



March 2018

milk TIMES

Published monthly for dairy farmers in Alberta and our industry partners

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Chairman's Message

Source: Tom Kootstra, Chairman

In my message last month I challenged all farmers to ensure that you know your coverage for any liability that you may face if there is a possible milk contamination arising from your farm. I trust you have all taken the message seriously and are taking actions. Another key part of any issue is prevention. I also want to reinforce that if you have a situation where the feed on your farm or some other issue that may compromise your milk you need to call Alberta Milk immediately. If we can prevent the milk, even though the confirmation of contamination may not be known, from entering the processing plant or the food chain we will prevent a larger problem for occurring. So please remember to call Alberta Milk – immediately! Together we can work to first of all prevent issues with contaminated milk and in the event something unfortunately does happen on the farm prevent the problem from becoming even bigger.

Speaking of big problems, within the Western Milk Pool we are facing an issue where we do not have the processing capacity to process all the milk that is coming off our farms. Producers have responded well to the quota increases that have occurred over the last two years. The strong demand for butterfat seems to be plateauing and processors are now building their private stocks and there is some butter being offered into Plan A.

I am sure you have all read about the decision to retract the March 2018 2 percent quota increase and retract the incentive day for July. This was a recommendation from the Western Milk Pool

Members committee to try and ensure equity amongst producers as we address this issue within the WMP. We are moving milk within the pool to deal with processing capacities so we want to ensure there is a likeminded approach to addressing the issue of curbing production. The key message is we need to ship as close as possible to our quota. Some of the members in the WMP have strict policies on credit accumulate and credit use. Should such policies also apply to Alberta producers? No such decisions have been made in that regard. We will measure the reaction we get to the quota cut before taking more steps.

So how did we get from under filling the butterfat demand a year ago and now processors are saying the demand is softening? Are Canadian Requirements calculations off? Are there marketing signals we are not getting from processors or retailers? All good questions and the Canadian Dairy Commission has been working on a new process for determining quota requirements in what has been a dynamic and changing time. This new process still requires final approval and if approved will be introduced August 1, 2018. In the interim the one thing we do know is that production coming off the farms and the processing capacity are not aligned and we need corrective actions. We need to fill our quota and no more.

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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Spring Producer

Meetings

Source: Karlee Conway, Communications Specialist

Join us for our Spring Producer Meetings next month to provide input and learn about current issues. All meetings run from 10 AM – 3 PM. No RSVP is required.

South Region

Thursday, April 5

Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Center

526 Mayor Magrath Drive South

Lethbridge

Central Region

Friday, April 6

Black Knight Inn

2929-50 Avenue

Red Deer

North Region

Wednesday, April 11

Executive Royal Inn

8450 Sparrow Drive

Leduc

Thursday, April 12

Neighborhood Inn

6011-49 Street

Barrhead

Dairy Farmers Hit Parliament Hill

Source: Karlee Conway, Communications Specialist

On February 6, a group of our Board members travelled to Ottawa as part of Dairy Farmers of Canada's policy conference. This annual event is a very important way we connect with Members of Parliament and the Senate to make them aware of issues affecting our industry. This year, we focused on the proposed changes to Canada's Food Guide (the removal of the dairy and alternatives category), labelling certain dairy products as "unhealthy" in the proposed healthy eating strategy, and of course supply management in regards to the CPTPP and NAFTA.



Tom Kootstra, MP Kelly McCauley, Greg Debbink and Mike Southwood

We received good feedback and support from the 11 MPs and senators we met with. Most notably, MP John Barlow took action on the fact that farmers or industry are not currently allowed to participate in the consultations on Canada's Food Guide. He questioned the Government about why those that have some of biggest investment in food do not have the ability to share their position. He has continued to push this issue with the agriculture committee to try to move it forward.

We would like to send a sincere thank you to all of the elected officials we met with and farmers that travelled to advocate on behalf of all of our farmers.



Martin Van Diemen, MP Shannon Stubbs and Conrad Van Hierden

UCVM Seeks Support for Advanced Dairy Veterinary Education Endowment Fund

Source: University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

When Dennis Klugkist started at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) in 2008, his plan was to become a dairy practitioner. He sold his dairy farm to go back to school and get his DVM degree, all the while supporting a family with two children (four by the time he graduated).

"I love the dairies," Klugkist says. "I love working with cows but I also love working with producers. I have no qualms about the career path I took."

