



December 2020

milking TIMES

Published monthly for dairy farmers in Alberta and our industry partners

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New Chair Elected

Source: Karlee Conway, Marketing and Communications Manager

Stuart Boeve was elected as the new chair of Alberta Milk at the Alberta Milk Annual General Meeting that was held on November 18, 2020. Boeve succeeds Tom Kootstra who served as chair since 2016. The vice chair is Gert Schrijver and second vice chair is Greg Debbink.

“I’m honoured to be elected to serve dairy farmers across Alberta and I’m committed to ensuring our organization is best positioned to be a strong partner in our industry,” says Boeve. “I’d like to thank Tom for his years of leadership and as well as the board members for their trust in me. I look forward to continuing to work together with the members of the Western Milk Pool and the P5 in supporting the Canadian dairy industry.”

Boeve served as a delegate for Alberta Milk since 2009. He previously served as the vice chair and participated on various industry committees including Canadian Milk Supply Management, Western Milk Pool, and Transportation. He has grown forages and has managed the family dairy farm in southern Alberta for over 25 years with his family.

“The next chapter of Alberta Milk’s leadership is undoubtably bright,” says Kootstra, who chose not to run again. “It has been an honour to serve the dairy farmers in Alberta. I depart with incredible pride and gratitude, not simply because of my role as chair, but because I have stood with some of the best.”

Alberta Milk would like to acknowledge and thank all three outgoing directors: Tom Kootstra, Martin Van Diemen, and Albert Kamps. The board welcomes Mike Vanden Dool, JP Brouwer and Wim Van de Brake as new members on the board of directors. Director terms are three years and the chair role is elected annually.



Stuart Boeve

Holiday Office Closures

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff at Alberta Milk!

Our office will be closed December 24, 25, 28, 2020 and January 1, 2021.

our mission

Collaborating to build a thriving industry that produces high quality milk and dairy products within Canada’s supply managed system.





board of directors

Stuart Boeve

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Gert Schrijver

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Board Report

Source: Alberta Milk Board of Directors

The Alberta Milk Board met on October 14.

Financial Statements

The board approved the 2019-20 Audited Financial Statements as they appear in the 2019-20 Annual Report. The annual report is available on albertamilk.com for review, and hard copies will be mailed upon request.

Quota Management Policies

The board approved the following quota management policies:

- Producers can sell up to 10% of eligible annual quota credits in a 12-month rolling period, subject to board ability to implement policies (which can include incentive days and credit day restrictions) to either incent or reduce production. Timeline for implementation is August 1, 2021.
- A policy will be developed by August 1, 2021 whereby there would be less of a restriction on credit day usage (when restrictions are put in place) for new producers who own 60 kg or less of quota.
- All quota sales and purchases (except for whole farm transfers and family transfers) must be transferred via the Quota Exchange. This change will commence on January 1, 2021 (December 15, 2020 Quota Exchange deadline).
- The maximum bid to buy quota on the Quota Exchange will remain at 30 kgs.

Cull Dairy Cattle

The board reminds all producers of the criteria for determining if cull dairy cattle are 'fit to ship'. Please review the included inserts (*Important Decisions for Transporting Dairy Cull Cows*, and *Transporting Unfit or Compromised Animals*) so that you are aware and understand the best practices to implement on your farm.

Transporting Dairy Cull Cows

Source: Jesse Schuster, Project Contractor

Producers take pride in caring for their cows on-farm. It is also important for producers to take care in deciding which cows are fit for transport. Decisions regarding when to cull a cow and where to send her can significantly affect her wellbeing, particularly for animals already compromised or unfit. Regardless of whose care the animal may pass through, it is ultimately the producer who is held accountable should one of their animals be deemed to have been transported inappropriately.

You will find a resource titled *Important Decisions for Transporting Dairy Cull Cows* inserted with this issue of *Milking Times*. It offers a guide to help producers make the right decisions when shipping their cattle:

- On one side you will find a Decision Tree which identifies potential risk factors that may affect an animal's fitness for transport, including body condition score, lactation status, lameness, and injury identification.
- On the other side you will see a table for animals identified as being unfit or compromised and acceptable locations where they can be sent for humane slaughter. Animals deemed to be unfit for transport may only be transported on the advice of a veterinarian for care or humane euthanasia. If you are unsure if your animal is fit, please seek the advice of your veterinarian.

