



August 2017

milking TIMES

Published monthly for dairy farmers in Alberta and our industry partners

table of contents

Dairy Learning Centre Opens this Month	2
Summer Events	2-3
Dairy Conference and AGM	4
WCDS Nominations	5
Smoothie Winners	6
proAction [®] Animal Care	7
proAction [®] Traceability	8
Cattle Assessments	9
Statistics	10-11
Production Update	12

Dairy Farmers of Canada Annual General Meeting

Source: Mike Southwood, General Manager

Alberta Milk was the host of the 2017 DFC annual general meeting, *Building a Sustainable Dairy Industry*, in Edmonton, AB, July 16-19, 2017.

We were very pleased to host over 350 participants and to showcase Alberta and the dairy industry. We were able to provide a great showing of dairy products, tour dairy farms and visit local attractions. We were honoured that our Minister of Agriculture and Forestry the Honourable O’Neil Carlier brought greetings and showed his and the government of Alberta’s support of our industry and supply management.

In keeping with the theme on sustainability, the keynote speaker was Dr. Judith Bryans, president, International Dairy Federation (IDF) and chief executive, Dairy UK. During the AGM, Dr. Bryans and the Canadian membership for the IDF signed the Rotterdam Declaration. This declaration is the dairy industry commitment to the sustainable development of the dairy sector worldwide. It is a statement of how the dairy sector aims to promote the sustainability of dairy systems, taking into consideration social, economic, health and environmental dimensions.

We also heard from Canada’s Ambassador to the United States, David MacNaughton and Frédéric Seppey – Canada’s chief agriculture trade negotiator. In their presentations, it was noted that NAFTA has been updated 11 times since it was first implemented. On July 17, The USA released

their opening position for the start of the NAFTA renegotiations. The current negotiations to “modernize” NAFTA can start August 16, 2017. We continue to be very encouraged with the level of government support for supply management and their commitment to present the facts on the dairy industry and to highlight the trade imbalance with the USA. There was a strong message to ensure that the industry and the government stay united in our response to the media and in the approach to these negotiations.

Alberta Milk wants to thank all of the sponsors whose gracious support helped us host this event. We also want to thank the Crozier family of Cheslen Dairy, the Ter Borgh family of Ter Borgh Dairy, and Hutterian Brethren Church of Morinville for opening up their farms for the farm tours. These three farms showcased some of the diversity we have in the dairy farms in Alberta. We are also very grateful for the Vermeer Family for hosting the young delegation session. Youth delegates from nearly every province in Canada participated in this year’s youth leadership initiative.

Finally, we want to congratulate Pierre Lampron who was elected President of DFC for a two-year term. Pierre replaces Wally Smith who after six years had reached the end of his term as president. Our thanks for the service Mr. Smith provided and we look forward to working with Pierre and the newly elected executive of David Weins, Reint-Jan Dykstra, Ralph Dietrich, and Bruno Letendre.

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





Dairy Learning Centre Opens This Month

Source: Taylor Hemiston, Lakeland College

One of the most advanced dairy training facilities in Canada will be ready for student use this fall.

Lakeland College will officially open its Dairy Learning Centre on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at the Vermilion campus. The 47,000 sq. ft. facility will be open for producer viewing at 11 a.m., with a program and ribbon cutting to follow at 2 p.m.

“Construction of the Dairy Learning Centre has gone extremely well – in fact, we’re ahead of schedule and on budget,” says Josie Van Lent, dean of Lakeland’s School of Agricultural Sciences.

The training centre features a traditional milking parlour and a robotic milking system. In designing the facility, Lakeland – with input from industry partners, advisory committees, students, staff and alumni –focused on cow comfort for higher output production, animal care, safety, and transition cow management.

