



October 2016

milking TIMES

Published monthly for dairy farmers in Alberta and our industry partners

table of contents

Board Update	2
proAction - Upcoming Cattle Assessments	3
Animal Care and Traceability Validations	3
NITA Update	4
Solar Powered Cheese	5
Lameness Reduction Initiative	5
Statistics	6-7
2015 Dairy Cost Study Results	8
FLDC	8

deadlines

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

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

Chairman's Message

Albert Kamps, Chairman

On September 22, summer officially came to an end and fall is upon us. Soon we will all be busy getting ready for winter that lies ahead. Fall is also a busy period for Alberta Milk. Year-end is underway, as is planning for the fall producer meetings and the annual general meeting.

I strongly encourage all producers to mark your calendars for the fall meetings scheduled for November 1-4, 2016. While you will receive specific information and an agenda in early October, I do want to note that for the first time in many years we will have elections for delegates in all three regions. While all current incumbents have let their name stand for re-election, other producers have also come forward. This is now your opportunity to vote for those producers who have let their name stand and want to represent you as a delegate in your region. In the north region, six individuals have let their name stand for the four available positions. In the central region, seven individuals are running for the four available positions. In the south region, four producers are seeking your support for the two available positions. Each farm has a vote in the region in which you reside.

At the last board meeting, the directors took time to discuss and consider director succession planning. There are three directors that will face a mandatory step down this November. Following the election of delegates

this fall, the region committees will need to assess which delegates are interested in becoming a director. The election of directors that represent a region is done by the region committee and the directors at large are elected at the annual general meeting.

In the last issue of MilkingTimes, I noted that an agreement in principle was reached for a new ingredient strategy for the Canadian dairy industry. While I had hoped to provide more detail, the ratification process is still ongoing. We anticipate that details will be available for the fall meetings. However, we will only know for sure after the next Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee meeting, scheduled for late October.

We know that the fall period is a very busy time – on the farm and within our organization – but I do encourage all producers to attend the fall producer meeting in your region and to attend the annual general meeting during the week of November 22-24, 2016. Registration is not required for the fall meeting and is open online at albertamilk.com for the AGM. I hope to see you at both!

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
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403-782-4093
Director at Large

Heini Hehli
Vice Chairman
403-704-5716
Central Region

Jim Towle
2nd Vice Chairman
403-227-5057
Central Region

Allan Child
780-385-2189
Director at Large

Lorrie Jespersen
780-785-2121
Director at Large

Gezinus Martens
780-985-2147
Director at Large

Wim Ruysch
780-986-5948
North Region

Martin Van Diemen
403-738-4375
South Region

Conrad Van Hierden
403-553-2117
Director at Large

Arnold Van Os
780-361-0103
North Region

Klaas Vander Veen
403-732-4380
South Region

Board Update

Mike Southwood, General Manager

The Board held a one-day meeting on August 25, 2016. The next meeting is scheduled for September 28-29, 2016.

Milk Transportation

In keeping with the review of the raw milk hauling formula that was undertaken in 2015, an independent transportation consultant was hired by Alberta Milk to conduct the annual review of the indices used in the hauling rate formula. The Transportation Committee reviewed the consultant's report in detail. After the adjustments were made to the formula, the rates paid to haulers effective September 1, 2016 will increase by an estimated 2 per cent, there is no change in the hauling charges for producers.

Organic Milk

The demand for organic milk has remained stable. With a strong possibility that there will be more demand for organic milk starting in early 2017, it was felt that the need to retain the current level of production is important. Therefore the five incentive days currently in place for organic milk production was extended for the months of September to December 2016.

proAction

The status of the proAction for Food Safety and Milk Quality; Animal Care and Traceability; and Biosecurity and Environment, was provided to the board. A discussion that is ongoing and requiring further dialogue and input is regarding compliance. There are currently different compliance criteria in place across Canada for

milk quality and food safety. Each province will need to determine non-compliance action steps for the remaining modules. There is also a desire for some level of consistency across Canada. The Animal Health and Environment Committee will review options.

Research Coordination

With the demise of the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA), a number of the commodity groups are concerned about how research support will be coordinated and provided going forward. The idea of an agriculture industry-owned approach to research and development has been suggested. Related to this type of approach, Alberta Milk participated in a meeting with other livestock organizations to explore the concept of pooling research and development funding into an industry-owned and directed mechanism that might receive matched funds from government. The board supported exploration of this concept but suggested that no formal structure be set up until the government provides details on how they plan to partner and invest going forward.

