns have grown, we've received more and more calls about dogs and other companion animals," says Terra Johnston, Executive Director of the Alberta SPCA, "but there are a lot of farms in Alberta. More than half our investigations still involve horses, cattle and other agricultural animals. Many of these animals are part of commercial operations, but others are on hobby farms or are 'companion livestock' on rural properties."

In 2016, the Alberta SPCA dispatched 2,201 investigations. Horses are typically the most common livestock species seen, being involved in 29 percent of cases last year. Cattle were investigated on 10 percent of cases and other farm animals on 13 percent. The remaining cases involved dogs, cats or other companion animals.

The Alberta SPCA is a charitable organization, not a government agency, but it is authorized by Alberta's Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security to employ peace officers to enforce the Animal Protection Act (APA). The current contingent of 11 peace officers work out of the head office in Edmonton or regional offices in Okotoks, Innisfail and Grande Prairie.

Alberta SPCA peace officers investigate every report they receive where there are reasonable grounds to believe an animal is in distress. Most of those investigations start with a call from a concerned member of the public. "No two investigations are alike," says Peace Officer Ken Dean, "and our Animal Protection Officers use their extensive experience and knowledge of animal handling and care to determine what actions are appropriate for the situation."

The weather, the specific condition and location of the animals and the owner's willingness and ability to make improvements all affect how the investigation will be handled. Even the timeframe for investigations varies from a few days to a few months or even a few years.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) is the ministry responsible for the APA, and the act was first crafted with rural animals in mind. It is written to facilitate an enforcement model built on compliance principles: Alberta SPCA peace officers have a wide array of enforcement tools, but most of those tools only come into effect after an owner refuses to correct an identified problem. "People are sometimes reluctant to call us because they don't want to get a neighbour in trouble," says Johnston. "But the primary objective of our investigations is to ensure proper animal care. It is not about punishing people."

In about 40 percent of cases, the investigating peace officer will find that the caller's concerns

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were unfounded. Other times, the investigator may confirm the reported concern but also find that the animal is already receiving corrective care. The peace officer will tell the animal's owner the reason for the visit, but no other action will be taken. The investigation ends there and no one else typically knows anything about it.

In most cases where there is a reason for concern, the situation is relatively minor. Cattle might need a little extra feed over winter if the fall grazing was poor, or the bedding in a paddock might need to be replaced after a wet spring. The Alberta SPCA peace officer makes sure the animal owner or caretaker understands the problem and has a plan to correct it. The peace officer will return in a few days or a few weeks (depending on the issue) to see that the necessary changes were made and then conclude the investigation.

If the peace officer gives the owner a written warning, it will include a stipulation of what needs to be done and how soon. The peace officer will check back at the specified time to ensure the owner has complied with the instructions. The peace officer will only conclude the investigation when conditions have improved and the officer is confident the animals are being cared for appropriately. In the most serious cases, the peace officer may determine that animals must be seen by a veterinarian immediately. The owner is usually given the opportunity to call a veterinarian of his or her choice, but if the owner can't be located or refuses to comply, the Alberta SPCA peace officer will call a veterinarian directly. Serious cases can also require animals to be taken into protective custody. The Alberta SPCA can remove animals from a property if attempts to improve the condition of the animals fail, if the peace officer has reason to believe the owner will not follow-through on urgently required care, or if the animals are in immediate jeopardy. Alberta SPCA peace officers have the authority to lay charges under the Animal Protection Act, but this step is only taken in about 1 percent of cases.

Alberta Milk has worked closely with the Alberta SPCA and AAF to develop its Dairy

Animal Care Policy which is comprised of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle, the Animal Protection Act and the Criminal Code of Canada. Alberta Milk values the strong, productive relationship with its partners as we work together to help ensure the protection of our dairy animals.