At the end of his third year at UCVM, Klugkist had the opportunity to attend an intensive six-week Summer Dairy Institute program at Cornell University in New York. The trip was made possible with support from the Advanced Dairy Veterinary Education Endowment Fund, initiated by a gift from Norman Damkar, a retired dairy farmer with a passion for dairy veterinary education.

"The thing with vet school is you learn a whole lot of stuff about a bunch of different species but you never really go fully in-depth in one certain area," says Klugkist. "So to have the opportunity to get out there and go to some of these specialized programs like the one at Cornell gives you a different view and idea of what goes on."

Now a managing partner at Gull Lake Veterinary Services with a special interest in dairy reproduction and embryo transfer work, Klugkist credits his rigorous learning experience that summer with giving him a broader dairy education.

"I think it gave me a better understanding of the dairy industry and gave me a lot of the specifics of what is going on on farms. In school you learn more about the medicine side behind cows, whereas the Summer Dairy

Institute teaches you the economics behind it as well as a lot of the physiology behind dairy, stuff you wouldn't normally get in vet school. It made me hit the ground running faster when I graduated. I learned more about what producers are dealing with and not just book knowledge."

Dr. Klugkist is grateful to Norman Damkar for the enriched learning he was able to experience at Cornell.

"The money that he donated helped me get there and do that course which was great in pushing me towards my goal to be large animal veterinarian," he says. "I had four kids so the money to get me there helped a lot. The funding really helps and encourages students to go out and look for those experiences."

As for Norman Damkar, the retired dairy farmer says he established the education fund as a way of contributing to the industry he loves.

"I felt that the dairy business had been good to me over the years and thought the fund was a good chance to give something back," he says. "At the time, UCVM was just opening and it seemed like a golden opportunity. It's been fun!"

The Advanced Dairy Veterinary Education Endowment Fund supports DVM students to develop the competency, confidence and experience to effectively serve the dairy industry, while encouraging them to consider a career in the industry. Activities supported by the fund include conferences, in-class or on-farm seminars, and bringing expert speakers to campus. Please join us in investing in the learning experience for the dairy leaders of tomorrow: vet.ucalgary.ca/giving-dairy



deadlines

quota transfers

Feb. 14, at 4:30 p.m.

credit transfers

Feb. 28, at 4:30 p.m.

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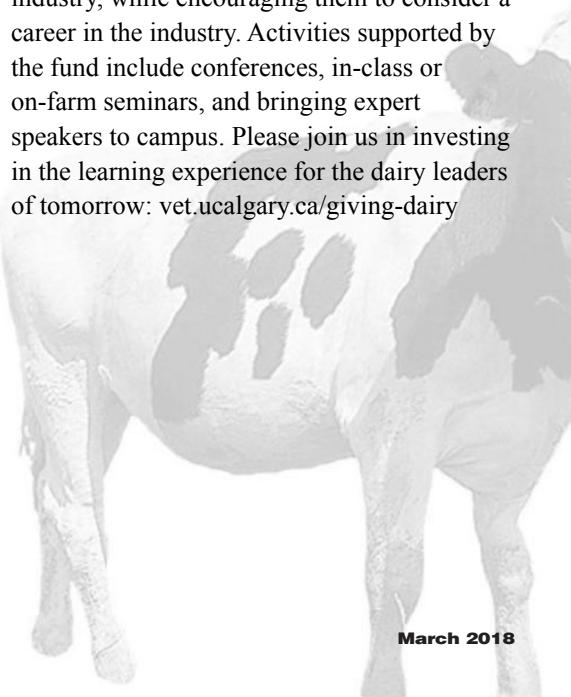
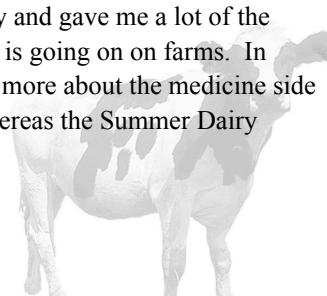
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1st cut Alfalfa 2017. Phone Levi at 403-733-2122 ext. 225.



Breakfast on the Dairy Farm Needs You!

Source: Kelsie Gilks, School and Agriculture Program Coordinator

Our south Breakfast on the Dairy Farm needs a host farm! Breakfast on the Dairy Farm invites the general public to visit a local farm to learn about where their milk comes from and enjoy a free breakfast for one morning in the spring. The south has hosted this event for two years and would like to continue making this event available to the public.

If you and your family would like to open your gates for this event, or you have questions, please contact Jane Van Ash at breakfastonthedairyfarm@gmail.com.

