



January 2019

milkTIMES

Published monthly for dairy farmers in Alberta and our industry partners

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Edmonton, AB T6X 1H1
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Chairman's Message

Source: Tom Kootstra, Chairman

I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year! January is a time to reflect on the past year and set our goals for the new year.

The past year will be remembered as one that was not overly favourable for our industry. We entered the year with great optimism – there were processing expansion projects planned for across the Western Milk Pool, the federal government was standing tall on the fact that any renegotiation of the NAFTA would not further jeopardize the dairy industry and while the demand for butterfat had slowed, there was still projected growth. The conclusion to the NAFTA renegotiations with the agreement on the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) reached at the end of September that optimism received a good shot of cold water. The new processing project planned for Alberta was cancelled, the US has 3.9 per cent more access to the Canadian market and the Canadian industry is significantly limited in what we can export which means there is less growth for Canadian dairy farmers. Additionally, the Western Milk Pool has received notice from the existing Plant of Last Resort (PLR) provider that they are terminating the PLR agreement effective June 1, 2019.

During the Fall Producer Meetings and at the annual general meeting, we sought feedback from producers on what you felt was the best way forward to mitigate the damages from the CPTPP and the USMCA. We also sought feedback on the level of optimism, and I am encouraged by the level of optimism in the dairy industry – something that I personally

support, we have a great industry. You noted our ability to adapt to the new trade reality, optimistic that we can find niche markets and how we are encouraged by the current level of consumer support for Canadian dairy products. We are working hard to capitalize on that consumer support.

In addressing mitigation for the impacts of the trade deals producers gave us a clear message that border security – one of the pillars of supply management – is a must from government. As the revenue impact on the farm is long term so too must be any support. Any producer program must be accessible to all farms equitably. Support to farmers must also be provided in conjunction with infrastructure support (processing, transportation). Support to grow our market through consumer awareness, advertising and marketing was also a recommendation. And enough is enough there can be no more access in future agreements.

The federal government has established two working groups to seek producer input. A mitigation working group is aimed at providing input on compensation and mitigation as a result of the impacts of the USMCA and CPTPP. The second group is the Vision Working Group which has a long-term mandate on the types of policies and programs the industry needs going forward. Alberta Milk and the WMP has representation on both groups.

I am confident that in 2019 we will find ways to adjust, adopt and grow. Happy New Year!

our mission

Alberta Milk partners with industry stakeholders to support an effective supply management system in a growing, sustainable and market-focused industry.





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Science, Trade and Marketing, oh my!

Source: Karlee Conway, Communications Specialist

Alberta Milk's Dairy Conference took place November 22 in Calgary. This was the last year that this event will be hosted in Calgary as we'll be switching to Edmonton for every year moving forward.

David Hudson, IMI International

Mr. Hudson provided the crowd of 250 some insight into how successful DFC's 2017-18 marketing campaigns preformed.

The Good: In 2017, DFC was ranked in the top five most recognizable brands, beating Apple and Pepsi.

The Bad: a year later, DFC only ran one campaign (compared to eight) and our impact reduced. For example, the 2017 reach was 1.6 million Albertans and in 2018 it was 1 million.

The Opportunity: IMI's research concluded that Canadians find real value in using the Canadian milk quality logo. This is our time to promote the logo and why Canadian milk is exceptional quality.

Yves Leduc, Director, Policy and International Trade, DFC

Mr. Leduc walked the crowd through the details of the new USMCA agreement and illustrated the real impact for the dairy industry.

The Good: There was little good that came out of the USMCA for dairy, however, the USA was intent on dismantling supply management in its entirety for much of the agreement. It also signaled the end to a very uncertain time.

The Bad: By 2024, 18 per cent of our market will be filled by foreign dairy and equal the loss of about 900 Canadian dairy farms.

The Opportunity: There are now two working groups (industry and government) to see what the

mitigation strategy and vision will be to ensure farmers are compensated for their loss. There is also a federal election in 2019.

Timothy Caulfield, professor, researcher, author

Host of Netflix's *A User's Guide to Cheating Death*, Caulfield busted pop culture myths about wellness and health that have no scientific merit that are promoted by celebrities.

The Good: Your body is smart. You don't need to indulge in trendy diets or wellness services or products to be healthy. Nine chances out of 10, your body doesn't need anything else, so save your money.

The Bad: It's so difficult to determine bogus from effective wellness strategies. It's easy to get conned into different things despite your good intentions.