To learn more about transporting your cows and the new *Health of Animals Regulations: Part XII: Transport of Animals-Regulatory Amendment*, please sign up for an informative virtual webinar on December 10 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Please contact Jesse Schuster at drecalhmp@albertamilk.com or 587-968-0826.



Milk Quality and Feed Contamination

Source: Kelly Mauthe, Member Services Specialist

In the past few years there have been several feed contamination issues that have resulted in producer penalties, producer production losses, and processor product disposal. The impact of these issues is profound and can involve millions of dollars in losses. It is vital that you understand the risks associated with contaminated milk and take steps to reduce that risk.

Know the Risks!

1. Contaminated feed may cause your milk to be rejected for antibiotics and penalties will be applied.
2. Cows who consume contaminated feed sometimes take several days to clear the contamination. Expect to discard many days worth of milk.
 - a. Sometimes feed manufactured for beef/pork/chicken contains substances not routinely tested for in milk. This can cause long delays in finding a suitable test for these products to prove your milk is negative.
3. On-farm feed mills and shared feed wagons are a risk – make sure controls are in place to avoid contamination of your dairy feed.
4. Discuss with your feed provider the steps taken to ensure you get a safe feed product every time.
 - a. Steps taken during production at the feed mill
 - b. Potential transportation issues
 - i. Are the trailers that deliver your feed used to haul any other feeds or animals?
 - ii. How are the trailer compartments flushed?
5. Check the load of feed you receive. Ask your feed provider to leave a sample so that you can view the contents. Sometimes a visual check of the feed sample will reveal that the load delivered to you wasn't meant for your dairy.

If you suspect your milk may be contaminated, immediately contact the Alberta Milk emergency hotline at 780-491-2666.

IBC Results: Correction

Source: Alberta Milk

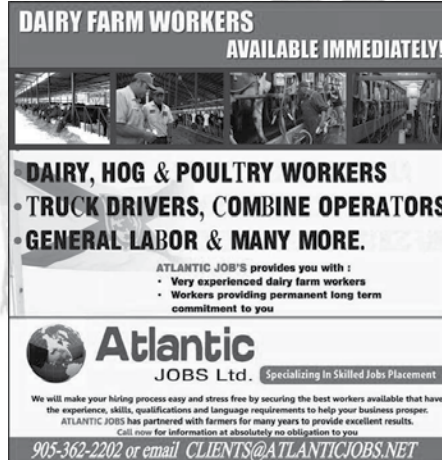
Producers may have noticed in the past weeks that they received some higher than expected IBC test results. Alberta Milk and the CMT lab analyzed the IBC data in question and Alberta Milk has determined that the IBC results for samples tested at the lab from October 26 to November 3 (inclusive) are questionable and will be removed from all producers' records. IBC results for samples tested before October 26 and after November 3 are not affected.

Alberta Milk and the Central Milk Testing lab apologize for any impact of these questionable IBC results. If you have questions or need further information, contact Kelly Mauthe at Alberta Milk (780-577-3314).

Fall Producer Meetings

Source: Kelsie Gilks, Marketing and Communications Specialist

Fall producer meetings were held October 27-29 in all three regions of the province. Sessions were closed to producers and a total of 290 producers were in attendance. One of the key items that was discussed at the Fall Producer Meetings was the Board decisions regarding quota management policies. Further details on the quota policy changes can be found on the Members' Only website. Updates on Dairy Innovation West, impacts of COVID-19 and CUSMA on the dairy industry, as well as marketing initiatives were provided. The presentation slides are available by visiting the Members' Only page.



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2019-20 annual report

The annual report is available to view online. You can also request a hard copy at albertamilk.com.

deadlines

quota transfers

December 15,
2020 at 4:30 p.m.

credit transfers

December 22,
2020 at 4:30 p.m.

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Marketing Update

Source: Marketing and Communications Team

Hanna Holstein

We'd like to introduce you to Hanna the Holstein. Hanna is the newest edition to the Alberta Milk social media team. She is an influencer, intended to reach Millennial and Gen Z consumers looking to learn more about the dairy industry in a fun and non-invasive way. She is funny, relatable, and from the prairies. If you'd like to follow Hanna, you can find her on Facebook @HannaSaysMoo and Instagram @HannaSaysMoo.