### for sale cont'd

Milking heifers, springing heifers and milking cows.  
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**Phone 403-597-4301.**

1500 gallon Boumatic milk tank. Excellent condition, asking \$3500.  
**Phone 780-619-4427.**

5G bull, 1 1/2 years old. Reg. # 12138879. **Phone 403-222-0000 ext. 281.**

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## Dairy Production Statistics

<b>Producer Pool Additions/Deductions May 2017</b>		
	<b>Additions (\$)</b>	<b>Deductions (\$)</b>
Audit Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Bulk Tank Callibration	0.00	2,750.00
Discarded	0.00	23,379.10
PLR	0.00	269,026.77
Interest	11,598.47	222.28
Metering	60,608.21	0.00
Organic	64,469.15	0.00
Trucking	0.00	1,297.00
Violations	35,606.22	0.00
<b>Average Deductions per Kg Total Solids</b>		<b>(\$0.0003)</b>

Listed below are the Class 5 prices calculated by the Canadian Dairy Commission.

<b>Class 5 Prices (\$/kg) July 2017</b>			
Milk Class	Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids
Class 5a	7.2397	5.0241	0.9892
Class 5b	7.2397	2.0867	2.0687
Class 5c	7.9808	1.8824	1.8824
Class 5d	contract by contract price		
Class 4m	contract by contract price		

<b>Provincial Average Components May 2017</b>	
Butterfat	3.9798 kg/hl
Protein	3.2745 kg/hl
Other Solids	5.7369 kg/hl

<b>Average Milk Prices</b>	
Month	TPQ \$/hL
<b>May 2017</b>	<b>79.94</b>
Apr	81.02
Mar	81.38
Feb	81.28
Jan	80.31
Dec	79.75
Nov	79.46
Oct	79.58
Sep	79.26
Aug	78.56
July	78.96
June	79.09

<b>2015-16 Quota Exchange and Credit Deadlines</b>		
Quota Transfer Deadline Date	Credit Transfer Deadline Date	Effective Date
Jul. 17, 2017	Jul. 24, 2017	Aug. 1, 2017
Aug. 17, 2017	Aug. 24, 2017	Sep. 1, 2017
Sep. 18, 2017	Sep. 25, 2017	Oct. 1, 2017
Oct. 17, 2017	Oct. 24, 2017	Nov. 1, 2017
Nov. 16, 2017	Nov. 23, 2017	Dec. 1, 2017

<b>Provincial Milk Quality Averages</b>		
Month	Bacteria Average (IBC)	Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
May 2017	22,572	200,958



# Dairy Production Statistics



Quota Exchange Daily Production Quota		
	Total Transferred	Clearing Price/kg
<b>July 2017</b>	<b>44.80</b>	<b>\$37,505</b>
June	105.90	\$37,500
May	30.50	\$39,075
Apr	71.00	\$39,750
Mar	77.30	\$40,000
Feb	43.95	\$40,130
Jan	48.41	\$39,000
Dec	295.54	\$38,000
Nov	270.45	\$38,500
Oct	163.02	\$39,500
Sep	173.13	\$40,300
Aug	17.15	\$40,260

Underproduction Credit Transfers		
Month	Kg	Price\$/eligible kg
<b>June 2017</b>	<b>74,342.45</b>	<b>\$5.22</b>
May	39,075.00	\$5.21
April	71,067.33	\$6.69
Mar	54,202.40	\$7.13
Feb	85,534.99	\$7.93
Jan	90,187.89	\$8.00
Dec	81,412.53	\$7.21
Nov	78,045.37	\$7.61
Oct	60,409.23	\$8.80
Sept	63,291.48	\$10.08
Aug	59,481.67	\$9.94
Jul	63,446.02	\$9.80

