



February 2016

# milking TIMES

Published monthly for dairy farmers in Alberta and our industry partners

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## Reviews and Appeals

Source: Mike Southwood, General Manager

Finding balance can be a challenge. For Alberta Milk, this balance is often tested as we must meet our regulatory authorities designated under the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* (MAPA) and the *National Milk Marketing Plan*. At the same time, we have to recognize the needs of our members. Our *Plan Regulation* states that our mandate is to provide for the effective control and regulation of the production and marketing of milk and dairy products. We work hard to find that balance through our committees and producer meetings.

When someone feels grieved by a board decision, they may apply to have the decision reviewed by the Board and can ultimately appeal to an Appeal Tribunal as defined in the MAPA. Last spring, Alberta Milk received a request from a producer who was seeking full reimbursement for the costs associated with the installation of a buffer tank as required under Directive No. 2014-010 Buffer Milk Tank Requirement. The decision to require all producers who operate with an automated milking system to have a buffer tank was first made in February 2014. Upon receiving feedback from some producers during the 2014 fall producer meetings, this directive and requirement for a buffer tank was reviewed. Following the review, the decision was made to uphold the requirement. As the Directive was clear that the cost of the buffer tank was the requirement of the producer, as is all equipment on a dairy, the Board denied the request for full compensation. The producer appealed the decision to an Appeal Tribunal.

An Appeal Tribunal heard the appeal on November 27, 2015 and released their decision on December 23, 2015. Based on the evidence, the Appeal Tribunal confirmed the decision that the Directive is clear that producers are responsible for the costs of purchasing and installing buffer tanks and that none of the arguments presented by the appellant were sufficient to dismiss the clear language of the Directive. They also noted that the decision to not reimburse the costs associated with the installation of a buffer tank was reasonable. This is only the second time in the history of Alberta Milk that we have had an appeal. As the process is very time consuming and costly we hope that in developing our policies, the due diligence used will help to ensure that we do not have many appeals in the future. The cost of the Appeal Tribunal is shared with the Applicant and Alberta Milk. Alberta Milk also had legal fees and staff time dedicated to this appeal.

The Appeal Tribunal did provide comments related to the process used to develop the policy and implement it. Recognizing that all affected parties had several opportunities to have their concerns heard, the Appeal Tribunal recommended that given the limited number of individuals directly affected, more two-way communication might have been helpful. Alberta Milk has always supported strong two way communications and will consider enhanced dialogue with affected parties in its future development of policies.

## our mission

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

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



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403-732-4380  
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## Board Update

*Mike Southwood, General Manager*

The Board of Directors held a meeting on December 18, 2015.

### Quota Management

Having tabled any decision on adjusting the quota allocation after a discussion took place with other members of the Western Milk Pool, the Board reconsidered our quota position. While there is still an ongoing concern regarding the capacity to process all components of raw milk, we cannot short the demand for butterfat. Therefore a one per cent quota increase was issued for January 1, 2016, and another one per cent for March 1, 2016.

### Producer Review

The Board held a Review pertaining to a violation under the Milk Grade and Price Program for somatic cell count (SCC). The Applicant's SCC results for early October were above the regulatory limit. As a result, action was taken by the Applicant to correct the problem and ensure his monthly average would meet the regulatory standard. Alberta Milk staff discovered a sampling abnormality with this producer's test results for one test in late October and test results were discarded. The abnormality was not in the control of the producer. Without this result, the producer incurred an infraction under the MGPP. Based on the evidence provided, the Board agreed that the result for the sample would have been in the range of the other results. The Applicant's request to reverse the 15 per cent penalty has been approved.

### Illegal Sale of Raw Milk

In early December, the Board received notice from the Inspection and Investigation Branch (IIB), Agriculture and Forestry, of a producer who was caught for selling raw milk from their operation. In this case, the sale of this milk was reportedly to feed a calf that was previously bought from their farm. No evidence was provided to support the claim. IIB issued a warning that any further failure to comply with the regulations would result in the cancellation of quota or their producer license. As in the past, Alberta Milk takes the direct consumer sale of raw milk very seriously. Previous situations resulted in the cancellation of quota ranging from two days to two months. The Board also issued a warning to this producer and wants to remind all producers that the sale of milk, other than as directed by Alberta Milk, is not permitted.