Alberta Milk is a key contributor to the project. Along with providing the use of additional milk quota so Lakeland could expand its herd, Alberta Milk has also given valuable input on facility design, future courses and training opportunities. The organization also received a Government of Alberta Growing Forward 2 grant that was used to incorporate energy efficient systems and design into the Dairy Learning Centre. Elements include LED lighting with auto dimming, full length skylight to reduce lighting loads, ventilation efficiencies and the use of plate exchanges to lower the temperature of milk from the udder and transfer that heat for other purposes.

Lakeland received federal government funding for the project through the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund.

Summer Events

Source: Karlee Conway, Coporate Communications Coordinator



Conrad Van Hierden was one of our many producer volunteers at our booth at Calgary Stampede. Thank you to all of the dairy farmers that took time from their day to teach people about what you do.



The Milk and Cookies Shack at the Calgary Stampede donated \$13,175 to the Calgary Foodbank this year.



Alberta Supply Management (SM5) once again sponsored the Edmonton and Calgary Premier’s breakfasts in July. Both events were great opportunities to connect with leading government officials, including Premier Notley and Minister Carlier.

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During the Calgary Stampede, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Carlier joined Debbie Lee for a milking demonstration. He also stopped by our Milk and Cookie Shack.



We were the host to the Dairy Farmers of Canada AGM from July 17-19 at the Westin in Edmonton. Hundreds of dairy farmers from across Canada joined together to cooperatively tackle issues we're facing.

deadlines

quota transfers
Aug. 17, at 4:30 p.m.

credit transfers
Aug. 24, at 4:30 p.m.



There were two Breakfast on the Dairy Farm events this year. One was hosted in southern Alberta and the other in central Alberta. Both saw huge attendance numbers and combined saw over 1,300 people visit. Thank you to the many volunteers, sponsors and organizing committees that make these events possible.



Cheslen Dairy was a stop at the farm tours during the DFC AGM. There visitors were able to see a classification from Holstein Canada and get hands on information about proAction[®]. The other farms visited were the Morinville Colony and Ter Borgh Dairy near Calmar. Thank you to all the farms for being such great hosts.



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Dairy Conference and Annual General Meeting

Source: Karlee Conway, Corporate Communications Coordinator

Mark your calendar! The Alberta Milk Dairy Conference and Annual General Meeting will take place on November 21-23 at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton.

This is another opportunity to help shape the future of your organization. It also provides a way to learn more about issues effecting your farm. This year, we'll be talking about antimicrobial use, trade, retail consolidation and rallying behind DFC's Fuelling Women Champion campaign with Jennifer Jones, gold metal Olympian.

Watch your mail box this fall for registration information.

Dairy Awards

Know someone that you feel deserves to be recognized for their hard work in the dairy industry? Nominate them for the Dairy Industry Achievement Award or the Recognition of Service Award. More information is on the Member's Only page. They will be awarded at our dairy conference banquet on November 22.

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 780-377-3305 or kconway@albertamilk.com.

Alberta Milk is Mortgage-Free!

Source: Karlee Conway, Corporate Communications Coordinator

Chairman Tom Kootstra and Finance Manager Denise Brattinga help celebrate our "mortgage burning" cake prepared by Corporate Operations Manager Daria Taylor.

The office of Alberta Milk no longer has a mortgage due to the guidance of the board making multiple lump sum payments to reduce the amount faster.



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Western Canadian Dairy Seminar John J Kennelly Award of Merit

Source: Kate Davies, WCDS Coordinator

Award of Merit Nominations Requested

The Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS) is seeking nominations for the John J Kennelly Award of Merit. The WCDS Award of Merit is inspired by the past contributions of Dr. John Kennelly to the seminar and is awarded by the Advisory Committee to an individual who has made a superior contribution in the areas of education, training, technology transfer and extension to the Western Canadian dairy industry.

To nominate an individual for the Award of Merit please complete the nomination form which can be found at www.wcds.ca. The nomination should include a summary statement describing the nominee's key contributions to the dairy industry in western Canada (max. 500 words), biography of the nominee (max. 300 words), as well as the nominees contact information.