Quota and Milk Production Summary (BF kg)					
Month	April	May	June	July	Aug
Status	Official	Pre-Pooling	Projected	Projected	Projected
<b>Alberta</b>					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	84,173	84,552	84,393	83,724	84,022
Producer Quota (kg/day)	86,779	85,307	85,909	84,986	82,467
Provincial Quota (kg/day)	83,364	83,364	83,364	83,364	83,364
Producer Quota + Incentive Credits	91,701	91,432	88,922	88,743	88,743
Cumulative Position (%)	-3.81%	-3.83%	-3.96%	-4.07%	-3.91%
Producer Position (Days)	-7.60	-8.35	-8.77	-9.46	-10.03
Provincial Position (Days)	-13.38	-13.83	-14.21	-14.83	-14.70
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Western Milk Pool</b>					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	242,121	242,437	242,680	240,885	241,829
Pool Quota (kg/day)	246,567	241,617	244,095	241,472	234,314
Cumulative Position (%)*	-4.27%	-4.25%	-4.25%	-4.25%	-3.98%
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0

\*The Western Milk Pool's (WMP's) limits on production are +0.50% and -1.50% of the WMP's rolling 12-month quota.





## services cont'd

Countryside Dairy Sales Dairy cattle & quota sales. Bred & springing heifers available. **Andrew 403-348-9358 or Harry 403-783-1274.**

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Alberta Holstein Association [www.albertaholstein.ca](http://www.albertaholstein.ca) for industry news, upcoming events, movies, show results and more!

Bricon Safety Grooving Ltd. Concrete grooving, planning, scarifying. Providing traction for a safer more productive environment. **Phone 1-800-590-4403 or 204-981-5057.**

Find out about the Jersey Breed on JerseyWest's website at [jerseycanada.com/jerseywest](http://jerseycanada.com/jerseywest).

Western Canadian Classic -Team Alberta. This youth show rotates amongst the 4 western provinces. **Phone Lexi Wright at 403-862-5600 or Sue Crest at 780-675-4643.**

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## Production Update

Source: Jonathan Ntoni, Policy Analyst

Production in Alberta and the WMP remain strong and is still growing in response to the quota increases that have been issued in this 2016-17 dairy year. There has been a total of +7% increase in producer quota issuance since August 2017 and this is rapidly translating into production increases. Presently, The Western Milk Pool (WMP) has realized +3.9% increase in BF production this dairy year-to-date (i.e., August to May), relative to the same period last year. Year over year increase in BF production by the end of July 2017 is expected to be +3.1% for Alberta and 4.7% for the WMP.

Average BF density in Alberta is following the seasonal trend and is currently on a decline. May recorded a 3.98kg/hl as average BF density, compared to 4.029 kg/hl in April, and this is expected to keep declining to a seasonal minimum of 3.904kg/hl by July 2017. On the other hand, average daily volume is also on the rise and is expected to peak in June at about 2.15 million litres/day.

Producers are reminded of the incentive days currently in place and are encouraged to continue increasing production. There are 2 incentive days per month in place from June to October and 1 day for November 2017.

## proAction® Validation

Source: Jim Eisen, Canadian Quality Milk Coordinator

Beginning September 1, 2017 your Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) validation will become known as a *proAction* validation which will include the Animal Care, Traceability and Food safety (CQM) of *proAction*. One of the requirements of the Animal Care module is an animal – based assessment.

### Which agency will be conducting the animal - based assessments?

For the first two years, all animal assessments across Canada will be conducted by Holstein Canada to help create a national baseline.

### Who, what and how often is the herd assessed?

A random sample of your milking and dry cows will be assessed every other year to coincide with your regularly scheduled FULL validation. This assessment will look for hock, knee and neck injuries as well as Body Condition Score and Lameness.

### Will there be a herd assessment report?

Producers will receive a report categorizing their herd (and peer) results as per these colour zones: top 25% of Canadian herds will be in the green zone; the middle 50% will be in the yellow zone and the bottom 25% will be in the red zone.

### What happens if I have a category in the red zone?

Producers who have an injury scoring category in the red zone must create a Corrective Action Plan to address these injuries within a timeline.

### Do I have to pay for the assessment?

The first animal assessment conducted for your herd is free of charge to producers.

Please see the **Notice of Change: Farmer Manual** insert in this edition of *Milking Times*.

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