



October 2017

milking TIMES

Published monthly for dairy farmers in Alberta and our industry partners

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IAMCA - 78th Annual Conference

Source: Mike Southwood, General Manager

The 81st International Association of Milk Control Agencies (IAMCA) Annual Conference was hosted in Roanoke, VA from September 17-19, 2017.

The IAMCA organization's mandate is to promote effective, efficient and improved administration of milk regulators in North America. The annual conference provides a forum for the IAMCA membership to learn about key issues facing the dairy industry in Canada and the United States.

Speakers covered a diverse number of topics that included a profile of dairy industry in both Canada and the United States, global economic trends, a comparison of generic versus branded marketing and trade – related to the negotiations to modernize NAFTA.

Consumer demand for dairy products is increasing. With the exception of fluid milk consumption which is showing a -1.0 to -1.5 reduction trend in both Canada and the US, there is an increase overall for higher fat products namely butter and cheeses. The growth in cheeses continues to be in specialty products.

The trade discussion featured presentations by the two national producer organizations, Dairy Farmers of Canada and the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF). While Canada's position on dairy under the NAFTA discussions has been well stated – no new access and that our supply management system is not part of the discussion- the message from the NMPF was predictably the opposite. With the USA

withdrawal from the TPP and the negotiations with the EU on a trade agreement put on the backburner under the new US administration, NAFTA is the key focus. The NMPF feels they have a strong trade alliance with Mexico and that trade with Canada is broken. Canada is an expanding market and they want access. The message to Canadians was that if they do not get more access under the negotiations, they will push for a trade challenge related to industry changes implemented by Canada on ingredients. The US is also unhappy with the CETA agreement and the concessions they feel Canada made on geographical indicators. Despite this, Yves Leduc, the DFC representative, continued to have a strong voice for Canada and did a convincing job at educating the audience about the benefits of our system.

The speakers from Saputo, Dean Foods and the American Dairy Association North East on promotion and marketing made it clear that there is value for both generic and brand promotion. Generic promotion needs to focus on growing the category, explaining the benefits of milk versus other alternate beverages and making milk relevant. Brand marketing should make an emotional connection with the consumer through partnerships with retailers.

The 2017 IAMCA Conference once again provided a great forum for the exchange of information and ideas, as well as networking opportunities between the stakeholders in Canada and the US.

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.”

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Hundreds to benefit from new Dairy Learning Centre

Source: Lakeland College

assistance, and other AST majors will also benefit from this educational facility using it to study animal handling systems, practice blood collection procedures, get experience working with large animals, and more.

Alberta Milk has been one of Lakeland's key contributors throughout the project. They've provided the use of additional milk quota, and funds from the Government of Alberta Growing Forward 2 grant to incorporate energy efficient systems and design in the facility. They'll continue to provide input on courses and training opportunities.

"Alberta Milk is pleased to be working closely with Lakeland College to enhance dairy education programming in western Canada," says Tom Kootstra.

The total cost of the Dairy Learning Centre is \$9.5 million. This includes \$3,467,500 in federal funding through the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund. Established in 1913, Lakeland College is a place of possibility that serves more than 8,300 students every year at its campuses in Vermilion, Alta., and Lloydminster, Alta./Sask., and through online and off-site programs and courses. Lakeland offers programming in the areas of agricultural sciences, business, energy, environmental sciences, fire and emergency services, health and wellness, human services, interior design technology, trades and technology, and university transfer. For more information visit lakelandcollege.ca.

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Lakeland College students will take the lead in the college's new Dairy Learning Centre that officially opened on Tuesday, Aug. 22. About 500 people from across Alberta and beyond celebrated the official opening of the state-of-the-art agriculture learning centre at Lakeland's Vermilion campus.

The Dairy Learning Centre replaces Lakeland's previous dairy facility which was built in the 1980s, and puts Lakeland in the ideal position of reflecting the highest industry standards. It features state-of-the-art technology in robotic and conventional milking and feeding systems. With these systems, Lakeland students will have the opportunity to delve into what it takes to lead in the dairy industry. They'll work with a herd of 280-head including 120 Holstein milk cows, replacement heifers and young stock.

Lakeland students will also lead in other career-relevant, advanced learning opportunities related to calf management, feed and nutrition, cow comfort, dairy specific software, manure management and more.