The Opportunity: Always be a critical thinker when it comes to health products. Read the label, don't smoke, eat whole foods and exercise daily: it's that simple.

Chef Michael Allemeier, Certified Master Chef

As the first chef we have welcomed to our stage, Chef Allemeier brought us on his journey to becoming one of the few Certified Master Chef's in Canada. He then shared mouth-watering tips to cooking with dairy and how he passes on positive dairy messaging to his students at SAIT.

The Good: A strong work ethic and passion for what you do, are tickets to success in your career and life.

The Bad: You're always going to get challenged and fail at some point. Life is never going to be a perfect walk in the park all the time.

The Opportunity: You need to make the most of our what's on your plate, so eat up.

We hope to see you next year in Edmonton!

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Study Group Receives the Industry's Top Award

Source: Karlee Conway, Communications Specialist

The East of Olds Dairy Farmer Study Club was the recipient of the Alberta dairy industry's top award this year, the Dairy Industry Achievement Award. The award seeks to convey the respect that Alberta's dairy farmers hold for the people and organizations that go above and beyond to help sustain and grow the dairy industry.

The study club was started in 2003 when a few individuals from the east of Olds area started a group based on a similar model they experienced in Holland. They planned kitchen table meetings to learn more about various topics like estate planning or herd health. The core of the club was that they wanted to know more and do better.

Beyond their internal meetings, this group is responsible for the phenomenon of Breakfast on the Dairy Farm. The event invites consumers to enjoy a hot breakfast on a local dairy farm and meet the people that help produce milk. With about 300 people coming to enjoy the inaugural event in 2012, the group unknowingly started a legacy.

Fast forward six years later and other dairy farmers took notice and followed their lead. There are now three breakfast events spanning the entire province and their combined reach is 20 times the Study Group's original 300 visitors since 2012. By welcoming people to see the passion dairy farmers have for what they do, they earn consumer trust from everything from animal care, milk quality, and what it really means to be a dairy farmer in Alberta.

"We are truly honored to receive this prestigious award," says Miranda Verhoef, a member of the group. "As committed dairy farmers we strive to do our best and show the public that we take good care of our animals and produce quality milk. As a group, we like to take the opportunities to learn from each other, to involve the next generation of farmers, and to engage with our local consumers."

The group was recognized at the Alberta Milk Dairy Conference in Calgary on November 21, 2018.



Tom Kootstra (chairman), Theo van der Gun, Gjjs Vanden Broek, and Miranda Verhoef



deadlines

quota transfers

Jan. 17, 2019, at
4:30 p.m.

credit transfers

Jan. 24, 2019, at
4:30 p.m.

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Canadian agriculture moves to lift stigma of mental health talk

Source: Myrna Stark Leader, Farm Credit Canada

The topic of mental well-being is growing in recognition and acceptance in the Canadian agricultural sector.

Topics once never talked about on coffee row, or maybe, not even in a household, are more likely to be shared. This new openness may be one of the only ways to change perceptions and actions – whether that be recognizing when someone isn't themselves, offering wise advice if someone says they are facing challenges or even knowing when to reach out yourself.

Mental health on the farm

Mental wellness is an issue on the farm. How could it not be? Largely solitary work, production factors like weather and markets that aren't controllable, short growing seasons, start-up and seasonal investments, finances and the tremendous responsibility of producing safe consumer products that meet a basic human need – food. The good news is that along with more discussion, there's tactical action.

4-H launches new support

Earlier this week, 4-H Canada announced a two-year, multi-partnership agreement that supports the emotional and physical well-being of rural youth across Canada through the 4-H Canada Healthy Living Initiative, beginning in spring 2019. The partnership brings a total of \$150,000 in funding from Farm Credit Canada, UFA Co-operative Limited, Corteva Agriscience Agriculture Division of DowDuPont and Cargill together for the healthy living initiative.

FCC encourages dialogue

Also this week, Farm Credit Canada released a new publication, [Rooted in Strength: Taking Care of our Families and Ourselves](#). It's being delivered through the mail to 165,000 rural mail boxes this week. "Our desire is to help lift the stigma around mental health by promoting awareness, encouraging dialogue and enabling people throughout the agriculture industry to seek support if they need it," writes Michael Hoffort, FCC president and CEO, adding when it comes to mental wellness, the 'just tough it out attitude' isn't the right one.