Pass Off Challenge

Alberta Milk partnered with T1 and Alberta Schools Athletic Association (ASAA) to run the pass off challenge from Oct 13- Nov 9. To participate, students had to create a video for Tik Tok or Instagram of them showing off a skill from their sport and "passing it off" to another student. We had 121 students participate but only 4 winners could be chosen. The prize was one of four \$5,000 sponsorships for the schools' sports programs. The winners are Glendon School, Kitscoty Junior and Senior High, Cochrane High School, and Jasper Place High School. The total impressions from this contest were nearly 2 million Albertans.

Video Series

We have worked hard to develop a video series that introduces consumers to some of the famers, and their families, behind dairy in Alberta. Using the camera on your smart phone, scan this image which takes you to our YouTube channel where you can watch all of the videos we've developed so far.



Behind the Blue Cow

Behind the Blue Cow is the newest amplification that will be targeted at Millennial and Gen-Z consumers for the month of December. The Blue Cow logo has become a recognized symbol for high-quality dairy products, and we want consumers to continue to look for, and recognize it, while also getting to know some of the farmers behind the logo. It's always important to remind consumers to look for the logo, but during the holidays, when consumption typically increases, it becomes even more important.

fairlife: Now Made with 100% Canadian Milk

Source: fairlife

The premium, ultrafiltered milk is proudly made by a local team in Peterborough, Ontario, and fully supplied by Canadian dairy farmers.

"We are very proud to announce that fairlife is now made in Canada with 100% Canadian milk," said Darlene Nicosia, President, Coca-Cola Ltd.

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Impressive Updates to a Popular Nutrition Resource: Food Picture Cards Resource Kit

Source: Dairy Farmers of Canada; Alberta Nutrition Team

A new way to visually showcase milk and milk products

Nutrition resources funded by dairy farmers have been a staple in Alberta schools for over 50 years. The 2019 *Canada's Food Guide* merged the *Milk and Alternatives and Meat and Alternatives* food groups to the Protein Foods category. Since then, teachers have been asking our team for resources to teach *Canada's Food Guide* and we have been looking for ways to visually showcase the unique contribution of milk and milk products to healthful diets and daily food choices. Our team has struck that balance with the new Food Picture Cards Resource Kit released in November 2020.

Components of the Resource Kit

The Food Picture Cards Resource Kit features teaching tools to help grades K-6 students identify a variety of foods, understand how foods are grown and produced, and plan meals and snacks. This project was supported by Ag for Life, an organization dedicated to improving children's understanding and appreciation of agriculture. The kit includes

- 100 Food Picture Cards showcasing a variety of vegetables and fruits, whole grain foods, protein foods, beyond *Canada's Food Guide* foods, and mixed dishes,
- three *Canada's Food Guide* Study Prints,
- seven Food Origin Study Prints,
- a comprehensive Teacher Guide with ten cross-curricular activities for Grades K-3 and 4-6, and
- six online learning activities for Grades K-3 and 4-6 to accommodate pandemic-safe learning.

History of the Food Picture Cards

The last iteration of Food Picture Cards were retired in Alberta alongside the release of the 2019 *Canada's Food Guide*, as the cards included food group classifications which are now incorrect. Food Picture Cards have historically been offered in Alberta as part of the Power to Play program and as stand-alone resources with an accompanying cross-curricular activity guide. The cards were always very popular with high perceived value from teachers.

Teacher-informed redevelopment and pandemic-safe learning

Pilot testing and classroom observations were conducted in late 2019, and teacher feedback was used to inform our redevelopment process such as ensuring Food Origin Study Prints highlighting how foods are grown and produced were included. These Study Prints offer an opportunity to help students make connections between dairy farming and the milk products available to them. Since the Food Picture Cards and Study Prints are hands-on resources, COVID-19 physical distancing requirements led to a reimagining of the learning activities. Online options based on the original classroom activities have been developed.

If you would like to preview these resources or share them with teachers in your community, visit TeachNutrition.ca. If you have questions for our team, please contact albertanutrition@dfc-plc.ca.



