



April 2020

milking

TIMES

Published monthly for dairy farmers in Alberta and our industry partners

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Chair's Message

Source: Tom Kootstra

Risk management has always been a fundamental part of farming. Often without even consciously realizing we're doing it, we are always assessing risk and trying to make the smartest decisions we can with the information available.

Recently, there have been two issues that reminded me about the importance of contingency planning and being able to adapt to changing environments: COVID-19 and processor changes regarding milk quality testing.

It's our responsibility to ensure that our industry and operation stay healthy and thus we need to take steps to protect ourselves against COVID-19. I feel that most preventative protocols are common-sense. Specifically, limit visitors, especially those from other countries, on your farm. We need to do our part in reducing the risk. This is also a reminder of the importance of biosecurity measures and I encourage you to revisit the proAction module and guidelines.

This is an opportunity to seriously think about the worst-case scenario and how your farm will navigate that risk. If a processing plant had to temporarily close or haulers couldn't come to your farm to pick up milk, how would you manage that? From potentially having to discard milk to having to work with less staff, creating a business continuity strategy for your farm is vital. The Alberta Milk office is taking

the same precautions by working with processors and other service providers to ensure that our organization remains prepared to manage current and potential future risks.

Another potential risk you may be faced with is from changes happening at a processor-level regarding milk quality. Some processors are introducing new technology that will allow them to test every load of milk.

This may impact some farms if you struggle with managing various indicators of milk quality, like somatic cell counts or bacteria. I encourage you to manage the risk of potentially not having your milk accepted by working with experts to help get your milk where it needs to be. The risk of having to discard milk is increasing as more processors chose to implement these additional testing procedures, so please take this seriously and always aim to do better.

We need to understand risks and have risk management skills to better anticipate problems and reduce consequences. Our industry continues to evolve and we need to adapt to the many external things we may not be able to fully control. Define your risks, have a plan, communicate that plan to everyone on your farm, and know that you may need to change it.

our mission

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

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





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Central Region

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on



Board Report

Source: Tom Kootstra, chair

The Alberta Milk Board of Directors met on February 18. Here are the highlights of our discussions. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 26.

Newly Created Sub-committee

The Alberta Milk Board has heard from several producers about some of the challenges around quota management and governance. In response, the Board has agreed to the establishment of a Quota Management Issues Team that is comprised of staff and three board members. The team's aim is to understand some of the issues and explore possible options and solutions.

Governance Review

This year, the board will be taking an in-depth dive into the fundamentals of Alberta Milk.

This is an important process to help our organization to continually evolve and grow. Some of the issues we will be looking at include board size and structure, region committee mandates, role of delegates and the mandate of all standing committees.

This work started at the Delegate Workshop in February and will continue as part of our strategic planning session with Donna Finley and Associates. We also look forward to your feedback at upcoming Producer Meetings where we hope to hear your thoughts and feedback.

The information we learn will be used to shape our 2020-23 Strategic Plan and our operational plans for 2020-21. We will report back in upcoming editions of *Milking Times*.

Black Specs

We also discussed the issue of black specs in milk. We are continuing to learn more and will monitor any advancements. The Transportation Committee is spear heading this issue by looking into this and is committed to identifying solutions.

Milk Quality Changes

Source: Kelly Mauthe, Member Services Specialist

Alberta Milk implemented two milk quality changes recently. Please see the following description of the changes.

"S" coded IBC results

The Board has modified the "Use of Producer Sample Results Policy" to allow for some bacteria (IBC) results that are older than two days old to be used for a producer's month end IBC average.

However, in some cases, even samples that are three days old and are tested for IBC show very good results. Before the change, IBC results greater than 2 days old were results coded "S" or "stale dated" to acknowledge that the results were too old. All samples coded "S" are not used for the producer's month end average.

The policy has been amended to allow for some older IBC results to be used provided they "are a good fit for the producer". Staff will analyse the S coded IBC results each month and determine whether or not the result should be used. If the IBC result coded "S" is deemed acceptable, the code will be removed. This change brings Alberta in line with practices in BC and SK.

Pay Statement Rankings

Producers pay statements in Feb 2020 and beyond will once again have their milk quality rankings published. This feature was on our old pay statement but had been dropped on the newer harmonized statement in MMS. Many producers contacted us and asked that the rankings be put back on. We listened and it has been added back in. Each producer can once again see where they rank in the province for IBC and SCC.

Quality		Rank
IBC	14,781	263 / 503
SCC	69,398	4 / 503

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Kelly Mauthe at Alberta Milk.