### Organic Milk Production

The premium to produce organic milk that is collected directly from the processors has historically been paid to producers on a simple volume basis. The Board was asked to consider paying the premium based on components. Upon the review, the Board agreed to change how the organic premium revenue sharing policy is administered. As of February 1, 2016, in line with the next pricing change, the premium payment will be made in the same manner as the revenue is generated from fluid sales. The result is that 75 per cent of the premium will be paid on organic milk volumes delivered and 25 per cent will be paid on organic kilograms of butterfat delivered in the month.



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## Bill 6 Update

Source: Mike Slomp, Industry and Member Services Manager

The Government of Alberta (GOA) passed Bill 6 with amendments in mid-December, resulting in new rules for farms and ranches that employ waged workers who are neither owners nor family members of the owners. The legislation will affect the following areas:

1. Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) coverage became mandatory on January 1, 2016. Farms and ranches will have until April 30, 2016 to register, however, premiums will be retroactive to January 1.
2. Employers must meet the basic Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements to provide a safe and healthy workplace.
  - a. OHS will be able to investigate serious injuries and fatalities.
  - b. Workers will be able to refuse unsafe work that presents an imminent danger.
  - c. The GOA has committed to full consultation with the agriculture community to develop the "specific exemptions, technical details and rules" for farm and ranch operations.
  - d. The OHS Code and Rules will also need to be defined for the exemptions, i.e. farms without paid workers.
3. Changes to the Employment Standards will take effect when regulations are proclaimed, only after further GOA consultation with the agriculture community. Until then, farm and ranch operations maintain their current exemptions.
4. Changes to the Labour Relations Code will take effect when regulations are proclaimed, only after further GOA consultation with the agriculture community.

The members of the Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG) and the Crop Sector Working Group (CSWG) have committed to work together to determine how we can best collaborate on Bill 6 going forward. The two groups met in Red Deer on January 22 to discuss the best approach – Alberta Milk

participated in this meeting. The meeting outcomes included:

1. Develop a letter to the GOA on how we want to be engaged.
2. Begin assessing current gaps in the agriculture industry's information and knowledge regarding the new legislation.
3. Confirm the process for each commodity group to nominate participants for the GOA consultation sessions.

The ILWG and CSWG also hosted a meeting for all commodity groups on February 2 in Red Deer to study how the proposed changes to Alberta labour and employment legislation may affect farmers and ranchers – Alberta Milk participated in this meeting.

The GOA will establish round table consultations to receive further feedback and to help develop the criteria for the following 6 topics:

1. OHS Best Practices
2. OHS Unique needs for agriculture
3. OHS General Safety Regulations
4. Education and training resources
5. Employment Standards
6. Labour relations

The GOA will invite each of the commodity groups, boards and commissions, and other relevant stakeholders, to participate in the consultation process starting in early February. Alberta Milk will actively participate in this consultation process. The GOA will also be researching and reviewing regulations in other provinces where similar laws already exist.

Please contact Martin Van Diemen, Board Director, at 403-382-0130 or Mike Slomp, Industry and Member Services Manager, at 780-577-3316 with your comments or questions.