Nominations should be sent to:
Kate Davies (Conference Coordinator),
Western Canadian Dairy Seminar,
c/o Department of Agricultural, Food and
Nutritional Science, 4-10
Agriculture/Forestry Centre,
Edmonton, AB T6G 2P5
e-mail: wcds@uablerta.ca, fax: 780-492-5771,
phone: 780-492-3236.



Nominations received prior to September 1, 2017 will be eligible for consideration for the 2018 Seminar. All nominations will be given full consideration by the WCDS Advisory Committee. The winner will be announced on March 7, 2017 during the opening session of the Seminar.

for sale cont'd

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Smoothie Power – Finishing Strong

Source: Jaclyn Chute, Dairy Farmers Of Canada

The Smoothie Power contest has wrapped up for the year, and will not continue in the 2017-18 school year. Offered in partnership with Breakfast for Learning, Dietitians of Canada and Ever Active Schools, teachers had the opportunity to win a smoothie kit to facilitate a food-based learning activity in their classroom. Each kit had one blender, one set of measuring cups and spoons, one set of smoothie recipe and activity booklets and one \$50 grocery store gift card. We had 19 winners in the spring 2017 contest. Here are some of their stories:

Dolores A – Bertha Kennedy Catholic Community School, St. Albert

Thank you so much for the opportunity to take part in the Alberta Milk/Smoothie Power contest! My class was thrilled! Early in June we took a break from our work and play and celebrated our year together by making the nutritious smoothies. The blender mixed the ingredients very efficiently and we all appreciated the icy coolness of the smoothie because our classroom was very hot that day.

Tamara P – St. Elizabeth Seton School, Edmonton

My class enjoyed a smoothie powered lesson and treat yesterday afternoon. They had earned the treat day with their classroom marbles and were very proud that they chose a healthier snacking option. We made the three different flavours together as a class and each child was able to choose two flavours to try.

Lisa E – Chief Justice Milvain School, Calgary

We had an amazing and busy ‘berry’ morning! We coined this morning as, “Fun Fraction Friday”. My grade 3/4 team created 3 centers where each teacher focused on a fraction stem, as you might have gathered, my center was Fractions in the Kitchen. Students followed a recipe looking at fractions on measuring spoons and cups. The students had so much fun!!! We sincerely appreciate the generous donation that Dairy Farm of Canada provided to help enrich our health and math units.

Rhonda H – McLeod School, Edmonton

So, I am now the coolest teacher ever thanks to you and your team at Alberta Milk. Last week we had our smoothie day. The kids LOVED it. We read through the recipe books, and talked about the different types of smoothies. I grossed them out when I told them that I drink a smoothie with spinach in it everyday. LOL I bought frozen berries, bananas, milk and vanilla yogurt. The kids were so pumped to watch me put the ingredients in and blend them up.

Niamh D – Onoway Elem. School

Just wanted to touch base and let you know what a great time we had yesterday using the Smoothie Power Kit in our classroom. We decided as a class that we would leave our smoothie making till towards the end of school. We also decided that we would invite some of the students from the Life skills class to participate with us as they had done a lot of baking throughout the year. It opened up many conversations about cultural backgrounds, healthy eating and ways to help make breakfast a very important choice everyday!

Emily S – Iron Ridge Junior Campus, Blackfalds

My 8A and 8B health classes were over the moon with their smoothie treat day! In health, we are required to teach about healthy eating, snacks and how to make better choices when away from home or rushed for time. Without programs like Smoothie Power, I would never have been able to deliver such a hands on, real life example of our curriculum outcomes. Thank you for the opportunity to make learning real, engaging and fun!

Heather H – Tom Baines Junior High School, Calgary

The students were very excited when the smoothie kit arrived. We used the measuring spoons and cups and the print resources immediately. The blender and gift card were used to create smoothies for the ‘Let’s Get Tropical’ food truck in the Grade 9 Culinary program- after perfecting their recipe, they went on to secure the win in the food truck battle! Thank you very much for supporting our culinary program this year and for years to come.