Marketing Council Members

Alberta Milk has been notified that the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry is seeking applications from individuals interested in serving as a member of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council. There are five member positions available on the board of directors. The link to the recruitment posting for new Marketing Council members is: <http://www.alberta.ca/public-agency-opportunity.cfm?appt=255>. The deadline for applications is October 11, 2016. All interested producers are encouraged to submit their application.

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proAction®: Upcoming Cattle Assessments By Holstein Canada Begin

Source: Dairy Farmers of Canada, Chantal Marcotte

As part of the proAction® Initiative's Animal Care module, Dairy Farmers of Canada and Holstein Canada have officialised an agreement to name the latter as the "qualified independent party" to conduct Cattle Assessments on Canadian dairy farms and benchmark herds over a two-year period (October 2016—September 2018). Holstein Canada will be starting this October in British Columbia, and will then work its way to the other provinces as the normal classification schedule unfolds.

Cattle assessments are not to be confused with the Food Safety program (formerly CQM) validations. These are being done in preparation of the former as the new Animal Care requirements will be added in September 2017. This involves having a valid Cattle Assessment on file when the validation is due. In some provinces such as British Columbia and Manitoba, Animal Care requirements have already been incorporated into the validation process.

More About the New Animal Care Requirements

Similar to the Food Safety program, farmers need to maintain Standard Operating Procedures and records for Animal Care, as well as implement various best management practices. As mentioned above, a key requirement is that farmers must have an independent animal-based assessment conducted every two years.

The Cattle Assessment will be done on a random sample of animals in the herd and includes evaluation of:

- Body condition score;
- Injuries (hock, knee and neck);
- Lameness scoring.

For precise information on scoring, consult the Animal Care Workbook and Manual. A copy can be found on dairyfarmers.ca/proAction.

In the meantime, watch your mailbox for more detailed information from both your provincial dairy organization and Holstein Canada.



Save the Date - A Reminder for Animal Care and Traceability Validations

Source: Jodi Flaig, Industry Development Coordinator

The Animal Care and Traceability validations will be included along with your validation for CQM (now known as Food Safety) **beginning September 1, 2017**. Here are some further details:

- The Animal Care module requires an animal care assessment to be completed on a sample number of cows on every Canadian dairy farm prior to that farm's validation.
- For the first two years, these Animal Care animal assessments will be conducted by Holstein Canada under contract with Dairy Farmers of Canada to all Canadian dairy farms.
- This assessment will be conducted on all farms, both members and non-members of Holstein Canada, in order to establish a Canadian baseline of animal care.
- There will be no charge to you for this initial assessment.
- **These assessments could occur as soon as fall 2016 for some producers in Alberta.**
- Holstein Canada will be contacting you directly (Alberta Milk supplied your contact information) via mail later this fall to schedule the herd assessment visit and to gather some basic herd and farm information to make your farm visit as efficient as possible.

For further information, please call Jodi Flaig (780-577-3307) or Jim Eisen (780-577-3318).

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NITA Update

Kelly Mauthe, Member Services Specialist

As part of the National IT Aggregation (NITA), there will be some changes in the producer test results screen when the new Milk Management System (MMS) is implemented this fall.

Test Results Display

One of these changes will show producers in a more visual fashion when their test results scores are too high. For example, when a producer test result for Somatic Cell Count (SCC) is above 250,000 cells/mL, the test result will be highlighted yellow. When the SCC result is above 400,000 cells/mL, the test result will be highlighted red. This will allow the producer a quick glance at their results to see if there are any concerns that need to be addressed. See the table below for the threshold values.

	Units	Normal Range	Caution Range (yellow)	Penalty Range (red)
SCC	cells/mL	Less than 250,000	250,000 to 400,000	Over 400,000
Bacteria (IBC)	cells/mL	Less than 30,000	30,000 to 121,000	Over 121,000
Freezing Point	Degrees Hortvet	-0.555 to -0.530	-0.529 to -0.525	Under -0.525

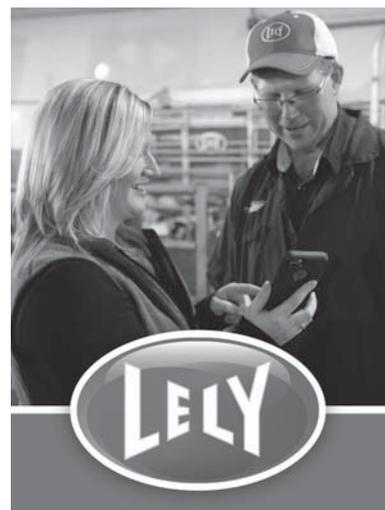
Also, there will be colour differences on the test results screen depending upon whether the result is missing (not available) or the test result has been edited or altered after the fact. This could happen if the test results are discarded or there has been some sort of mix-up with the results. Again, this gives producers a visual queue to be able to assess their status of their results.