**milking**  
TIMES

### deadlines

**quota exchange**

**private transfers**

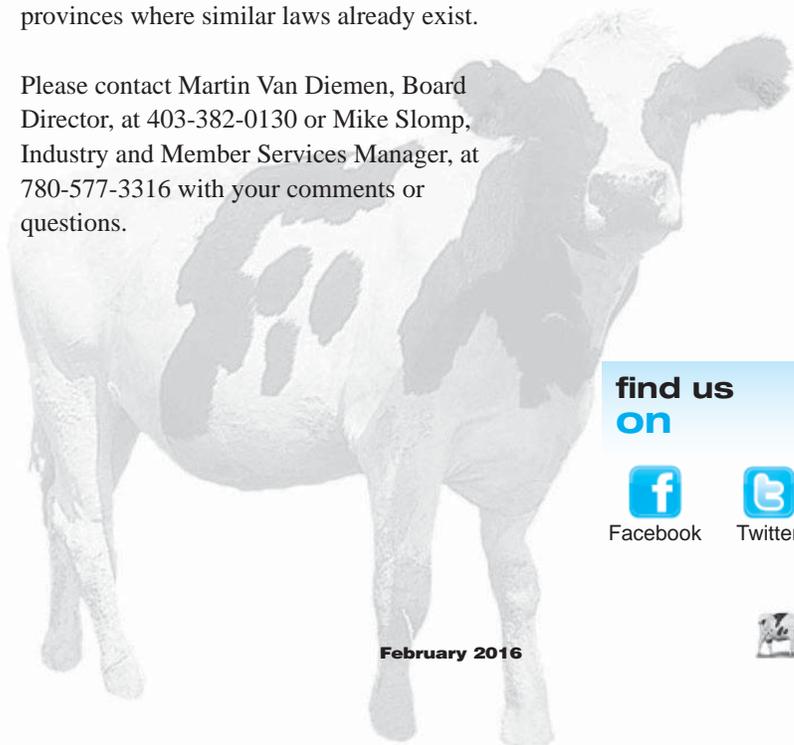
Feb. 16, 2016

4:30 p.m.

**credit transfers**

Feb. 22, 2016

4:30 p.m.



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## 2015 Milk Quality Award

Source: Erin Jordan, Corporate Communications Coordinator

Receiving a milk quality award is among the highest honours in the dairy industry in Alberta. It's a clear indicator of the farm's commitment to maintaining exceptional milk quality standards year-round. In turn, this helps promote strong consumer confidence and maintains our reputation of having world-class standards.

All winners have fulfilled the following criteria: they have been active producers who have produced milk for the entire previous dairy year, resulting in milk with an individual bacteria count that averages 15,000 cells per millilitre or less. As well, the somatic cell count must average 200,000 cells per millilitre or less and there can be no more than three somatic cell counts above 200,000 cells per millilitre and less than or equal to 300,000 cells per millilitre. Furthermore, all freezing points must be -0.530 Hortvet or lower and inhibitor tests must always be negative. This year, the following 141 producers met the milk quality criteria. We applaud these winners for all their dedication and hard work!

### Provincial Winner

Congratulations to Sipke and Margreet Dijkstra of Sylvanside Dairy near Ponoka. They strive to keep things simple on their farm. It's their attention to detail that creates a formula for high milk quality from their herd of 170.

The Dijkstras took over the farm from Margreet's parents in 2006 and have slowly expanded over time with the help of their veterinarian, three part-time staff and children. Milking twice a day, they use a new cloth per cow and dip after milking. They also clean their stalls four times a day. What advice would they offer to other farmers regarding milk quality? Keep your cows happy, healthy, comfortable and relaxed.

### North Region

Alieda Farms Ltd.  
Arco Farms Ltd.  
Barclay, Andrew  
Child, Allan, John & Brent  
Clover Prairie Farms Ltd. #1  
Clover Prairie Farms Ltd #2  
Corence Holsteins Ltd.  
Cowan, James or Gail  
Dane's Pride Dairy Ltd.  
De Wildt, Kees or Marlene  
Donalda HBC  
El-Shaddai Dairies Inc.  
Enterprises Lavoie (1999) Inc.  
Feitsma Farms Ltd.  
Furhop Farms Ltd.  
Grubenmann's Dairy Farm Ltd.  
Hammer Farms (1997) Ltd.  
Helmus, Marinus & Alja  
Hofstra, Timothy  
Holt HBC  
Kozak, Henry M. & Brenda  
Lind, Norman J.W.  
Loogman, Martinus & Rosemary  
Los Dairies Ltd.  
Lovich, Garry A. or Dianne  
Mixburn HBC  
Mutrie, Glenda M.  
Ohlman Dairy Ltd.  
Pelchat, Fernand or Carol-Lynn  
Pine Haven HBC  
Ridder Farms Ltd.  
Roth, Victor & Charlene  
Ruysch, Willem & Jenny  
Scholten Dairy Ltd.  
Schuurman Dairy Ltd.  
Smoky Lake HBC  
Snellen Farms (Leduc) Ltd.  
Stradow Farms Ltd.  
Ter Borgh Dairy Ltd.  
Ter DengeFarms Inc.  
Twilight HB  
Westerhof Dairies Ltd.  
White Gold Sairy Farm Ltd.