2018 Dairy Classic Show

April 27-28, 2018

- Holstein Show
- Jersey Show
- Showmanship Classes Youth Judging Clinic
- Awards Banquet

NEW FOR 2018

Jersey & Holstein Breeds will show on the same day Entries close April 1, 2018

For More Show Information

calgarystampede.com/ag

403.261.0312

peterson@calgarystampede.com

COP for Robot Herds

Source: Pauline Van Bier, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

The Economics of Milk Production (the dairy cost study) is a well-known and highly-referenced document regarding the cost of producing milk in Alberta. With the increased number of farms with voluntary milking systems, it would be interesting to examine how or if the cost of production changes by comparing them with farms which have conventional milking systems.

However, in order to do this comparison we need information from robot farms through their participation on the dairy cost study. If you have robots and are interested in contributing to the dairy cost study, contact Pauline Van Bier at 780-415-2153 or pauline.vanbier@gov.ab.ca. You would also receive an economic analysis for your farm. Be assured your farm information would be kept in strict confidence.

Results would be published in *The Economics of Milk Production, 2018*.

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EFP renewal needed for CAP funding program

Source: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) agreement replaces Growing Forward 2 (GF2) and comes into effect April 2018. Programs are being offered under five themes, one of which is "Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change". This program theme includes three modified programs that existed under GF2: Water Supply and Quality, Irrigation Efficiency and Environmental Stewardship. The Environmental Stewardship CAP Program will address risks to water quality as well as other sustainability topics.

Past grants have helped producers change practices and manure facilities to reduce the risk of an emergency or the need to spread manure in unfavorable conditions. For example when fields are frozen, snow-covered and they are at greater risk for run off or volatilization losses. We expect similar programs under CAP and so it is important to start meeting some eligibility requirements now.

If you are interested in applying for this program, there are two items that you can start on now. A current Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) will be required. This whole farm self-assessment identifies environmental risks and helps you develop an action plan to address those risks. It can help you identify or prioritize projects that might be funded under CAP.

With a new 10 year renewal requirement, it is estimated that 80% of EFPs will be expired as

of April 1, 2018. This means a large number of farmers need to renew their EFPs to access CAP funding. Luckily a new, simpler EFP workbook is available online to renew or complete your EFP now before the program launch.

To get started on a successful CAP application, check and update your EFP by contacting the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) at albertaefp.com/start-an-efp.

Appropriate permits will be required. Some CAP projects will need one or more permits from different agencies, including Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Transportation, local municipalities or the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRBC). If your project includes a manure facility, start with the NRBC to make sure that any necessary permits are obtained. For CAP, you will need either an NRBC permit or a letter indicating that a permit is not required.

This means that an early conversation with the NRBC can help you plan to meet all regulatory requirements. Be aware the NRBC permit process itself will take about three to six months from final submission to permit, so again there is an advantage to starting early. To understand your permit requirements, find your local NRBC field office at nrbc.ca. Also be aware that CAP Stewardship programming will not cover expenses that occurred before the date an application was received.

So get ready and stay tuned for updates! Visit and bookmark the Growing Forward website: growingforward.alberta.ca where you can subscribe to receive announcements on the new CAP program.



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services

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Dairy Production Statistics

Producer Pool Additions/Deductions January 2018		
	Additions (\$)	Deductions (\$)
Audit Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Bulk Tank Calibration	0.00	1,695.00
Discarded	0.00	34,277.86
PLR	9,025.03	161,788.51
Interest	13,464.35	234.56
Metering	65,947.02	0.00
Organic	27,728.26	0.00
Trucking	0.00	1,150.00
Violations	43,528.31	0.00
Average Deductions per Kg Total Solids		(\$0.0043)

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

Class 5 Prices (\$kg) March 2018			
Milk Class	Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids
Class 5a	6.7207	4.3008	0.2225
Class 5b	6.7207	1.4342	1.4342
Class 5c	6.6990	1.2561	1.2561
Class 5d	contract by contract price		
Class 4m	contract by contract price		

Provincial Average Components January 2018	
Butterfat	4.1389 kg/hl
Protein	3.3544 kg/hl
Other Solids	5.7323 kg/hl

Average Milk Prices		
Month	TPQ \$/hL	
Jan 2018	77.29	
Dec	77.08	
Nov	79.91	
Oct	79.26	
Sep	77.11	
Aug	75.05	
July	76.36	
June	78.49	
May	79.94	
Apr	81.02	
Mar	81.38	
Feb	81.28	

2017-18 Quota Exchange and Credit Deadlines		
Quota Transfer Deadline Date	Credit Transfer Deadline Date	Effective Date
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)
Jan 2018	23,305	198,622