Test Results Notification

The new system will allow producers to set their own milk quality notification levels for all their test result parameters. If a producer wanted to know by email when their IBC

result is greater than 30,000 cells/mL, they could edit their alert level to customize the alert to meet their needs. Every milk test type can have upper and lower limit set. Currently Alberta Milk only alerts for IBCs over 60,000 cells/mL, and we don't have any alert for SCC or Freezing Point or for component values.

While the testing and implementation of MMS has been somewhat delayed, further details about our new system will be published as soon as we get a better look at the system.



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Healthy Dairy Herds – Lameness Reduction

Source: Jodi Flaig, Industry Development Coordinator

Alberta Milk's Healthy Dairy Herds has launched the Lameness Reduction Initiative as a follow up to the successful Alberta Johne's Disease Initiative (AJDI).

The Lameness Reduction Initiative builds on previous hoof health research and extension work in Alberta. The initiative will support producers in addressing any lameness challenges identified through the proAction® Animal Care Assessment. It will include a lameness risk assessment / management plan (RA/MP) with your veterinarian. The initiative will focus on identifying housing and management risk factors for dairy cattle lameness, followed by the development of farm-specific lameness reduction management plans.

The lameness RA/MP tool is similar to that used in the AJDI, which you may have completed on your farm. The RA/MP can be used to facilitate collaboration between producers, veterinarians, hoof trimmers and other industry service providers to reduce the prevalence of lameness in Alberta dairy herds. There is a \$200 incentive available to have your veterinarian complete a RA/MP on your farm.

We hosted four training seminars for veterinarians in September and will be ready to offer this exciting new tool to producers later

this fall. Watch for notice of an on-farm workshop or request for your veterinarian to conduct a lameness risk assessment on your farm. Together, you can develop a lameness reduction management plan for your farm.



Solar Powered Cheese

Source: reposted from Red Deer Advocate, by Paul Cowley on September 12, 2016

Sylvan Star Cheese is drawing on the sun to keep its award-winning cheeses cool.

Read the whole story: <http://www.sylvanlakeneews.com/news/393603221.html>

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2016 Fall Producer Meeting Dates	
November 1	Barrhead Neighborhood Inn 6011 - 49 Street
November 2	Leduc Executive Royal Inn 8450 Sparrow Drive
November 3	Red Deer Black Knight Inn 2929-50 Avenue
November 4	Lethbridge Coast Hotel & Conference Center 526 Mayor Magrath Drive South

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Dairy Production Statistics

Producer Pool Additions/Deductions August 2016		
	Additions (\$)	Deductions (\$)
Audit Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Bulk Tank Callibration	0.00	3,825.00
Discarded	0.00	29,677.60
PLR	0.00	196,318.95
Interest	8,276.18	238.44
Metering	61,163.45	0.00
Organic	64,871.31	0.00
Trucking	0.00	1,150.00
Violations	61,132.05	0.00
Average Deductions per Kg Total Solids		(\$0.0044)

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

Class 5 Prices (\$/kg) October 2016			
Milk Class	Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids
Class 5a	7.1253	6.9676	0.2604
Class 5b	7.1253	1.9597	1.9597
Class 5c	5.7529	1.9597	1.9597
Class 5d	contract by contract price		
Class 4m	contract by contract price		

Provincial Average Components August 2016	
Butterfat	3.9256 kg/hl
Protein	3.2674 kg/hl
Other Solids	5.7398 kg/hl

Average Milk Prices	
Month	TPQ \$/hL
Aug 2016	78.56
July	78.96
June	79.09
May	79.22
Apr	79.35
Mar	79.71
Feb	75.23
Jan	79.60
Dec	82.96
Nov	83.08
Oct	80.03
Sep	77.65