## Central Region

1786787 Alberta Ltd.  
1789844 Alberta Ltd.  
632118 Alberta Ltd.  
Adventure Holsteins Ltd.  
Alix HBC  
Aspenridge Farms Ltd.  
Bar E Dairy Ltd..  
Bertens Holsteins Ltd.  
Birdhill Farms Ltd.  
Brouwer, Siebe, Frouke or J.P.  
Buffalorock Farm Ltd.  
Byemoor HB  
Castor HB  
Chalack Farms Ltd..  
Daystar Dairy Farm 1999 Inc.  
De With, C or M  
Den Oudsten Dairy Ltd.  
Detra Dairy Ltd..  
Diamond M Dairy Ltd..  
Dubitz, Gabriel & Gail  
Earnewald Holsteins Ltd.  
Erksine HBC  
Fairview HBC  
High Field Farm Ltd..  
Hulleman Farms Ltd.  
Huxley HBC  
Huyssoon, William or Martine  
Kamps Dairy Ltd.  
Kramer Dairy Ltd.  
K-Vet Holsteins Ltd.  
Kwakernaak, P & S  
Leedale HBC  
Lockhardt Dairy Farms Ltd.  
Neudorf HB  
Nielsen Farms Ltd.  
Parkhill Dairies Ltd.  
Poly-C Farms Ltd..  
Rocky Mountain Holsteins Ltd.  
Royal Hill Farm Ltd.  
Salomons, Dave or Everdien

## South Region

1233244/1233249 AB Ltd./Coulee  
1359546 Alberta Ltd.  
Albion Ridge HBC  
Beyer Dairy Ltd.  
Bluegrass HB  
Cayley HBC  
Clear Lake HB  
Crystal Spring HB  
Deerfield HB

Elmspring HB  
Fairville HB  
G & H Vande Bruinhorst Farms  
GDL Farms Ltd.  
Gold Spring Hutterian Brethren  
Greenwood HB  
High River HBC  
Hillridge HBC  
Hummel Dairy Ltd.  
J & N Dairy Ltd. & Heva Dairy  
Jansen Dairy Ltd.  
Keho Lake HBC  
Kings Lake HB  
Lathom HB  
Lomond HBC  
Milford HB  
New Elm HB  
New Rockport HB  
Nifera Holsteins Ltd.  
Old Elm HB  
P & C Dairy Ltd.  
Park Lake Dairy/J Van Dijk  
Plainview HB  
Ponmderosa HB  
Prairiehome HB  
Ridgeview Dairy (Monarch) Ltd.  
River Bend HB  
Rock Lake HB  
Rockport HB  
Rosedale HB  
Roseglen HB  
Selk Dairy Farms (2003) Ltd.  
Shamrock HB  
Silver Sage HB  
Slomp Farms Ltd..  
Standard HB  
Starbrite HB  
Thompson HBC  
Turin HBC  
Van Der Kooij Dairy Ltd.  
Vande Munt, Neil  
Vanden Dool Farms Ltd.  
Vander Veen O/A Favour Holsteins, Klaas or Annie or Eric  
Waeckerlin, Urs & Sylvia  
Waterton HBC  
West Rayley HBC  
Wild Rose HB  
Willow Creek HB  
Wintering Hills HBC

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2015 2nd cut Alfalfa hay, 4 x 3 bales.  
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## Recognizing Outstanding Young Farmers

Source: Erin Jordan, Corporate Communications Coordinator

Alberta dairy farmers Patrick and Cherylynn Bos were presented with the 2015 Outstanding Young Farmers' Award; a big feat for the provincial dairy industry. Their operation is located near Ponoka and produces both goat and cow dairy products under the name Rock Ridge Dairy. In the interest of sharing our success, we thought we'd catch up with Cherylynn to see how Rock Ridge is doing.

### ***Congratulations on the award! Has it given Rock Ridge Dairy more exposure?***

Thank you, it's given us something exciting to talk about! We were especially happy to see some larger farm publications and urban media taking notice.