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Genomic tested milking 1st and 2nd lactating cows, Genomic tested springing heifers calving Jun-Aug. Grade tested springing heifers calving June-Aug. Genomic tested Bulls. Dutchman Dairy Ltd. Phone 403-507-9030

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proAction® - Cattle Assessment Continuous Improvement Requirements

Source: Adapted from Dairy Farmers of Canada Notice of Change- Animal Care Module

A review of the data from recent cattle assessments indicates that herd scores are improving across Canada. This is positive news.

Importantly, the data review also indicates the need for continuous improvement requirements to help individual farms address animal care in their herd. These new requirements establish reasonable and achievable targets to drive improvement where needed. These changes will demonstrate to your peers, consumers and the public that animal care is your top priority and that meeting standards is expected and required.

Changes are Coming

The changes in continuous improvement for the cattle assessment question of the Animal Care module will come into effect starting March 2021. Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC), through the Animal Care Technical Committee and in consultation with provincial members like Alberta Milk, has reviewed the data from the first-round cattle assessments and re-evaluated the expectations for corrective action and continuous improvement. This has resulted in the following changes:

1. Peer report zones will be fixed rather than based on percentiles. Thresholds have been established based on the first round of cattle assessments (Table 1).
2. Cattle scoring a “3” (Monitor) for lameness will be shown more prominently on the report with a message that these cows are mild to moderately lame and a corrective action plan (CAP) is recommended. This is to encourage identification of the root cause and prevent lameness in the future.



We acknowledge the support of the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta through the partnership.

3. A dark red zone has been temporarily added (less than 60% acceptable in any category), which will result in increased cattle assessment requirements. Beginning in spring 2023, the dark red and red zones will be combined, with the increased requirements applying to any category scoring in the red zone.
4. If you have results in the Red or Dark Red zone, you must use the CAP template in consultation with your dairy professional(s), such as a veterinarian, nutritionist or other dairy specialist.

The Dark Red Zone

If one or more categories score in the dark red zone (from March 2021 until 2023), it will trigger the following:

1. an increase in the frequency of cattle assessments, every 12 months (instead of 24),
2. an increase in the number of cows assessed.

After three consecutive dark red zone results for the same animal measure, farms must demonstrate improvement out of the zone in order to meet proAction requirements and maintain program registration. In March 2023, these increased requirements will apply to any red zone results.

For questions, please contact Morgan Hobin at 780-577-3318 or mhobin@albertamilk.com.

Table 1. Zone Thresholds for Cattle Assessments (percentage acceptable)

Zones	Body Condition Score	Injuries and Lameness
Green (Excellent)	≥95%	≥90%
Yellow (CAP* recommended)	80% to 94%	75% to 89%
Red (CAP required)	60% to 79%	60% to 74%
Dark Red (CAP and increased cattle assessment required)	<60%	<60%

*CAP: Corrective Action Plan



Know YOUR Business to Moo-ve forward

Source: Pauline Van Biert, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Join the 2021 Dairy Cost Study Program

Throughout 2020 and these times of COVID-19, we have had periods of uncertainty and adjustment not only personally but also affecting the farm level. Demand for milk production has fluctuated as processors made adjustments to meet changes in the marketplace. Many farmers mention having a business analysis leading to a written plan for their farm contributes to their peace of mind and better coping mechanisms when facing uncertainty and stress. Do you have a plan? You can start this process by having a farm cost of production business analysis prepared for you through participation on the Dairy Cost Study program.

Dairy farming and milk production is becoming more complex and farmers need to be resilient and flexible. Having your own current cost of production numbers helps you look at or think about farm management options.

Many farmers have benefited from the individual farm analysis and the resulting Alberta benchmark report. It takes a bit of time, but it is time well invested. The largest benefit is finding out where the farm currently stands regarding cost breakdown and profit margins. Once you know where you are can you make a plan going forward. Use the Dairy Cost Study as an important resource moo-ving forward.

Get involved and you can earn a \$500 honorarium. Contact Pauline Van Biert at pauline.vanbiert@gov.ab.ca or 780-415-2153. Also online at www.alberta.ca/agriprofits-dairy.aspx.

December DRECA Conversation

Source: Kira MacMillan, Interim Research and Extension Coordinator

The Dairy Research and Extension Consortium of Alberta (DRECA) is a partnership among Alberta Milk, the universities of Alberta and Calgary, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Lakeland College and the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association to advance research and extension in the Alberta dairy industry.