2015-16 Quota Exchange and Credit Deadlines		
Quota Transfer Deadline Date	Credit Transfer Deadline Date	Effective Date
Oct. 17, 2016	Oct. 24, 2016	Nov. 1, 2016
Nov. 16, 2016	Nov. 23, 2016	Dec. 1, 2016

Provincial Milk Quality Averages		
Month	Bacteria Average (IBC)	Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
August	24,125	221,567



Dairy Production Statistics



Quota Exchange Daily Production Quota		
	Total Transferred	Clearing Price/kg
Oct 2016	163.02	\$39,500
Sep	173.13	\$40,300
Aug	17.15	\$40,260
July	119.72	\$39,325
June	55.86	\$39,030
May	133.50	\$38,555
Apr	106.83	\$38,550
Mar	93.62	\$38,850
Feb	75.06	\$38,000
Jan	126.39	\$37,275
Dec	94.00	\$36,450
Nov	117.53	\$35,650
Oct	119.08	\$35,000

Underproduction Credit Transfers		
Month	Kg	Price\$/eligible kg
Sept 2016	63,291.48	\$10.08
Aug	59,481.67	\$9.94
Jul	63,446.02	\$9.80
Jun	59,825.00	\$9.94
May	77,106.50	\$9.49
Apr	70,836.79	\$9.22
Mar	91,601.49	\$10.43
Feb	90,317.99	\$9.62
Jan	97,910.00	\$9.18
Dec	84,868.62	\$8.22
Nov	76,687.50	\$7.64
Oct	102,022.00	\$6.65
Sep	80,458.70	\$6.78

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)	80,204	78,782	80,101	81,118	82,142
Producer Quota (kg/day)	80,489	80,441	81,560	81,510	81,510
Provincial Quota (kg/day)	80,373	77,876	79,762	80,652	81,985
Producer Position (Days)	-2.83	-3.49	-3.99	-4.15	-3.91
Provincial Position (Days)	-2.17	-1.88	-1.71	-1.51	-1.43
Cumulative Position (%)	-0.60%	-0.51%	-0.47%	-0.42%	-0.40%
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
Western Milk Pool					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	222,294	219,346	223,724	227,550	230,819
Pool Quota (kg/day)	228,366	221,271	226,630	229,158	232,947
Cumulative Position (%)*	-1.47%	-1.53%	-1.64%	-1.69%	-1.76%
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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Dairy Cost Study, 2015 Results

Source: Economics Section, Agriculture and Forestry

The Economics of Milk Production 2015 has been released by Agriculture and Forestry. This publication reports the cost of producing milk, based on the aggregated results of all information provided by participants on the dairy cost study. The report goes into detail about the average cost of producing a hectoliter of milk in Alberta.

In 2015, total cost of producing a hectoliter of milk was \$78.63, only a 2 per cent increase compared to 2014. This works out to be just under \$7230.00 per cow (not including cost of quota).

At no surprise, the largest contributor to the total cost of production was total feed costs. This cost increased 8 per cent from the previous year. It was a dry year which pushed up the purchase price for hay, especially good alfalfa. As well, the lower Canadian dollar brought in the competition from US buyers. Hay prices alone increased 16 per cent. There was also an increase in the price of barley.

One would think that these large increases would have brought up the total cost by more than the 2 per cent. This was not the case, as there was a decrease in the cost of utilities, fuel, and labour.

When looking at the revenue side, the demand for milk remained high in 2015 and producers responded by increasing production. The volume of milk sold increased 4.9 per cent. However, the milk price decreased in 2015 by 2 per cent so even though there was more milk, revenue from milk sales remained stable. Livestock values remained high through 2015 and net sales increased. Total gross income actually increased by 2 per cent.

This is just a very small tidbit of information available in The Economics of Milk Production 2015. The full report can be found on the Alberta Milk Members Only website under the Milk Prices & Production tab.

Copies will also be available at the 2016 Fall producer meetings.

Join the Dairy Cost Study for 2017 if you would like a cost of production breakdown for your own farm. Contact Pauline Van Biert of Agriculture and Forestry at 780-415-2153 or by email to pauline.vanbiert@gov.ab.ca to sign up or have questions about what is involved.

Future Leaders Development Conference 2017

Source: Daria Taylor, Human Resources Specialist

Have you ever thought you'd like to get more involved with the dairy industry, but unsure of what was involved? If so, the Future Leaders Development Conference is for you. For all the details and to apply, please visit the Alberta Milk Members Only website. Applications due December 5.

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