Open the conversation

As co-founder of Do More Agriculture, a Canada-wide non-profit focused on mental health in agriculture, Keller is a public advocate and presenter on self-care, but she's well aware that stigmas still need to be broken.

She promotes noticing when someone deviates from normal behaviours and checking-in with them in a genuinely compassionate way.

"It's OK to say, 'Hey, I've noticed you haven't been yourself lately,'" Keller says, explaining it opens the door for conversation even if there's fear.

Also at the federal level, mental health challenges in agriculture are currently being studied by the Federal Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. It's hearing from individuals and groups in agriculture and mental health organizations to understand the issues facing the sector and share best practices, review available resources and identify gaps related to mental health in the agriculture community. Records of all the presentations are on the [Standing Committee website](#).

Canada, unlike other countries, doesn't track data about suicide in the agricultural community but stories shared with the Standing Committee show it's happening. A 2016 reported study by the Centre for Disease Control found agriculture, forestry and fisheries workers in the United States five times more likely than the population at large to take their own life.

Mental health first aid

To help address the fear of talking with someone in a mental health crisis, the Mental Health Commission of Canada offers Mental Health First Aid training for individuals across the country. MHFA is like CPR training, but instead of learning the basics of helping someone in physical distress like a heart attack, it helps assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis. Courses on becoming a certified trainer are offered at the [MHFA website](#).

Bottom line

Avoiding mental challenges doesn't make them go away. A newly released booklet on the topic is an easy-to-read resource to learn more, whether it's for self-care or used as the door-opener to initiate a conversation about mental wellness.

Canadian Dairy: A Year in Review

Source: Dairy Farmers of Canada

Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) kicked off 2018 the year welcoming our new CEO, Jacques Lefebvre, who has been a welcome addition to the team. Under Jacques' leadership, DFC engaged a review of its activities and structure, which led to a "right-sizing", followed by a "right-fitting" of the organization. With direction and input from the Board of Directors, DFC then undertook a national consultation of our membership and a broader segment of dairy farmers. The input provided in this consultation provided the foundation for the development of "DFC 2.0", a rethink of the dairy farmer's national association that is being led by dairy farmers themselves. Ensuring dairy farmers are in the 'drivers seat' is a core value of DFC 2.0.

In addition to our usual yearly activities, such as our Annual Policy Conference and Annual General Meeting, 2018 saw action on a number of other fronts. In regard to trade, 2018 saw the launch of the Dairy Farm Investment Program, the signing of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and the signing of the USMCA.

Throughout the negotiations of USMCA, DFC maintained a presence at each round and met regularly with government officials. Robust representations were made to government to ensure the deal did not impact farmers negatively, alongside a strong public relations strategy including individual videos, press conferences, media interviews, open letters and social media posts. A letter writing campaign through MyCanadianMilk.ca generated letters from 26,000 individuals on the subject, each sent to government officials.

When the deal was announced, DFC published an immediate reaction and DFC's president met again with Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Freeland. In response to DFC's representations, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have created two working groups: one on mitigation and a second on a long-term strategy for the dairy sector in the Canadian economy.

These challenging trade negotiations have encouraged a swell of consumer support as noted through numerous calls and emails received at the DFC offices. Furthering the momentum, DFC launched a successful "Buy Canadian" campaign featuring print and digital ads promoting the certification mark of origin logo and encouraging consumers to look for it and be sure to buy Canadian dairy. The campaign received largely positive comments online. Additionally, DFC launched an online store so that consumers and farmers alike would have another way to show their support. DFC's ongoing strategy with respect to the various policies under the Healthy Eating Strategy continued throughout 2018. In May, DFC made a comprehensive submission to government outlining our significant concerns with Health Canada's proposal for Front-of-Package warning labels and the impact they could have on nutritious dairy products. This submission included more than 90 peer-reviewed sources of evidence outlining the important role dairy plays in a healthy diet, and its beneficial impact on the same chronic diseases Health Canada has prioritized with these policies.

Health Canada heard these strong messages loud and clear and is now in close discussions with DFC and DPAC aimed at finding a resolution to these files.

In addition to navigating the political climate, DFC focused on educating Canadian consumers to ensure a successful logo transition on the market, and leverage support for Canadian dairy. The "Buy with Pride, Buy Canadian" campaign generated over 300 million impressions through in-store, online and flyers showcasing the DFC certification logo and the message "Buy with Pride, Buy Canadian" drove sales in dairy, deli cheese and frozen sections of the store. Meanwhile, the "Strong people get more out of life campaign" aimed to motivate consumers to increase their consumption of milk, yogurt and cheese, and ran through the summer of 2018.