### ***The Rock Ridge brand conveys a mix of tradition and entrepreneurship, what inspired your entrepreneurial spirit?***

Our initial jump into entrepreneurship was actually a necessity. The original processing plant we were milking goats for went bankrupt and at the time no one else was processing goat milk in the area. The choice was either to process our own milk ourselves or get out of milking goats completely. For us that meant the possibility that we may not accomplish our dream of taking over the family farm so processing was just the next step to add security to our business.

### ***Three years ago you decided to expand your operations to cow milk processing, with help from Van Os Dairy, whose owner is Alberta Milk board member Arnold Van Os. Was cow milk processing always in your plan or was it more of a right time/right place decision?***

Timing was a big factor because a major organic processor had left the market, and we had an opportunity to fill that niche as well. With our plant having a lot of capacity to provide the larger stores with our product, the venture into cow's milk would allow us to diversify our business and to fill the niche and provide consumers with a more local, organic product than they would otherwise find at that time in the stores.

It's been a journey and it doesn't happen overnight, we need to prove to retailers that we're here for the long run. We want to build our brand slowly with the addition of high quality artisan type products because I think that's a huge factor to success in today's market place.

### ***Rock Ridge values community involvement by donating to Edmonton and Calgary's food banks and hosting farm tours. Why do you think engaging urban populations and consumers is important?***

Giving back in these ways, whether through donations or tours, makes what we do more valuable to society in the long run. Farm tours are important because urban populations have lost touch with the farm and what they think their food should be like. By bringing consumers to our farm and processing plant, it gives them a firsthand view of the work that goes into quality food. In the end, that understanding creates loyal customers that can identify with us. In turn, their support will lead to the success of our business.

### ***It's great that you value educating people about the dairy industry, given that there are many misconceptions and misinformation floating around about animal care and dairy nutrition.***

Exactly. We want to give people a look into what a practical-sized farm looks like, to reduce fears and answer questions on why things happen the way they do. I've seen skeptics of all ages that have such positive takeaways when they visit the farm, and get a good view of what farm life is really like. The industry does their best for the animals under their care and animals provide us with a living. We don't jeopardize an animal's welfare because we need to have good relationship with the animals. We're working from 3:30 in the morning to 7:30 at night so we wouldn't do this if we didn't love it.

*A huge thanks to Cherylynn for chatting with Alberta Milk! You can read more about Rock Ridge Dairy and the Bos family on their website: <http://www.rockridgedairy.com/>*

# Prepping For a Future in Dairy

Source: Daria Taylor, Human Resources Specialist

Twenty future dairy industry leaders gathered in Calgary from January 18-20, for a leadership development conference. The conference provided a forum to grow leadership skills, governance knowledge and network with peers from across the four western provinces as well as Ontario, while simultaneously allowing them to better understand their own personal skills inventory. The sessions exposed participants to the experiences of current leaders, along with education and insights into key responsibilities and activities of a Board.

The program took a collaborative approach with BC Dairy Association, Alberta Milk, SaskMilk, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, CanWest DHI, and WestGen organizing and supporting the event.

The outcomes of the project will provide future leaders with skills and knowledge that will be transferable across all collaborating partners – as well as across other agricultural sectors and industries.

So what did our participants takeaway from the program? Here are a few quotes from the participants:

*“The conference allowed me to identify personal skills to cultivate for future success, particularly in a board setting.”*

*“This was a fantastic conference. I learned a lot and feel much better prepared to become more involved in the leadership of the dairy industry.”*

*“Meeting other young farmers who strive to balance work and industry involvement is very encouraging and inspires me to become more involved.”*

*“Three days ago if you asked me to step up for a leadership role, I would have declined – now I think I would seriously consider it.”*

*“I would like to thank Alberta Milk for hosting the Future leader development conference and the industry partners of BC Dairy Association, SaskMilk, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, WestGen, and CanWest DHI for putting on the event. It was a great opportunity to connect with the leaders of tomorrow. I learned to be a better manager for my farm and a more confident dairy leader in the future.”*



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## Results Pour In For Snack Time

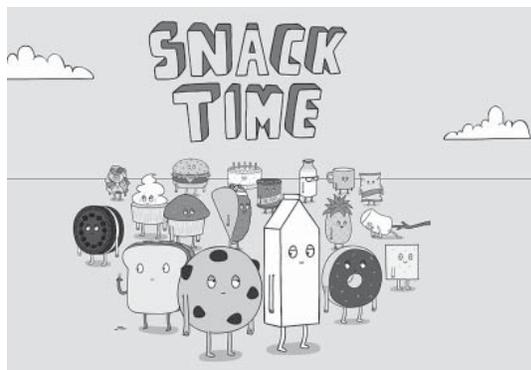
Source: Bethany Milligan, Marketing Coordinator

Teens are tough, and even a tougher segment to market to. Finding a natural place for milk to engage with them is challenging, particularly when you're up against brands like Coke and Red Bull, which spend significantly more on marketing and are perceived to be cool and popular with teens.