Recommended COVID-19 On-Farm Protocol Updated March 19, 2020

1. Only permit essential service providers on your farm (vets, milk truck drivers, feed delivery, etc.).

- Post signs at every entrance to your farm and barn with your cell phone number instructing your suppliers to call you before entering the barn or moving around the property, or put an object (e.g. sawhorse) in the middle of your driveway with the sign so that suppliers cannot miss or ignore it.
- Milk pick and feed drop off can be done without the need for any physical interaction between you and the hauler. Any required instructions can be provided by phone or video prior. If you are around when milk is picked up or feed is delivered, stay a minimum of 2 metres away from the individual.

2. If someone must come on your farm, practice heightened biosecurity protocols:

- Practice safe distancing. Do not shake hands, stay at a distance of 2 metres when you speak to them.
- Assess them using the following criteria before entry. If anyone answers in the affirmative to any of these questions, do not allow them on farm.
 - » Are you feeling ill; do you have any of the symptoms of COVID-19?
 - » Have you travelled internationally within the past 14 days?
 - » Have you been in contact with anyone who has travelled internationally within the past 14 days?
 - » Have you been in contact with anyone who has exhibited any of the symptoms of COVID-19?
- If you must, write down the names and dates of any small number of screened visitors on the farm for traceability purposes.
- For more information on on-farm disease prevention, producers are encouraged to consult the National Biosecurity Standards and Biosecurity Principles and National Farm-Level Biosecurity Planning Guide.

3. Reinforce general hygiene practices with your staff and family

- Review Alberta Health Services or the Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines, such as increased hand washing and coughing into your elbow.
- If you are feeling unwell, stay away from your herd. If you must, it's preferred that you wear gloves and mask and do not sneeze on animals or let them lick you.
- In the barn, pay particular attention to surfaces you and other people are touching: door handles, taps, hoses, bulk tank openings and valves, milking equipment, etc. Ensure you clean these areas additionally before and after visits of milk truck drivers, veterinarians, and other service providers.
- Require staff and farm workers to wear disposable gloves at all times, paying special attention to hand and glove hygiene when milking cattle or handling milking equipment.
- Reinforce these hygiene measures with your staff and farm workers.

4. Consider updating your business continuity plan

- A document is available on the Members Only page to help guide you through decisions that may need to be made in the event of an emergency. This includes the situation whereas you may need to discard large quantities of milk.

5. Stay up to date on information

- Alberta Milk will post information on the Member's Only page and email you. Please utilize your delegate as a resource if you have any questions and don't hesitate to contact the office at 1-877-361-1231.



deadlines

quota transfers

Apr. 16, 2020, at
4:30 p.m.

credit transfers

Apr. 23, 2020, at
4:30 p.m.

for sale cont'd

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Holstein heifers, fresh or springing. **Phone 403-330-9558.**

Breeding age Jersey bulls. Dams many generations. VG, EX + high LPI. Make Holstein heifers easy to freshen. Rochester, AB. **Phone 780-698-2267.**

Breeding age bulls available from top sires with high LPI and production. Tested for semen, Leukosis and BVD. Also, milking heifers and embryo's available **Phone 403-315-4536.**

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Holstein heifer, open, springing and fresh, also Jersey springing. **Phone 403-330-9558.**

Alfalfa 2nd cut, some rain, also alfalfa 3rd cut dairy quality. Test results available. **Phone 403-330-7090.**

Milk pasteurizer Westward 60 gallon. **Phone or text 780-720-4888**



Local Videos Launched

Source: Jamie Elias, School and Agriculture Program Assistant

Marketing and communications have been working on a social media campaign featuring our Alberta dairy farmers. The concept came from the research done from the 2019 Canadian Centre for Food Integrity data about consumer trust. They suggest that the most influential way to build trust is through shared values. So far, we have launched two videos with more coming throughout the year highlighting animal care, milk quality, environmental impact and technology.

The first video we launched in conjunction with Family Day, features Karen from Ponoka, a young mom who shares her story on the farm and raising children. The hope is that urban moms can relate to her and appreciate that her family has the same values as their own; love, dedication for hardwork, and caring for what they do.

The second video we launched with International Women's Day featured Brit from Didsbury, our hope is that by putting a relatable person to our audience on screen millennials will connect with her message. Of course, it talks about dairy, but it also addresses mental health, family and that feeling many younger people may have of trying to find your way. It's meant to empower women and showcase someone that's thriving in a male dominated industry.

You can find these videos on our website, albertamilk.com under meet a dairy farmer or find us on Facebook and Instagram @albertamilk to stay up to date with the latest in Alberta Milk news.

Stay Connected!

Source: Karlee Conway, Marketing and Communications Manager

Now more than ever it's important that we continue to work together closely. Here are some ways that you can help:

Ensure your contact information is up to date Working through COVID-19 was an excellent test to see if we had your correct information. We updated many phone numbers and email addresses. It's vital in an emergency situation that we can get a hold of you. Please contact Cristin in the office if you want to update your information.