The DFC board and staff look forward to what 2019 holds.



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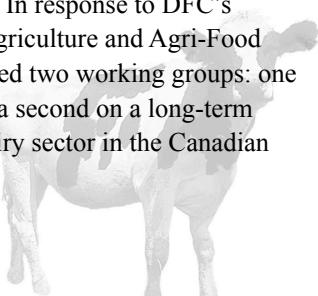
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At the November Board meeting, a new executive was voted on.

Chairman:
Tom Kootstra
Vice Chairman:
Stuart Boeve
Second Vice Chairman:
Gert Schrijver

Heini Hehli was also voted back on the Board after a mandatory stepdown. He filled the vacant position of Lorrie Jespersen, who saw a mandatory stepdown this year. We thank Lorrie for all of his dedication to the industry.

New Entrants Assistance Program

Source: Karlee Conway, Communications Specialist

Until March 31, Alberta Milk will be accepting applications to The New Entrant Assistance Program (NEAP). The program offers a quota loan at no cost to successful applicants that want to be dairy farmers anywhere in the province.

The program works by matching the quota purchased by the new entrant with quota from Alberta Milk up to 25 kg/day at no cost. This loan translates to enough quota to milk about 20-25 additional cows. It gradually expires beginning in the eleventh year and reduced to zero at the end of year nineteen.

About the Program

While using the program, new entrants can expand up to 100 kg/day of total quota holdings, or about 80-100 cows.

The process to qualify for the program consists of submitting a two-year financial business plan, a 10-year implementation plan, a risk mitigation plan, and a signed conditional letter from the applicant's financial institution agreeing to finance their operation.

Applications will be accepted from January 1 to March 31, 2019.

You do not need to join this program to become a dairy farmer in Alberta.

Alberta Milk is also still accepting applications for our Organic Entrants Assistance Program. Similar to the NEAP, the program is designed to encourage growth in organic dairy production in Alberta.

Further details about the program can be found at albertamilk.com or phone Jonathan at 780-577-3313.

Register for the Economics of Production Workshops

Source: Jodi Flraig, Industry Development Coordinator

Come join fellow industry members to learn about achieving your goals by building and managing a productive herd.

Dates and Locations:

- February 11 – Lethbridge, Coast Lethbridge Hotel
- February 12 – Lacombe, Lacombe Memorial Centre
- February 13 – Westlock, Hazel Bluff Hall
- February 14 – Leduc, Executive Royal Inn

The topics of focus will be:

- Economics of Disease
- Feed & Ingredient Costs
- Business Strategy and Planning
- Herd Economic Analysis

Registration and coffee are at 9:30 am. The workshops start at 10:00 am sharp and end by 3:00 pm.

To Register:

Visit the Alberta Milk website at albertamilk.com or call Kim Skolarchuk, Alberta Milk, at 780-577-3325. Early bird registration is \$55 and is available until January 25th. Registration after January 25th will be available and at the door for \$75.

Please encourage your neighbours, veterinarians, farm employees, feed reps and anyone else to attend a workshop and join dairy experts to hear the research and expertise to improve dairy production economic knowledge of your herd.



2019 Western Canadian Dairy Seminar – REGISTER today

Source: Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

Join us at the 2019 Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (March 5 – 8, Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer, AB) to network and gather the latest information in dairy production and technology advances.

The program kicks off on Tuesday, March 5 with your choice of either a **tour** of three local progressive and innovative dairy farms or a **workshop** on “Addressing Precision Feeding Strategies for Cows in Automated Milking Systems” (facilitated by Greg Penner, University of Saskatchewan).

A wide range of topics will be covered during the main sessions (Wed to Fri) including farm management, nutrition, genetics and reproduction, health and welfare, as well as broad issues facing today’s industry.



Your 2019 Speakers include:

Crystal MacKay (President of The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity) will be discussing what Canadians think and feel about our food system and sharing insights for actions on how to make a difference to increase public trust. Local (Calgary, AB) dairy veterinarian, researcher and consultant,

Laura Solano (Farm Animal Care Associates) will be discussing practical and strategic approaches for reducing lameness and body injuries in cows.

Kees Plaizier (Professor at the University of Manitoba) will be talking about the gut health of cows and how to improve it.