Knowing teens have a lot on the go and lead hectic lives fuelled by other brands, Milk West set out to differentiate milk and play a different role by helping teens make the most of their downtime. Essentially, give teens permission to relax and enjoy a glass of milk along with their favourite foods when chilling out at home.

In July 2014, DDB Canada helped Milk West launch an unconventional campaign that cleverly engages youth through their digital lives by regularly serving them relevant and entertaining content that they were already seeking online.

Armed with the insight that only milk could elevate a taste experience of certain foods, the *Snack Time* cartoon features a carton of milk named Carlton and a cast of characters who all happen to be snacks that taste great with milk. The creative's subtle approach is perfectly formulated for teens, as there are no traditional product shots or calls to action, and is found on digital channels where they're most active.



To date, *Snack Time* includes 45 videos, 16 comics and 17 animated gifs, and has built an online community that includes over 21,525 YouTube subscribers and 7,052 Tumblr followers. *Snack Time* has amassed 7.6 million episode views and 4.9 million Tumblr impressions and counting, with its fervent community regularly providing feedback and ideas for future episodes and characters. A few of our favourite comments include:

*"why do you have to be so funny!?! whenever i'm feeling down your videos are always there too cheer me up! you just got a subscribe"*

Lucy Fnafgirl2003

*"Oh, how I love Snack Time!! Just subscribed...thanks for sharing your talent. And your snacks! Mmmmmm, snacks!"* Pamela Jessen

*"Literally just watched every episode. These are to funny haha can't wait for future snack times"* xobaileex

*"i loooooove cookies+milk"* Minnah Vincent

*"This cartoon makes me want to eat cookies... and drink milk, which makes me feel like a cannibal...yummm..."* Plop Cartoons

In addition to the positive feedback from viewers, *Snack Time* has done exceptionally well at the ad industry's toughest creative competitions this year, picking up 18 awards at regional, national and international shows that celebrate innovative ideas and breakthrough creative. This year, *Snack Time* was recognized at the LOTUS Awards, Marketing Awards, Applied Arts, Communication Arts, New York Festivals, London International Awards, Media Innovation Awards, and most importantly the Canadian Marketing Association (CMA) Awards, Canada's largest annual advertising award show that celebrates creative marketing that deliver results.

The three quarterly tracking studies that measured the results of *Snack Time* concluded that the percentage of teens in Western Canada who agree "milk is a fun drink" has increased 9 per cent; higher milk consumption where *Snack Time's* audience report they drink



approximately 1.5 extra servings of milk per week compared to teens not watching our content; and an increase in future intent with almost 30 per cent of *Snack Time*'s audience say they will drink more milk in the future compared to those who have not watched the web series.

With an unconventional approach, *Snack Time* has repositioned milk as a relevant and fun beverage, and weekly servings amongst our audience are up, as is intent to consume - exactly what Milk West set out to achieve.

Watch the latest episodes of *Snack Time* here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/snacktime>

## Canadian Quality Milk Update

Source: Jim Eisen, CQM Coordinator



### Reference Manual and Workbook

Dairy Farmers of Canada has issued an updated Reference Manual and Workbook for the Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) program. The revised documents can be downloaded from the proAction® website found here: <https://www.dairyfarmers.ca/what-we-do/programs/canadian-quality-milk>

### Cattle Health Declaration

Effective April 1, 2016, you will be required to have your Cattle Health Declaration annually signed by your veterinarian and have the most recent form on file.