The December DRECA conversation is on cull cow transport. You care for your animals through their entire lives, and that care must continue when cows leave the farm as well. The first research summary is from the 2015 National Dairy Study on farmers decisions and perceptions around cull cow transport. The second summary is on a project that followed cull cows from Alberta and BC dairy farms to their final destination, to provide insight into the cull cow's journey. Additionally, DREA interview Drs. Jennifer Walker and Lily Edwards-Callaway on their research into cull cow transport and welfare. They discuss their evaluation of cull cow transport in the U.S. and recommendations to the entire industry on assessment, management and transport of cull cattle. Additional informational resources on assessing cull cattle for transport and changes to cattle transport regulations are also available.

You can view this conversation and past extension conversations, research summaries, videos and webinars at albertamilk.com/for-industry/dreca/.



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Changes to the Marketing of Agricultural Product Act (MAPA)

Source: Freda Molenkamp-Oudman, General Manager

On July 23, 2020, the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* (MAPA) was amended by the Government of Alberta to provide a more flexible and efficient regulatory framework for marketing boards and commissions that operate in Alberta. The amendments to MAPA provide the authority for marketing boards and commissions to make bylaws.

Alberta Milk is a not-for-profit organization (marketing board) that is established under MAPA. The regulations and authorities governing our organization, including our authority to develop policy, are also established through MAPA. Our regulations define what we can and cannot do as an organization – and our *Plan Regulation* is the key regulation that establishes us as an organization and sets out our governance requirements. The *Plan Regulation* sets the purpose, objectives, governance framework and guides the operation of our organization. This regulation is made by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry at the request of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Marketing Council).

Marketing Council has developed an implementation schedule for all marketing boards and commissions to begin the process of making bylaws and Alberta Milk is one of the first three organizations that will start the bylaw process this year. For us to establish bylaws, changes will be necessary to our *Plan Regulation* - many of the internal governance related provisions would be removed from the *Plan Regulation* and moved into bylaws made by our organization upon the approval of Marketing Council. Provisions such as director terms, producer eligibility and rights, voting and election processes, duties of returning officer, etc. would move into bylaws rather than remain in our *Plan Regulation*.

Alberta Milk began this work already in 2011 so we are excited about the opportunity to finally complete this important task. Having bylaws will enable Alberta's dairy industry to be much nimbler as bylaws will not require cabinet or ministerial approval.

We will keep you updated throughout the process. Please connect with Freda Molenkamp-Oudman if you have any questions (fmolenkampoudman@albertamilk.com).



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Fall Incentive Days and Quota Allocation Update

Source: Alberta Milk

The Western Milk Pool (WMP) met in November to discuss the market requirements in the west through the fall/winter months in order to ensure an adequate supply of milk to processors. In order to meet projected requirements in the west, production adjustments are required.

The Alberta Milk Board approved issuance of the following, **effective December 1, 2020**:

1. **Three (3) incentive days** for December (in alignment with the other WMP provinces);
2. A **1.8% quota increase for all Alberta producers**. This quota increase will align the quota issuance levels of Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia with that of Saskatchewan, which currently sits at the highest quota issuance level in the WMP.

The Alberta Milk Board, along with the Western Milk Pool (WMP) members, will assess the possible need for incentive days for January 2021 over the upcoming weeks.

Please do not hesitate to contact Alberta Milk staff if you have any technical questions:
 Cristin Vollrath, quota coordinator
 780-577-3312 ext 3312
 Jonathan Ntoni, policy analyst
 780-577-3313 ext 3313

The update schedule of issues quota and incentive days in 2020 is as follows:

Month	Quota Issuance	Issued Incentive Days
Jan 20	-	
Feb 20	-	
Mar 20	-	
Apr 20	-3.0%	
May 20	-	
Jun 20	-	
Jul 20	-	
Aug 20	-	
Sep 20	+1.0%	
Oct 20	+3.0%	3 days
Nov 20	-	3 days (previously 2 days)
Dec 20	+1.8%	3 days*
* New Information		

Reminder: Changes to Quota Exchange Effective January 1, 2021

Source: Alberta Milk

An outcome of the recent quota management changes is that all quota sales and purchases (except for whole farm transfers and family transfers), must be transferred via the Quota Exchange. This change will commence on January 1, 2021. Thus, it will be implemented on the December 15, 2020 Quota Exchange deadline. Please contact Cristin Vollrath for any questions regarding the Quota Exchange at 780-577-3312.



services

Alberta Holstein Association www.albertaholstein.ca for industry news, upcoming events, movies, show results and more!