Visit www.albertamilk.com/smoothiepower to see the list of winners.

proAction® ANIMAL CARE - What you need to know

Source: Jodi Flaig, Alberta Milk and proAction®, Dairy Farmers of Canada



There are many things to know regarding animal care! Here is a quick run through of what you need to know for proAction animal care module effective September 1, 2017.

Care Requirements

There are several care requirements that must be met in the following areas:

- Feed and Water
- Housing
- Handling
- Health Care
- Training

SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures)

All dairy producers must have the following SOPs:

- SOP for colostrum management and calf feeding
- SOP for animal health practices (e.g. disbudding/dehorning, castration, supernumerary teat removals) and branding
- SOP for Euthanasia
- SOP for Shipping cattle
- Correction Action Plan to address downed animals.

Records

- Tail Docking Log
- Cattle Assessment Summary Sheet and Cattle Assessment Record

The Assessment Summary Sheet and record will be provided to you at the time of your assessment. The assessment is separate from the validation. The assessment must be done prior to your next validation after September 1, 2017. Holstein Canada has been contracted to do this assessment on every Canadian dairy farm and will contact you directly to arrange the visit to your farm. You do not need to have a registered herd or complete classification.

What does an assessment report look like?

Measure	YOUR RESULTS			National Average
	Green Meets requirements	Yellow Corrective actions recommended	Red Corrective action plan required	
Body Condition Score (BCS)	98.0%			97.4%
Hock Injuries		88.0%		78.4%
Knee Injuries	95.0%			92.1%
Neck Injuries	96.0%			96.2%
Lameness (stall scoring)			56.0%	86.1%
Lameness (gait scoring)				92.4%

What do I do with the results of my assessment report?

In the example assessment report above, there are examples of results in each of the green, yellow and red zones. Here is the action that would be recommended at the time of validation:

- **Green zone** - No action recommended for BCS, knee and neck injuries.
- **Yellow zone** - A corrective action plan for hock injuries is recommended for the validation.
- **Red zone** - A corrective action plan for lameness is required for the validation.

Workshops

Come join fellow producers for an on-farm walkthrough of the proAction Animal Care Assessment and an opportunity to ask any questions. Clem Nash, trainer for all proAction Animal Care assessors across Canada, will present on:

1. the assessment process,
2. animal scoring, and
3. how to work with the Peer Report.

Workshop Dates

Tuesday, August 15
Wednesday, August 16
Thursday, August 17

Location details are available on the member's only website.

For any questions on proAction® call Jim Eisen, 780-577-3318, or Jodi Flaig, 780-577-3307, at Alberta Milk.

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proAction® TRACEABILITY – What you need to know

Source: Jodi Flaig, Alberta Milk and proAction®, Dairy Farmers of Canada

There are many things to know regarding traceability, likely more than you would like to know! Here is a quick run-through of what you need to know for proAction traceability rules effective September 1, 2017.



PID – All dairy producers must have a Premise identification Number (PID) for their main premises, at minimum. You can apply for PID online with Traceability Alberta or call 310-FARM
Ex. AB1234561

Tags – All cattle born on a dairy operation must be tagged within seven days of birth beginning September 1, 2017

- **NLID** – All calves (including non-registered) born from the dairy operation that will remain in the dairy industry (male and female)
- **must be** tagged with an NLID tag set.

When applying the NLID tags be sure to use the green pin on the Allflex tag pliers. A green pin has been included along with a reference document 'Traceability Made Easy' in a separate mail out following this edition of the *MilkingTimes*.



- **CCIA** – Any calves born from the dairy operation that will not enter the dairy industry (male or female) **may be** tagged with a CCIA tag or an NLID tag set.



Any mature dairy animals with no RFID tags that are tagged with CCIA RFID tags will be grandfathered for proAction only. Since 2009 Alberta regulations require that all cattle are

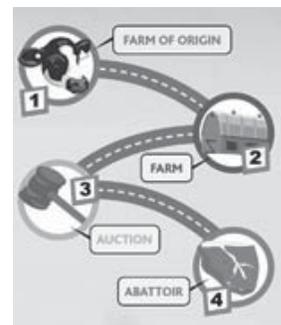
tagged by 10 months of age or before they leave the farm of origin, whichever occurs first.