**Rationale:** The National Dairy Code, Section 31, states that no producer shall sell or offer for sale milk that is obtained from an animal that shows evidence or visible signs of disease transmissible to humans by milk or that adversely affects the quality or flavour of the milk. Some countries require an official control on dairy farms to demonstrate that Section 31 is being followed. The majority of milk in Canada is destined for the domestic market; however, some is exported. Given that milk in Canada is pooled, all farms must meet the requirement – and the Cattle Health Declaration is designed to satisfy the requirement.

A copy of the Cattle Health Declaration is included in this edition of *MilkingTimes*. It is also available on our member's only site under the Milk Quality and CQM heading.

Please contact Jim Eisen, CQM Coordinator, at 780-577-3318 or [jeisen@albertamilk.com](mailto:jeisen@albertamilk.com) for further information.

### services

Hoof care supplies and equipment. Hoof trimming chute, trimming discs and knives, blocks, adhesives, books and wraps.

[www.rlscanada.ca](http://www.rlscanada.ca) or phone 780-898-3752.

Custom Heifer Raising, our health and feeding programs are giving us good results. References available. **Phone Hank Overeem 403-783-1270.**

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.**

Western Canadian Classic -Team Alberta. This youth show rotates amongst the 4 western provinces with competitions and fun activities for youth age 12-21. **For more information phone Lexi Wright at 403-862-5600 or Sue Crest at 780-675-4643.**

Wild Rose Hoof Care Ltd. Christoph, a Dairyland graduate hoof trimmer, offers precision hoof trimming and smooth cattle handling. **Phone 403-872-4105.**

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# Dairy Production Statistics

Producer Pool Additions/Deductions November 2015		
	Additions (\$)	Deductions (\$)
Audit Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Bulk Tank Callibration	0.00	2,695.00
Discarded	34,915.67	0.00
PLR	0.00	170,339.92
Interest	9,481.31	0.00
Metering	67,737.28	0.00
Organic	97,061.67	0.00
Trucking	0.00	725.00
Violations	9,819.30	0.00
<b>Average Deductions per Kg Total Solids</b>		<b>(\$0.0057)</b>

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

Class 5 Prices (\$/kg) January 2016			
Milk Class	Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids
Class 5a	9.3189	3.6534	0.1091
Class 5b	9.3189	1.9402	1.9402
Class 5c	4.4371	1.5230	1.5230
Class 5d	contract by contract price		
Class 4m	contract by contract price		

Provincial Average Components December 2015	
Butterfat	4.0980 kg/hl
Protein	3.3814 kg/hl
Other Solids	5.7447 kg/hl

Average Milk Prices	
Month	TPQ \$/hL
<b>Dec 2015</b>	<b>82.96</b>
Nov	83.08
Oct	80.03
Sep	77.65
Aug	76.79
July	79.76
Jun	80.36
May	80.94
April	78.24
Mar	81.96
Feb	81.52
Jan	80.57

2015-16 Quota Exchange and Credit Deadlines		
Quota Transfer Deadline Date	Credit Transfer Deadline Date	Effective Date
Feb. 16, 2016	Feb. 22, 2016	March 1, 2016
Mar. 17, 2016	Mar. 24, 2016	Apr. 1, 2016
Apr. 18, 2016	Apr. 25, 2016	May 1, 2016
May 17, 2016	May 24, 2016	June 1, 2016
June 16, 2016	June 23, 2016	July 1, 2016
July 18, 2016	July 25, 2016	Aug. 1, 2016
Aug. 17, 2016	Aug. 24, 2016	Sep. 1, 2016
Sep. 16, 2016	Sep. 23, 2016	Oct. 1, 2016
Oct. 17, 2016	Oct. 24, 2016	Nov. 1, 2016

Provincial Milk Quality Averages		
Month	Bacteria Average (IBC)	Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
Dec. 2015	19,091	183,666

# Dairy Production Statistics



Quota Exchange Daily Production Quota		
	Total Transferred	Clearing Price/kg
<b>Feb 2016</b>	<b>75.06</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>
Jan	126.39	\$37,275
Dec	94.00	\$36,450
Nov	117.53	\$35,650
Oct	119.08	\$35,000
Sep	47.75	\$35,900
Aug	35.65	\$36,825
Jul	105.72	\$37,885
Jun	75.82	\$38,400
May	117.47	\$38,335
Apr	212.80	\$38,330
Mar	50.00	\$37,810
Feb	136.11	\$37,050