Dairy Production Statistics



Quota Exchange Daily Production Quota		
	Total Transferred	Clearing Price/kg
Mar 2018	51.09	\$38,130
Feb	119.02	\$36,500
Jan	127.80	\$35,900
Dec	132.20	\$35,925
Nov	104.50	\$36,990
Oct	105.91	\$38,000
Sep	166.98	\$38,625
Aug	103.67	\$38,005
July	44.80	\$37,505
June	105.90	\$37,500
May	30.50	\$39,075
Apr	71.00	\$39,750

Underproduction Credit Transfers		
Month	Kg	Price\$/eligible kg
Feb 2018	99,197.91	\$4.82
Jan	106,192.39	\$3.96
Dec	115,276.91	\$2.36
Nov	92,875.08	\$2.14
Oct	83,041.16	\$2.91
Sep	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

Quota and Milk Production Summary (BF kg)					
Month	December	January	February	March	April
Status	Official	Pre-Pooling	Projected	Projected	Projected
Alberta					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	91,434	93,118	93,824	94,178	94,722
Provincial Quota (kg/day)	94,588	89,930	90,696	90,142	91,080
Producer Quota (kg/day)	88,361	88,372	90,139	91,942	91,942
Producer Quota + Incentive Credits (kg/day)	91,211	91,222	90,139	91,942	91,942
Cumulative Position (%)	-5.95%	-5.59%	-5.29%	-4.88%	-4.53%
Producer Position (Days)	-9.55	-8.57	-7.28	-6.41	-5.52
Provincial Position (Days)	-20.16	-20.11	-18.97	-17.70	-16.32
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
Western Milk Pool					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	262,368	265,642	265,978	266,333	266,163
Pool Quota (kg/day)	268,755	255,521	257,698	256,124	258,787
Cumulative Position (%)*	-5.85%	-5.46%	-5.18%	-4.81%	-4.56%
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 Holstein Association
www.albertaholstein.ca for industry news, upcoming events, movies, show results and more!

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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.
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Phone 780-467-6040.

Alberta Production and Quota Update

Source: Jonathan Ntoni, Policy Analyst

Production

Production remains strong in the province. Daily average volume in January rose by 57,480 litres (+2.6%) to 2.25 million litres compared to 2.19 million litres in the previous month. Butterfat production also rose by 1,684kg/day (+1.8%) in January over December. Production continues to follow the seasonal trend with daily volumes expected to peak in July at about 2.35 million litres; and BF densities to reach a minimum of about 3.97kg/hl also in July. Comparing on an annual basis, there was a +5.9% growth in volume in the 12-month period ending Jan 2018 over the 12-month period ending Jan 2017; and +6.9% growth in butterfat production for same period.

Daily Total Production Quota

Daily Total Production Quota (DTPQ) in the Western Milk Pool (WMP) increased by +0.52 per cent using data based on the 12-months period ending December 2017. Daily quota issuance at the producer level decreased to 98.61 per cent in December 2017, relative to 99.05 per cent in November 2017. There was no incentive-day in place for February – but a 2% increase in producer quota issuance. Production on the one incentive day in January was 53,768.32kg (61.6% up-take).

Alberta Provincial Quota Utilization

At the end of December 2017, Alberta's cumulative quota position (CQP) was at -5.95 per cent, which is the second highest of all the Western Milk Pool (WMP) provinces. British

Columbia (BC) had the highest CQP of -1.28 per cent. Only BC filled their monthly quota allotment for November in the WMP.

Western Milk Pool & P5 Pool

At the end of December 2017, the WMP was in a cumulative quota position of -5.85 per cent compared to +3.40 per cent in the P5.

Additions to Workshop Series

Source: Morgan Hobin, proAction Coordinator

Alberta Milk will be set to deliver our next two workshop series. For more information see the inserts or check the Member's Only. We will have a booth at the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar in Red Deer March 6-9, so be sure to stop by for more information on the following events:

Cattle Handling with Curt Pate

Dates & Locations:

- March 12 – Picture Butte
- March 13 – Westlock
- March 14 – Olds
- March 15 – Ponoka

Back to the Basics: proAction® - Animal Care and Traceability

Dates & Locations:

- March 26 – Lethbridge, Coast Hotel
- March 27 – Red Deer, Sheraton Hotel
- March 28 – Leduc, Executive Royal Inn
- March 29 – Barrhead, Barrhead Neighbourhood Inn

Professional Farm Business Services



New Entrant Assistance Program (NEAP) Proposals

Farm Business or Succession Plans

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