Records – All events must be recorded within seven days of occurrence.

- Birth
- Move-In
- Export
- Death
- Move Out (*voluntary*)

Details of the information required for the record is available



*in your proAction® Traceability Reference Manual & Workbook, or QuickTips sheet included as a separate mail out following this edition of the *MilkingTimes*.*

Reporting – All events must be reported within seven days, except birth events which must be within 45 days or before the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first.

- Birth
- Move in
- Export
- Death
- Move Out (*voluntary*)



For assistance with obtaining or accessing your CCIA account and/or reporting traceability events to CCIA, contact your local CCIA Mobile Field Representative. A contact sheet will follow in a separate mail out following this edition of the *MilkingTimes*.

No double entry! Traceability information can be reported in some circumstances through DHI, Holstein Canada and herd management software. Contact your representative for further information.

For any questions on proAction call Jim Eisen, 780-577-3318 or Jodi Flaig, 780-577-3307 at Alberta Milk.

Ask the cow: Cattle Assessments Conducted by Holstein Canada

Source: Dairy Farmers of Canada

Observing animals to look for signs of well-being is not new, but measuring specific animal-based indicators is. Canadian dairy is making these measurements an essential part of the Animal Care module of proAction. In the fall of 2016, DFC contracted Holstein Canada to assess key animal welfare indicators: body condition score, injuries, and lameness, on a statistically-significant number of cows in each herd.

This benchmarking exercise will be conducted on all Canadian dairy farms until fall 2018.

As of June 1st, 1,195 herds have been assessed. The cattle assessment provides farms with a benchmark from which they can plan measurable improvement—striving to meet the “Excellent” targets. To reach the “Excellent” targets, 95 percent or more of the animals in a herd must meet the requirement of having a body condition score of greater than two, and 90 percent or above must score well on the indicators of injuries or lameness. The assessment indicates how well farms comply with a number of important requirements in the Canadian *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle*.

Farms will receive a summary of their overall herd performance. Now that about 10 percent of Canadian herds have been assessed, it is possible to estimate a national average for each indicator. Beginning this July, farmers will receive a ‘peer report’ as part of their summary. The report will allow individual farmers to compare their herds with the national averages. The peer report categorizes the result of the herd for each measure in the green (excellent or good results), yellow or red zone. If the herd has a result in the yellow zone, the farmer should consider it as a warning and look to make improvements. If a result falls in the red zone, a farmer must write a corrective action plan and implement it.

Veterinarians, ruminant nutritionists and/or dairy specialists are good experts to help map out such a plan.

The cattle assessment must be completed within 24 months before the farm is due for a validation for the animal care module of the proAction Initiative. Every two years, prior to validation, farmers will need to have an assessment conducted, with the expectation that the results will have improved over the previous assessment for results that fall in the red or yellow zones.

The first assessments show many farms achieving close to—or meeting—the “Excellence” target. These results indicate that farmers are committed to improving issues that may arise on their farms, and that they value the collaboration of veterinarians and dairy specialists and are seeking better genetics to increase production or improve longevity and other characteristics.

In the same vein, the assessment of these animal-based measures, and proAction itself, is made possible through the collaboration of multiple partners. DFC is grateful for the collaboration of farmers, veterinarians, animal science researchers and Holstein Canada, which has resulted in developing practical tools for farmers, to continue to be proactive about the care of dairy cattle, to measure future improvement. This will result in healthier and more productive herds.



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Sept 2017 and proAction are arriving fast. Do you have your SOP's ready? Let me help! Flat rate, farm consultation and writing of proAction SOP's.

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Friendly Reminder: Stay Informed with the Dairy Express!