This September, the 46,600 sq. ft. facility will primarily be utilized by Lakeland's animal science technology students in the dairy major. And, hundreds of other Lakeland students from agribusiness, crop technology, animal health technology (AHT), veterinary medical



Fall Producer Meetings

Source: Karlee Conway, Corporate Communications Coordinator

It's that time of year again! Fall Producer Meetings will take place across Alberta and it's your opportunity to provide feedback and direction to Alberta Milk.

Delegates and Elections

The nominations for delegate elections closed on September 8, 2017. As a result, there will be no elections in the South and North Regions as all positions have been acclaimed.

South Region - elected by acclamation are Brian Stoutjesdyk, Michael Vanden Dool and Bill Van Rootselaar

North Region - elected by acclamation are Alain Lavoie, Tim Hofstra, Tom Kootstra. One other position is vacant.

Central Region - Albert Kamps, JP Brouwer, Cornel Van't Klooster and Arie Vanden Broek are running as candidates for three vacant positions.

Further details on the election in the Central Region will be sent to all producers in that region.

We would like to thank Arnold Van Os, North Region delegate, and Jim Towle, Central Region delegate, for their years of service. Both Jim and Arnold have decided not to stand for re-election.

Dates and Locations

South Region - Tuesday, October 24
Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Center
526 Mayor Magrath Drive South, Lethbridge

North Region - Wednesday, October 25
Neighborhood Inn
6011-49 Street, Barrhead

Central Region - Thursday, October 26
Westerner Park
4847A-19 Street, Red Deer

North Region - Friday, October 27
Executive Royal Inn
8450 Sparrow Drive, Leduc

Register Now!

Source: Karlee Conway, Corporate Communications Coordinator

Registration for the Alberta Milk Annual General Meeting and Dairy Conference is now open. It will take place November 21-23 at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton. Registration will close at the end of October.

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).

Please go to albertamilk.com for more details and to register.



deadlines

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

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

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The Milk MOObile!

Source: Kelsie Gilks, School and Agriculture Program Coordinator

Alberta Milk designed a portable trailer, The Milk MOObile, to be used by producers in local parades and at local community events. It was displayed at the DFC AGM BBQ in July, and since then has gone to three parades in Lethbridge, Iron Springs, and Picture Butte. It features a model of a cow that can be pulled out and displayed for parades, as well as educational pieces for display at events.

To book the trailer for your local event, or for questions, please contact Kelsie at kgilks@albertamilk.com or 780.577.3327.



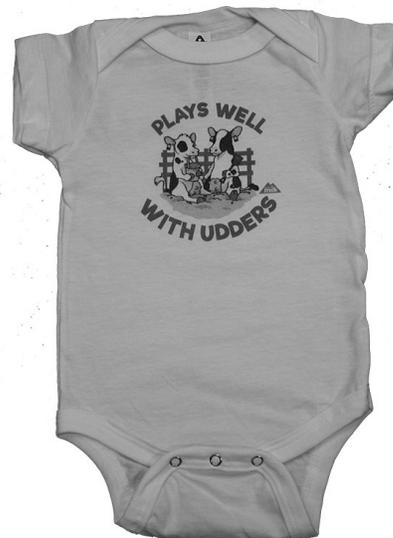
Picture Butte parade



New Merchandise

New merchandise for youth and infants has arrived! Available in onesies (sizes 6MO, 12MO, and 18MO) and youth t-shirts (YXS-YXL) these 100% cotton pieces are perfect for the young and upcoming farmers in your life.

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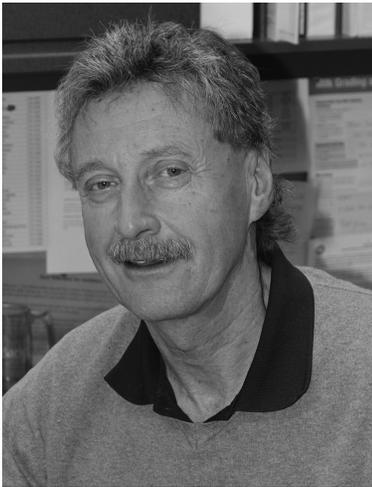
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Staff Changes

Source: Mike Slomp, Industry and Member Services Manager

Jim Eisen is retiring from the Alberta Milk on October 31. Jim has been an integral part of the Canadian Quality Milk Program since 2006, and he will be missed by producers and colleagues alike. Jim was very passionate about the dairy industry and he especially enjoyed his work with dairy producers. Over this many years of service, Jim has made many great acquaintances and built strong relationships throughout the industry.