Underproduction Credit Transfers		
Month	Kg	Price\$/eligible kg
<b>Jan 2016</b>	<b>97,910.00</b>	<b>\$9.18</b>
Dec	84,868.62	\$8.22
Nov	76,687.50	\$7.64
Oct	102,022.00	\$6.65
Sep	80,458.70	\$6.78
Aug	61,309.40	\$7.66
Jul	69,526.20	\$8.45
Jun	70,222.29	\$8.87
May	74,301.01	\$9.06
Apr	79,111.96	\$9.58
Mar	74,222.10	\$9.73
Feb	91,971.89	\$8.80
Jan	83,777.10	\$6.56

Quota and Milk Production Summary (BF kg)					
Month	November	December	January	February	March
Status	Official	Pre-Pooling	Projected	Projected	Projected
<b>Alberta</b>					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	78,365	79,200	80,693	80,506	80,342
Producer Quota (kg/day)	76,654	75,558	76,312	76,312	77,075
Provincial Quota (kg/day)	78,166	80,068	79,025	78,842	78,358
Producer Position (Days)	-7.71	-6.63	-4.48	-2.89	-1.54
Provincial Position (Days)	-1.74	-2.04	-1.41	-0.80	-0.02
Cumulative Position (%)	-0.49%	-0.59%	-0.40%	-0.22%	-0.01%
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Western Milk Pool</b>					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	223,647	225,469	228,215	227,875	227,219
Pool Quota (kg/day)	222,108	227,499	224,535	224,014	222,640
Cumulative Position (%)*	-0.32%	-0.40%	-0.26%	-0.12%	-0.06%
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.



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## Production Update

Source: Jonathan Ntoni, Policy Analyst

Production in Alberta and the Western Milk Pool (WMP) remain strong and is still on the rise. Both Alberta and the WMP's daily production volumes increased in December, over November 2015. Alberta's daily production increased by 31,156 litres and the WMP's by 52,113 litres per day. Thus, Alberta contributed about 60 per cent of the realized increase in milk production in the WMP.

Butterfat density for December decreased as projected to 4.0984 per cent from November's peak of 4.1217 per cent. In the WMP, the density decreased to 4.0900 per cent from 4.1159 per cent. It is worth noting that Alberta's butterfat densities have consistently remained slightly above the WMP's average. Alberta's daily production volumes are also expected to rise sharply in January to about 1.98 million litres and then stabilize until April 2016. It is projected to peak at about 2 million litres per day in June 2016. However, due to the seasonal trend in the butterfat content of milk (i.e., highest in November and lowest in July), daily average butterfat production is expected to peak in January and be lowest in August.

Alberta's current forecast of our cumulative quota position indicate that we will be nearing our upper flexibility limit by June 2016. This is reasonable due to the recent quota issuance increases of 1 per cent each for January and March 2016, as approved by the Board.

## Dual Bulk Milk Tanks

Source: Bill Beisal, Transportation Coordinator

The Dual Tank Policy (DTP) is currently under review and the Board has applied a moratorium to all producers (currently only five) with dual tanks, from paying the yard charge on the additional tank, effective December 1, 2015. The current policy states that a yard charge will apply for the pickup of each tank.

The board requested that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Milk Quality, Component and Measurement Advisory Committee (MQCMAC) review the Extra Pickup Policy (EPU) in conjunction with the DTP. The DTP has been in place since April 2006. The EPU has been in place since April 2007 and was just recently amended in August 2015.

One of the proposed changes to the DTP by the TAC is to not charge for additional yard charges for any additional tanks. The DTP regarding sample procedures will be reviewed by MQCMAC in February 2016 and then all suggested changes will be considered by the Board. The moratorium will apply until the Board considers potential amendments.

With the decreasing number of producers and the increases in production over the last decade, this has resulted in larger pickup volumes at each farm, which has made it more difficult for haulers to balance out and keep their loads above 90 per cent full. The TAC sees dual tanks as a benefit to give the haulers more options to be efficient in keeping full loads.

The geographic location will play a role as to whether the tanks are picked up on the same or different routes – currently both of these situations are happening with the dual tank producers.

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