Let's get Social

Are you on social media? Let's connect! Alberta Milk strives to share the good stories about Alberta's dairy farmers. One way we accomplish that is through social media. We want to share your stories through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

We need to connect! Help us work together by sending us your social media handles. This will allow us to help share your stories with people that want to learn about dairy farming. You can just private or direct message any of our social media accounts.

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Alberta's Classroom Agriculture Program Turns 35!

Source: Classroom Agriculture Program

2020 marks the 35th anniversary of the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) in Alberta! CAP was developed to enhance grade four urban students' understanding of agriculture and where their food comes from, as well as to foster a greater respect for the agriculture industry and the people who make Alberta-based food production a reality.

The backbone of CAP is the volunteers who come from all aspects of the agriculture industry and bring a strong, positive, enthusiastic message about Alberta agriculture to the urban students. Through it's 35-year history, more than 600,000 grade four students from across Alberta have participated in CAP.

The program's objectives continue to create a positive perception about the:

- immediate value of agriculture to the economy;
- immediate value of agriculture in providing employment in both primary and secondary sectors;
- immediate value of agriculture to the Canadian lifestyle;
- immediate appreciation of Alberta food production and processing;
- need to protect and preserve the land base which supports the production of food for Canadians;
- importance of soil conservation; and
- career opportunities throughout the entire spectrum of agriculture including support industries.

The Classroom Agriculture Program was conceptualized by Vickie King, a member of the Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture. In 1985, she was successful in garnering funds from the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) to jumpstart the program. The other funding partners joining ACC were AgWare, Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture, the Beef Education Association, and the Beef Information Centre. Alberta Agriculture also offered financial assistance by hosting volunteer workshops throughout Alberta.

The first CAP presentations were made to 395 schools, equating to 1,126 presentations and reaching 29,739 grade four, five, and six students. Thirty-five years later, 260 CAP volunteers provided presentations to 21,745 grade four students, in 942 classes, from 496 schools across our province. Feedback from teachers continues to be positive about the program and they look forward to hosting CAP volunteers each year.

The program not only has an impact on school children, but also in its volunteers. A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who take the time each year to visit participating schools and share their stories about agriculture.

"Although I've been the General Manager for five years, I've been a volunteer with CAP for 32 of its 35 years," said Don George. "During that time, it has been my privilege to help kids understand the importance of agriculture. Not only students, but often I find teachers asking me questions. I still give presentations every year. I really enjoy talking about agriculture and CAP give me the chance to do that."

Congratulations Classroom Agriculture Program on 35 years of sharing our agriculture story.



for sale cont'd

Dairy quality alfalfa, alfalfa grass mix, and low potassium grass hay. All hay tested and delivery available.

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Dairy Production Statistics

Producer Pool Additions/Deductions February 2020

	Additions (\$)	Deductions (\$)
Audit Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Bulk Tank Callibration	0.00	1,650.00
Discarded	0.00	48,229.04
WMP	190,521.43	353,125.06
Interest	20,490.23	90.87
Metering	61,679.50	0.00
Trucking	0.00	3,450.00
Violations	494,705.44	0.00
Average Deductions per Kg Total Solids		(\$0.0095)

Average Milk Prices

Month	TPQ \$/hL
Feb 2020	85.26
Jan	85.70
Dec	84.92
Nov	85.39
Oct	84.94
Sep	81.99
Aug	80.38
July	79.50
June	79.99
May	80.07
Apr	80.24
Mar	82.72

Provincial Average Components February 2020

Butterfat	4.2634 kg/hl
Protein	3.2408 kg/hl
Other Solids	5.9024 kg/hl

2019-2020 Quota Exchange and Credit Transfer Deadlines

Transfer Date	Quota Exchange	Credit Transfer
Apr. 1, 2020	Mar. 17, 2020	Apr. 23, 2020
May 1, 2020	Apr. 16, 2020	May 22, 2020
June 1, 2020	May 15, 2020	June 23, 2020
July 1, 2020	June 16, 2020	July 24, 2020

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

Class 5 Prices (\$/kg) April 2020

Milk Class	Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids
Class 5a	5.8033	8.8776	0.5126
Class 5b	5.8033	3.1244	3.1244
Class 5c	5.7113	2.801	2.801
Class 5d	contract by contract price		
Class 4m	contract by contract price		

Provincial Milk Quality Averages

Month	Bacteria Average (IBC)	Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
Feb 2020	22,372	188,532