His positive attitude and abundance of energy have helped make our office a pleasant place to work. Alberta Milk warmly thanks Jim for his contributions and wishes him good health and great happiness in his retirement.

E-updates from Alberta Milk

Receive current, informative and relevant updates to your inbox from Alberta Milk! Simply send your email to kconway@albertamilk.com to register. You can unsubscribe at any time.



Alberta Milk is pleased to introduce and welcome Morgan Hobin as the new proAction® Coordinator, effective September 5. Morgan will work directly with producers in the introduction, training, implementation and validation of each of the various proAction® modules including Food Safety (previously known as CQM). Her work will range from hosting on-farm workshops to leading the team of validators to following up with our producers to ensure successful adoption of proAction on their farms.



Morgan brings considerable experience to Alberta Milk through her work with producers in Australia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. This work included dairy extension, applied forage research and most recently as manager of the Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Unit at the University of Saskatchewan. The Rayner dairy unit is comprised of a 110-cow milking herd with three DeLaval milking systems (tie stall, double-6 herringbone parlour and a robot.)

We are excited to welcome Morgan on board! You can reach her at 780-577-3318 or mhobin@albertamilk.com.



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Be Proactive: Avoid Emergency Manure Spreading

Source: Pat Jacksom, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Spreading manure on frozen or snow covered land (FSCL) is not a preferred practice. Although livestock operators may need to spread on FSCL under certain circumstances, good planning and management can keep those situations to a minimum. The primary concern in the past has been the surface run-off risk and associated environmental impact. The impact on public perception and trust is a growing concern as that relates to industry social license.

Spreading manure on FSCL is highly visible and can draw undesirable attention. A negative shift in public perception could impact the livestock industry at the neighbor, community, provincial and consumer level. This could have local impacts such as affecting an individual operation's plans to expand in the future or on a broad scale affecting overall industry social license. Being proactive with your planning and management will help minimize spreading on FSCL activities. Frozen pipes, broken waterlines, early snow, or contractor availability are the four most common reasons manure storage might overflow or fail. If this happens when fields are frozen or snow-covered and is judged an emergency situation, the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) may give permission to spread manure throughout the fields. However, a strategy to avoid such emergencies can better protect the environment and help build public trust.

Producers with enough manure storage for one to two years are in the best position to avoid emergencies. They are less vulnerable to early snowfall or late contractors and may be able to skip fall manure application. This reserve capacity can also address unforeseen increases in volume due to problems with manure handling systems, broken waterlines, frozen pipes, or extreme weather events.

Adequate manure storage, which the Agricultural Practices Act (AOPA) stipulates as nine months, relies on fall spreading that may be vulnerable to early snowfall and contractor availability; hence, management requirements in the fall are greater than in spring, when emergency spreading often involves less volume.

Proposed Strategy 1

Having less than a nine months storage of manure is often insufficient to avoid Winter spreading. Operations that existed prior to January 1, 2002 were not required to have nine months storage and may not have expanded yet. The regulations allow them to spread without requested permission as long as no risk to the environment is created. The public may not understand requirements for these producers; therefore, notification by these operators to NRCB is necessary so it can respond in an informed way to complaints and concerns, demonstrating its responsible nature.

Proposed Strategy 2

Another strategy to avoid an emergency is to ensure regular inspections of the manure system, storage structures and scheduling maintenance, regardless of capacity. Frequency and intensity of inspections should increase with aging infrastructure or less storage. Well-planned inspections identify wear, damage, and maintenance issues in a checklist, and result in scheduled repairs or upgrades before there is a problem.

Understanding a farm's ability to store manure over winter is essential in developing a plan to avoid emergency spreading. Careful management of current capacity, development of reserve capacity, and updated communication with the NRCB are responsible and valuable practices to avoid emergencies and build public trust.

DFC Presents 2018 Strategic Plan

Source: Dairy Farmers of Canada

DFC presented its 2018 Strategic Plan to Canadian farmers from across the nation at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Edmonton, Alberta in July.

Each of DFC's directors presented their team's priorities for the coming year-government relations and communications; policy and trade; marketing; nutrition and research; and strategic corporate partnerships. These priorities reinforce the four pillars outlined in DFC's 2017-2020 Business Plan.

DFC is committed to creating an environment that supports Canadian dairy farmers and dairy products, while being socially responsible. Secondly, DFC will deliver cohesive strategies, messages and actions to members and industry partners. Third, it will demonstrate the value of Canadian dairy farmers and their products to Canadians. Finally, DFC is committed to continuous improvement, accountability and transparency.