The 2019 program and the event itself have something for everyone. Whether you are a producer, nutritionist, veterinarian or services provider you will find topics of interest at the 2019 WCDS. **Register today!**

View the full program and register online at www.wcds.ca

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AGM and Dairy Conference Sponsors

Source: Karlee Conway, Communications Specialist

This year, we had a record-breaking number of sponsors for our AGM and Dairy Conference.

We are so thankful for every single organization that has helped make our annual event such a success. Specifically, we'd like to thank our corporate partner, FCC, as well as Agrifood Cooperative for jumping on the opportunity to sponsor our banquet.

Please consider using one of these businesses as they have come forward to show their commitment to the dairy industry.

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Toronto Dominion Bank

Bronze

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Royal Bank of Canada

Changes in Access to Veterinary Drugs: FAQs

Source: Alberta Milk staff and Alberta Beef Producers

What are the changes to veterinary drug prescription and dispensing?

Starting December 1, 2018, all livestock producers will need a prescription from a licenced veterinarian before they can buy a medically important antibiotic (MIA) for therapeutic use in livestock production. The new policy applies to injectable product, some boluses, calf scour treatments and in-feed and in-water antibiotics that contain medically important antibiotics (MIA).

What are MIAs?

MIAs are drugs considered to be essential for the treatment of bacterial infections in humans, as classified by Health Canada.

Who is leading these changes?

This change is directed by Health Canada as a part of a worldwide awareness of and response to antibiotic resistance issues. It aims to:

1. Ensure antibiotics are used appropriately in animal agriculture to avoid or slow the development of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. As a result, currently available antibiotics will remain effective for a longer period of time.
2. Strengthen public trust by demonstrating responsibility and appropriate use; showing that products are only used when needed, at the appropriate dose and duration, and observing proper withdrawal times.

What exactly does this change mean for dairy farmers?

These changes will impact how and where MIAs are sold. For those veterinary MIAs that you purchased at your local retail outlet (UFA, CO-OP, etc) and have now been moved to the prescription drug list (PDL), they will now only be available through a veterinary clinic or licensed pharmacy.



How Do the Veterinary Drug Changes Impact proAction®?

Source: Morgan Hobin, proAction® Coordinator



With a valid veterinarian client patient relationship (VCPR), which you have as part of your commitment to proAction®, you should experience little change. The changes regarding veterinary drug access will not affect what the validator will be requesting of you during your validation.

You will continue to require written veterinary directions (*Record 8 – Veterinary Directions for Extra-Label Drug Use*) for the use of:

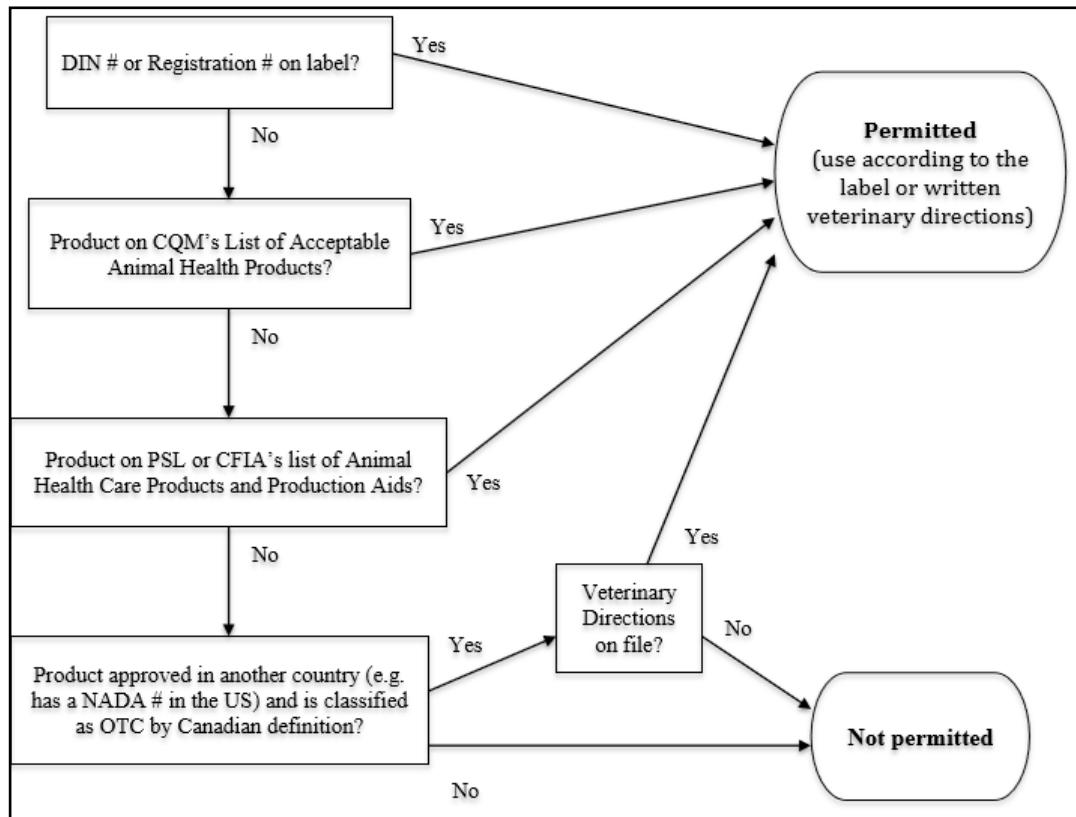
1. On-label use of any two antimicrobial treatments administered at the same time by any route;
 - a. Intramammary antimicrobial treatment plus an intramuscular antimicrobial treatment.
 - b. Intrauterine antimicrobial treatment plus any other antimicrobial treatment (IM, IMM, IV, SQ).