You are a dairy farmer? Sign up now for the *Dairy Express*, the bi-monthly e-newsletter published by Dairy Farmers of Canada. To do so, simply send an email to Emilie.tobin@dfc-plc.ca who will add your name to the mailing list.



Dairy Production Statistics

Producer Pool Additions/Deductions May 2017		
	Additions (\$)	Deductions (\$)
Audit Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Bulk Tank Callibration	0.00	2,260.00
Discarded	0.00	44,312.21
PLR	0.00	224,091.16
Interest	10,468.21	235.78
Metering	61,302.15	0.00
Organic	63,228.27	0.00
Trucking	0.00	2,245.00
Violations	41,411.91	0.00
Average Deductions per Kg Total Solids		(\$0.0117)

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

Class 5 Prices (\$/kg) August 2017			
Milk Class	Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids
Class 5a	7.9349	4.8607	0.9117
Class 5b	7.9349	2.1648	2.1648
Class 5c	8.3255	1.7650	1.7650
Class 5d	contract by contract price		
Class 4m	contract by contract price		

Provincial Average Components June 2017	
Butterfat	3.9397 kg/hl
Protein	3.2402 kg/hl
Other Solids	5.7343 kg/hl

Average Milk Prices	
Month	TPQ \$/hL
June 2017	78.49
May	79.94
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

2015-16 Quota Exchange and Credit Deadlines		
Quota Transfer Deadline Date	Credit Transfer Deadline Date	Effective Date
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

Provincial Milk Quality Averages		
Month	Bacteria Average (IBC)	Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
June 2017	20,083	209,207

Dairy Production Statistics



Quota Exchange Daily Production Quota		
	Total Transferred	Clearing Price/kg
Aug 2017	103.67	\$38,005.00
July	44.80	\$37,505
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

Underproduction Credit Transfers		
Month	Kg	Price\$/eligible kg
July 2017	83,903.70	\$5.17
June	74,342.45	\$5.22
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

Quota and Milk Production Summary (BF kg)					
Month	May	June	July	August	September
Status	Official	Pre-Pooling	Projected	Projected	Projected
Alberta					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	84,552	84,550	83,579	84,273	86,362
Producer Quota (kg/day)	87,109	84,986	84,986	85,332	89,251
Provincial Quota (kg/day)	83,377	83,383	83,383	83,383	85,051
Producer Quota + Incentive Credits	91,445	88,942	88,763	88,763	90,721
Cumulative Position (%)	-4.03%	-4.12%	-4.24%	-4.33%	-4.58%
Producer Position (Days)	-8.33	-8.86	-9.71	-10.31	-10.53
Provincial Position (Days)	-14.23	-14.85	-15.46	-15.79	-16.06
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
Western Milk Pool					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	242,689	241,233	240,629	243,051	250,009
Pool Quota (kg/day)	247,505	243,132	241,472	242,456	253,590
Cumulative Position (%)*	-4.41%	-4.45%	-4.46%	-4.43%	-4.52%
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

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Production Update

Source: Jonathan Ntoni, Policy Analyst

Production remains strong in Alberta and the WMP. Daily average volumes increased by 21,500 litres per day in June over May, 2017 [i.e. +1%]. The seasonal decline in raw milk butterfat densities, however, caused Alberta's daily average butterfat production to remain stable for the same period. The province's cumulative quota position (CPQ) was at -4.03% in May and is projected to drop further in June. Producers are currently 8.8 days behind in their production while the province is over 14 days behind.

The chart below provides a snapshot of which farms hold how much of the province's quota and credits.

From the graph above, medium sized farms (i.e., farms with 100-250kg/day of quota holdings) make up more than half of the province's producer population; hold and produce 53% of Alberta's quota and as well fill the most of incentive days [52%]. Therefore, they have the most potential to boost production to help the province fulfill its quota obligations.

All producers are reminded of the incentive days currently in place and the 2% quota issuance increase effective September 1, 2017, and are therefore encouraged to continue increasing production. There are 2 incentive days per month in place from July to October and 1 day for November 2017.

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