With these guiding principles, DFC will strenuously advocate on behalf of Canadian dairy farmers, including the defense and promotion of supply management throughout the NAFTA re-negotiations. It will also work to minimize potential adverse effects of Health

Canada's healthy eating strategy on Canadian dairy, while continuing to educate health professionals and consumers on the benefits of dairy products for their health and well-being. Targeted marketing and nutrition campaigns will reinforce these messages.

DFC is committed to inter-departmental collaboration and communication. It has also pledged to improve communications with Canadian dairy farmers, the provincial dairy organizations and stakeholders through a mix of outreach initiatives including social media, web-based communications newsletters and meetings.

Throughout the AGM, DFC's management team received positive feedback and continued support from delegates of all provinces.



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Have Your Say on Unfair Tax Changes

Source: Karlee Conway, Corporate Communications Coordinator and Canadian Federation of Agriculture

On July 18, 2017, the Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance, released draft legislation and explanatory notes intended to “close loopholes and deal with tax planning strategies that involve the use of private corporations.” The legislation is still in the consultation phase, but farmers need to understand the potential impacts of the changes ahead of time in order to implement any available strategies to help reduce taxes.

Family Farms will be affected – The proposed changes will increase complexity and uncertainty to any farm business that has incorporated, which represents 25% of all farm businesses across Canada.

Farmers use tax planning tools, not loopholes – Recognize that tax planning mechanisms are being used as was intended, and do not represent the ‘loopholes’ that the proposal currently portrays.

Small business owners are the middle class – Most small business owners are firmly in the middle class, and employ roughly 70% of those employed in the private sector. These independent business owners are unfairly labelled as taking advantage of ‘loopholes’ and cheating the tax system.

Small business owners face unique risks and costs – Small business owners take on business and financial risks that are not faced by wage-earning employees. These risks, amongst the range of costs they must also bear, are not considered in this discussion on fairness, leaving business owners at a considerable disadvantage.

Further study is needed – A 75-day consultation in the middle of summer on complex legislative proposals, with some coming into immediate effect, does not allow for a fulsome review of such transformative change.

First talk to your accountant, then please talk to your MP. More detailed information is on the Member’s Only page.

Are you Interested in Reducing Lameness in your Herd?

Source: Laura Solano, Alberta Milk

Alberta Milk’s Lameness Reduction Initiative is based on identifying management and housing risk factors for hoof lesions, the main cause of lameness in dairy cattle. Funding for the initiative provides a fee of \$300 per farm to support your herd veterinarian and you completing a lameness risk assessment together on your farm, leading to identification of risks that can be reduced through changes in management and/or facilities. Forty-three Alberta dairy veterinarians have been updated and trained to conduct these assessments.

Is lameness an issue in your herd?

You may be thinking that lameness is not an issue in your herd because few of your cattle have gait scores of 4 or 5. These severely lame cows are easy to detect. But mildly lame cows (gait score 3s), those with a slight limp... they are not so easy to detect and are usually far more common and costly. More importantly, mildly lame cows are where most of our efforts for lameness control and prevention should focus, as they are the most likely to successfully recover if treated. With that in mind, if you think that lameness is not an issue in your herd, take a closer look... you may find there are far more lame cows than you thought. Your proAction Animal Care Assessment can be used to identify gait scores of individual cows, or you can work with another service provider to gait score your cattle and use it as part of your everyday management.

If you are interested in reducing lameness in your herd, ask your herd veterinarian to complete a risk assessment with you. Alternatively, contact Dr. Laura Solano (laurasolano@farmanimalcare.ca; (403-988-9780) to conduct the risk assessment. Laura has spent the past 6 years doing on-farm cow comfort and lameness assessments in Alberta dairy herds.

Michelle Welsh, contractor with Alberta Milk, will be contacting Alberta dairy producers directly regarding the program and interest in participation. Consider taking advantage of these opportunities before funding for the Lameness Reduction Initiative ends in January 2018. The Lameness Reduction Initiative will continue beyond January 2018.

Farm Safety at your Fingertips

Source: AgSafe Alberta

Farmers and ranchers in Alberta hold safety as a high priority on their farms. AgSafe Alberta wants to encourage farm owners and managers to include farm safety programs and practices into their operations. Working in agriculture is not risk free. Recognizing the risks and establishing protocols to manage and mitigate risk is a step towards improving the safety of people working on the farm. We cannot live the life of a farmer or farming family without risk. It is inherent in our industry and so all we can do is mitigate it. Risk management is about insurance, guards on PTOs, helmets and zones such as grain storage, where children are not allowed.