Dairy Production Statistics



Quota Exchange Daily Production Quota		
Month	Total Transferred	Clearing Price /kg
Apr 2020	102.40	\$44,000
Mar	76.50	\$44,930
Feb	20.29	\$43,900
Jan	14.00	\$42,830
Dec	60.00	\$41,525
Nov	25.00	\$41,225
Oct	26.75	\$41,052
Sep	50.00	\$41,000
Aug	12.86	\$41,850
July	66.00	\$42,500
June	35.00	\$41,815
May	96.10	\$40,100

Underproduction Credit Transfers		
Month	Kg	Price/ eligible kg
Feb 2020	103,551.99	\$8.70
Jan	125,515.97	\$5.98
Dec	114,238.91	\$4.89
Nov	102,492.61	\$4.89
Oct	129,899.66	\$4.49
Sep	108,199.11	\$4.06
Aug	145,660.86	\$4.83
July	99,748.51	\$8.32
June	93,768.83	\$9.28
May	93,677.04	\$9.34
Apr	102,077.01	\$8.88

Quota and Milk Production Summary (BF kg)					
Month	January	February	March	April	May
Status	Official	Pre-Pooling	Projected	Projected	Projected
Alberta					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	96,576	96,850	97,001	96,799	96,343
Provincial Quota (kg/day)	85,229	88,794	92,186	90,110	93,430
Producer Quota (kg/day)	93,468	93,512	93,512	93,512	93,512
Producer Quota + Incentive Credits (kg/day)	93,468	93,512	93,512	93,512	93,512
Cumulative Position (%)					
Producer Position (Days)	-7.14	-6.17	-5.07	-4.07	-3.19
Provincial Position (Days)	-13.61	-10.43	-8.43	-6.40	-5.20
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
Western Milk Pool					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	277,501	277,679	277,134	275,697	272,819
Pool Quota (kg/day)	242,165	252,293	261,931	256,031	265,466
Cumulative Position (%)*	-1.48%	-0.73%	-0.26%	-0.34%	0.57%
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
*The P10 pool's limits on production are +1.25% and -2.00% of the P10 rolling 12-month quota.					



services cont'd

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Phone 780-467-6040.



Alberta Production and Quota Update

Source: Jonathan Ntoni, Policy Analyst

Production Update

Daily average production in February was 2.27 million litres, an increase of 25,337 litres (+1.13 per cent) over January. Provincial average butterfat density peaked at 4.3206 kg/hl in November and is on a seasonal decline. The provincial average butterfat density in February was 4.2634 kg/hl, a 0.84 per cent drop from January.

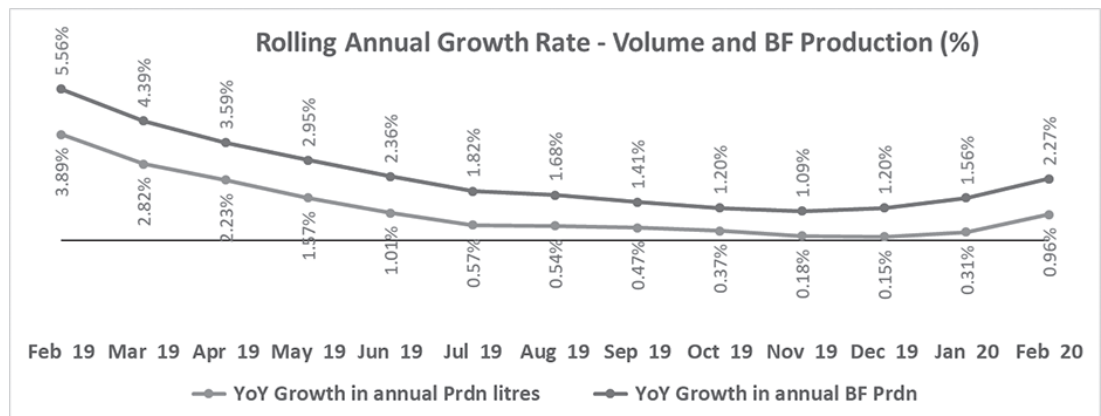
Comparing on an annual basis, there was +0.96 per cent growth in volume in the 12-month period ending February 2020 over the 12-month period ending February 2019; and a +2.27 per cent growth in butterfat production for the same period. See the chart below for the most recent 12-month trend.

Quota Update

The WMP's rolling 12-month quota slightly decreased by 0.01 per cent in January over December. Alberta's daily producer quota issuance rate in January 2019 was 93,468 kg/day (i.e. 97.85 per cent relative to past 12-month CDC quota allocation).

Provincial and Pools' Quota Utilization: Cumulative Quota Positions (CQP) as at the end of January 2020 for the WMP, P5 and P10 were -1.48, -0.88 and -1.13 per cent respectively.

The WMP over-produced its monthly CDC quota allotment by 1,095,409 kilograms of butterfat in January 2020 due to seasonality. There were no incentive days in place for February 2020.





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