c. An intravenous antimicrobial treatment plus any other antimicrobial treatment (IM, IMM, SQ).

2. For every treatment administered not according to the label (extra-label drug use) and;

3. For every veterinary drug used that is not approved for use in Canada.

You can determine if a drug product is permitted and/or if veterinary directions for use are required by following the decision tree below:





Dairy Production Statistics

Producer Pool Additions/Deductions		
October 2018		
	Additions (\$)	Deductions (\$)
Audit Adjustment	0.00	2,625.00
Bulk Tank Calibration	0.00	2,150.00
Discarded	0.00	53,185.21
PLR	0.00	698,983.99
Interest	13,806.92	82.27
Metering	63,239.66	0.00
Trucking	0.00	0.00
Violations	47,795.64	0.00
Average Deductions per Kg Total Solids		(\$0.0716)

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

Class 5 Prices (\$kg) January 2019			
Milk Class	Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids
Class 5a	7.3872	3.9050	0.7898
Class 5b	7.3872	2.0691	2.0691
Class 5c	6.3901	1.5941	1.5941
Class 5d	contract by contract price		
Class 4m	contract by contract price		

Provincial Average Components November 2018	
Butterfat	4.2428 kg/hl
Protein	3.2338 kg/hl
Other Solids	5.8819 kg/hl

Average Milk Prices	
Month	TPQ \$/hL
Nov 2018	82.56
Oct	83.26
Sep	79.77
Aug	77.55
July	77.44
June	75.34
May	76.58
April	77.54
Mar	77.05
Feb	75.03
Jan	77.29
Dec	77.08

2018-19 Quota Exchange and Credit Deadlines		
Quota Transfer Deadline Date	Credit Transfer Deadline Date	Effective Date
Feb. 14, 2019	Feb. 21, 2019	Mar. 1, 2019
Mar. 18, 2019	Mar. 25, 2019	Apr. 1, 2019
Apr. 16, 2019	Apr. 23, 2019	May 1, 2019
May 17, 2019	May 24, 2019	June 1, 2019
Jun. 17, 2019	Jun. 24, 2019	July 1, 2019
Jul. 17, 2019	Jul. 24, 2019	Aug. 1, 2019
Aug. 16, 2019	Aug. 23, 2019	Sep. 1, 2019
Sep. 16, 2019	Sep. 23, 2019	Oct. 1, 2019
Oct. 17, 2019	Oct. 24, 2019	Nov. 1, 2019
Nov. 18, 2019	Nov. 25, 2019	Dec. 1, 2019

Provincial Milk Quality Averages		
Month	Bacteria Average (IBC)	Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
Nov. 2018	22,465	186,643

Dairy Production Statistics



Quota Exchange Daily Production Quota		
	Total Transferred	Clearing Price/kg
Jan 2019	175.74	\$39,900
Dec	85.75	\$39,105
Nov	121.93	\$38,865
Oct	121.00	\$39,100
Sep	69.30	\$39,500
Aug	56.20	\$40,980
July	77.50	\$41,020
June	60.64	\$41,000
May	88.63	\$40,375
Apr	193.08	\$39,675
Mar	51.09	\$38,130
Feb	119.02	\$36,500