An effective health and safety program protects you, your family, your workers and your farm from preventable injury and damage. The key to your success will be to start with something manageable and then let it grow and change over time.

What is AgSafe?

AgSafe Alberta is a collaboration of crop and livestock sector producer groups that have come together to develop and deliver farm safety management tools, resources and programs for farmers and ranchers in the province of Alberta – Alberta Milk is an active member. The goal is to enable farm businesses to take the next step to establishing practical farm safety management programs that will help enhance the development of a 'safety culture,' where safety is a fully integrated part of the farm business.

What tools are there?

AgSafe Alberta Advisors are available to visit Alberta farms and ranches to provide on-farm safety services. AgSafe Alberta will send an Advisor to work with the manager on the farm. The Advisor will gather information about the farm and assess the farm safety needs of each individual farm. Advisors will also assess the level of comfort that each farm manager has with safety management programs.

During the first visit to the farm, Advisors will evaluate the operation and get a sense of how in-depth they want their programming to be. The Advisor may conduct a quick hazard assessment of the operation with the farmer to determine

their areas of concern. The AgSafe Alberta Advisors will then follow through by assisting the farm manager with building a farm safety program customized to the farm. The complexity of the program will be determined with the farmer and can range from introductory to complex.

If producers want to move beyond setting up a farm safety management system, our Advisors have the tools and resources to provide training to family or employees on the farm:

- Introduction to the new safety management system
- Farm worker safety orientation
- Hazard assessment training
- Incident investigation training

The AgSafe Alberta Advisors are available to provide the level of support for farm safety programming requested on each farm. To register your visit with an advisor, please go to AgSafeab.ca.



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Dairy Production Statistics

Producer Pool Additions/Deductions August 2017		
	Additions (\$)	Deductions (\$)
Audit Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Bulk Tank Callibration	0.00	3,485.00
Discarded	0.00	33,839.05
PLR	20,042.35	160,601.18
Interest	9,010.57	222.28
Metering	58,484.05	0.00
Organic	32,719.15	0.00
Trucking	0.00	5,800.00
Violations	174,697.99	0.00
Average Deductions per Kg Total Solids		(\$0.0105)

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

Class 5 Prices (\$/kg) October 2017			
Milk Class	Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids
Class 5a	8.3670	4.0798	0.6953
Class 5b	8.3670	1.9408	1.9408
Class 5c	8.4952	1.5467	1.5467
Class 5d	contract by contract price		
Class 4m	contract by contract price		

Provincial Average Components August 2017	
Butterfat	3.9673 kg/hl
Protein	3.2574 kg/hl
Other Solids	5.7357 kg/hl

Average Milk Prices	
Month	TPQ \$/hL
Aug 2017	75.05
July	76.36
June	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

2015-16 Quota Exchange and Credit Deadlines		
Quota Transfer Deadline Date	Credit Transfer Deadline Date	Effective Date
Oct. 17, 2017	Oct. 24, 2017	Nov. 1, 2017
Nov. 16, 2017	Nov. 23, 2017	Dec. 1, 2017
Dec. 15, 2017	Dec. 22, 2017	Jan. 1, 2018
Jan. 17, 2018	Jan. 24, 2018	Feb. 1, 2018
Feb. 14, 2018	Feb. 21, 2018	Mar. 1, 2018
Mar. 16, 2018	Mar. 23, 2018	Apr. 1, 2018
Apr. 16, 2018	Apr. 23, 2018	May 1, 2018
May 17, 2018	May 24, 2018	June 1, 2018
June 15, 2018	June 22, 2018	July 1, 2018
July 17, 2018	July 24, 2018	Aug. 1, 2018
Aug. 17, 2018	Aug. 24, 2018	Sep. 1, 2018
Sep. 17, 2018	Sep 24, 2018	Oct. 1, 2018
Oct. 17, 2018	Oct. 24, 2018	Nov. 1, 2018
Nov. 16, 2018	Nov. 23, 2018	Dec. 1, 2018

Provincial Milk Quality Averages		
Month	Bacteria Average (IBC)	Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
August 2017	22,298	215,806

Dairy Production Statistics



Quota Exchange Daily Production Quota		
	Total Transferred	Clearing Price/kg
Oct 2017	105.91	\$38,000.00
Sep	166.98	\$38,625.00
Aug	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

Underproduction Credit Transfers		
Month	Kg	Price\$/eligible kg
Sep 2017	97,060.07	\$5.05
Aug	77,280.96	\$5.12
July	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

Quota and Milk Production Summary (BF kg)					
Month	July	August	September	October	November
Status	Official	Pre-Pooling	Projected	Projected	Projected
Alberta					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	84,094	84,799	86,230	88,660	90,973
Producer Quota (kg/day)	86,793	86,814	89,757	90,808	91,553
Provincial Quota (kg/day)	83,393	83,393	85,061	86,762	88,497
Producer Quota + Incentive Credits	88,773	88,773	90,731	92,359	94,397
Cumulative Position (%)	-4.61%	-4.79%	-5.10%	-5.28%	-5.30%
Producer Position (Days)	-9.30	-9.71	-9.98	-10.00	-9.82
Provincial Position (Days)	-16.56	-17.27	-17.88	-18.41	-18.45
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
Western Milk Pool					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	240,990	241,717	247,586	255,271	261,710
Pool Quota (kg/day)	246,606	246,667	255,030	258,014	260,131
Cumulative Position (%)*	-4.87%	-5.02%	-5.24%	-5.30%	-5.22%
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.**

Amber Enviroservices provides soil and groundwater monitoring of liquid manure storage lagoons to fulfill NRCB requirements for leakage detection. Call for a free quote. **Phone 403-999-2623 or email alfredo@amberenviro.com; www.amberenviro.com.**

Alberta Holstein Association 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.

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 remains strong. Daily average volumes slightly increased by about 150 litres per day in August over July, 2017 (i.e. +0.01% increase compared to July 2017). Provincial average BF density in August 2017 also rose to 3.9673 kg/kl, a +0.83% growth relative to July 2017.

The province's cumulative quota position (CQP) however, is still on a downward trend and is forecasted to start on a steady rise by January 2018 considering all the quota, incentive-days and flexibility limit adjustments approved by the Board. Alberta's July CQP was at -4.61% and it is projected to drop further to about -4.79% in August. Producers are currently at 9.3 days behind in their production on the average while the province is over 16 days behind.

Producers are therefore reminded of the incentive days currently in place and the 2% per month quota issuance increase for September, October and November 2017; and are therefore encouraged to continue increasing their production. There are two incentive days per month in place from September to November and one day each for December 2017 and January 2018.

Producers are also reminded of the impending adjustment to their lower flexibility limit. Effective December 1, 2017, Alberta producers will be operating with a +10/-25 days flexibility band and this will further change to +10/-20 days effective March 1, 2018.

Join the Dairy Cost Study

Source: Pauline Van Biert, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Through the Dairy Cost Study, dairy producers are learning about how to tap into their best profits and reduce costs. Have you thought about joining the Dairy Cost Study? The time is NOW!

A prime objective in any business is to maximize profit, minimize costs and seek efficiencies. Understanding the relationship between cost and profit can determine your targets and goals for continuing to improve your operations and your profit margins.

Using information you provide, the resulting report will outline your total revenues and costs. There are also some management indicators on milk produced per kg of feed, and milk produced per hour of labour. By using these results you can start to identify where your profit may be challenged. Only once you see where you currently stand can you make adjustments to maximize profit and minimize costs going forward.

The largest investment in the cost of producing milk is the cost of feed. Are your feed costs giving you the rate of return you are looking for, both in production and components? Use your report as a place to start when talking with your feed nutritionist.

Join the Dairy Cost Study for 2018 to receive your own farm report. You make the commitment of reporting on your monthly farm activities and realize results that are well worth the time and effort. Be assured all personal operation information is kept confidential.

For more information and to sign up, contact Pauline Van Biert at 780-415-2153, pauline.vanbiert@gov.ab.ca.

Woollywind Dairies Open House

October 27th

Picture Butte, AB



Open - 10am to 4pm
Lunch - 12 to 1:30pm

Second farm on the right
49.947790, -112.756858



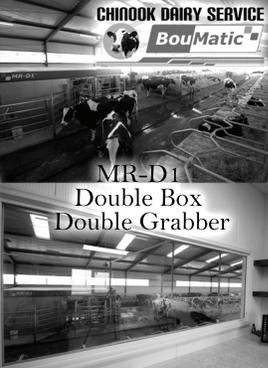
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