Underproduction Credit Transfers		
Month	Kg	Price\$/eligible kg
Dec 2018	87,105.40	\$8.46
Nov	85,793.48	\$7.17
Oct	81,249.68	\$6.70
Sep	81,436.34	\$7.71
Aug	75,061.35	\$8.56
July	76,061.27	\$8.79
June	80,013.40	\$9.39
May	101,045.67	\$10.26
April	85,421.27	\$9.45
Mar	102,184.00	\$6.90
Feb	99,197.91	\$4.82
Jan	106,192.39	\$3.96

Quota and Milk Production Summary (BF kg)					
Month	October	November	December	January	February
Status	Official	Pre-Pooling	Projected	Projected	Projected
Alberta					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	92,428	92,650	93,802	93,694	93,207
Provincial Quota (kg/day)	90,041	93,703	100,675	80,921	81,488
Producer Quota (kg/day)	89,937	89,945	89,945	89,945	89,945
Producer Quota + Incentive Credits (kg/day)	95,740	95,942	92,847	89,945	89,945
Cumulative Position (%)	-1.19%	-1.29%	-1.93%	-0.73%	-0.27%
Producer Position (Days)	-3.70	-3.82	-3.04	-1.82	-0.86
Provincial Position (Days)	-4.11	-4.51	-6.31	-2.96	1.09
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
Western Milk Pool					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	265,253	266,656	269,788	271,165	270,838
Pool Quota (kg/day)	270,042	266,242	286,049	229,922	231,535
Cumulative Position (%)*	-2.00%	-1.98%	-2.52%	-1.15%	-0.03%
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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Alberta Production and Quota Update

Source: Jonathan Ntoni, Policy Analyst

Production

Average daily production in November was 2.18 million litres, an increase of 17,989 litres (+0.83 per cent), when compared to 2.17 million in October. Butterfat production also rose by 222 kilograms per day (+0.24 per cent) in November relative to October.

Comparing on a year-over-year basis, there has been a +7.19 per cent growth in volume in the 12-month period ending November 2018 over the 12-month period ending November 2017; and +9.11 per cent growth in butterfat production for same period. Year-over-year growth in quota, BF production and volume are all slowing down.

Daily Total Production Quota

The CMSMC approved the new method for determining Total Requirements (TR) and Total Quota (TQ) effective October 1, 2018 (applied retroactively from August 1, 2018). This new method uses monthly data instead of 12-month data to estimate TR and as a result yields monthly TR (MTR) and monthly TQ (MTQ) which are more volatile but quite reflective of the market situation. Thus, measuring under the new system, The WMP's rolling 12-month daily average quota increased by 0.03 per cent in October over September. Alberta's daily quota issuance at the producer level slightly decreased under the new system from 100.14 per cent in September to 100.12 per cent in October 2018.

Incentive Days

There were two incentive days in November with 50 per cent utilization rate. There was one incentive day in place for December 2018.

Alberta and Pools' Quota Utilization

Cumulative Quota Positions (CQP) for October 2018 under the new quota system were as follows: AB = -1.19, WMP = 2.00, P5 = -0.60 and P10 = -0.98 per cent. The WMP under-produced its monthly CDC quota allotment by 148,505 kilograms of butterfat in October 2018.

Production Flexibility Limits Adjustment - Reminder

At the October 18, 2018 Board meeting, the Alberta Milk Board of Directors approved a decision to adjust the production flexibility limits to help balance seasonal production with milk demand. The current production flexibility limits of +10/-20 days will be adjusted as follows:

- The upper limit of +10 days will be reduced to + seven days in February 2019 and then further to + five days in April 2019;
- Likewise, the lower limit of -20 days will be changed to -seven days in August 2019 and then further to -15 days in October 2019.

The reduction of the upper limit in the spring is aimed at reducing milk production during time periods when we are at risk of skimming milk. The reduction of the lower limit in the fall is aimed at encouraging milk production in times when we are traditionally unable to meet all processor milk orders. By narrowing the flexibility range, producers will be more encouraged to produce closer to their quota holdings to mitigate excessive seasonal over-and under-production situations in Alberta.

The effective flexibility limits of +5/-15 days beginning in October 2019 will also bring Alberta to full harmonization with the other Western Milk Pool provinces.

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