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Producer Pool Additions/Deductions October 2020

	Additions (\$)	Deductions (\$)
Audit Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Bulk Tank Callibration	0.00	2,070.00
Discarded	0.00	38,476.82
WMP	0.00	337,976.23
Interest	3,344.36	0.00
Metering	58,651.04	0.00
Trucking	0.00	725.00
Violations	46,385.65	0.00
Average Deductions per Kg Total Solids		(\$0.0296)

Average Milk Prices

Month	TPQ \$/hL
Oct 2020	86.86
Sep	82.34
Aug	78.65
Jul	79.31
Jun	82.07
May	82.46
Apr	83.57
Mar	84.62
Feb	85.26
Jan	85.70
Dec	84.92
Nov	85.39

2020-21 Quota Exchange and Credit Transfer Deadlines

Transfer Date	Quota Exchange	Credit Transfer
Dec 1	Nov 16	Dec 22
Jan 1	Dec 15	Jan 22
Feb 1	Jan 15	Feb 23
Mar 1	Feb 16	Mar 24
Apr 1	Mar 17	Apr 23
May 1	Apr 16	May 25
Jun 1	May 18	Jun 23
Jul 1	Jun 16	Jul 23
Aug 1	Jul 16	Aug 24
Sep 1	Aug 17	Sep 23
Oct 1	Sep 16	Oct 22
Nov 1	Oct 15	Nov 23
Dec 1	Nov 16	Dec 22

Provincial Average Components October 2020

Butterfat	4.3301 kg/hl
Protein	3.2982 kg/hl
Other Solids	5.8829kg/hl

Provincial Milk Quality Averages October 2020

Bacteria Average (IBC)	Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
26,123	188,513

Dairy Production Statistics

Quota Exchange Daily Production Quota			Underproduction Credit Transfers		
Month	Total Transferred	Clearing Price /kg	Month	Kg	Price/ eligible kg
Dec 2020	93.00	\$44,075	Nov 2020	96,811.90	\$5.48
Nov	96.25	\$44,230	Oct	75,261.90	\$5.31
Oct	75.64	\$46,000	Sep	81,017.51	\$7.59
Sep	45.60	\$48,500	Aug	53,938.63	\$8.08
Aug	1.36	\$49,255	Jul	68,300.70	\$8.07
Jul	14.21	\$46,650	Jun	45,891.26	\$7.35
Jun	2.00	\$44,100	May	50,730.18	\$6.02
May	71.25	\$43,450	Apr	62,116.92	\$6.07
Apr	102.40	\$44,000	Mar	126,533.10	\$10.20
Mar	76.50	\$44,930	Feb	103,551.99	\$8.70
Feb	20.29	\$43,900	Jan	125,515.97	\$5.98
Jan	14.00	\$42,830	Dec	114,238.91	\$4.89

Quota and Milk Production Summary (BF kg)					
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Status	Official	Pre-Pooling	Projected	Projected	Projected
Alberta					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	91,928	94,597	95,539	97,425	97,835
Provincial Quota (kg/day)	99,510	97,00	96,588	102,043	89,185
Producer Quota (kg/day)	91,670	94,114	94,114	95,808	95,808
Producer Quota + Incentive Credits (kg/day)	91,670	103,222	103,525	105,080	95,808
Cumulative Position (%)					
Producer Position (Days)	-4.17	-3.98	-3.59	-3.07	-2.48
Provincial Position (Days)	-13.44	-14.55	-14.94	-15.55	-14.78
Penalty (kg)	0	0	0	0	0
Western Milk Pool					
Butterfat Production (kg/day)	265,511	272,042	275,817	279,503	278,666
Pool Quota (kg/day)	282,740	275,609	274,439	289,938	253,404
Cumulative Position (%)*	-1.49%	-1.62%	-1.59%	-1.91%	-1.10%
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.



2020 Prairies Cover Crop Survey

Source: University of Manitoba

If you grew a cover crop or are thinking about growing one...we want to hear from you! Researchers from the University of Manitoba are seeking participants for a study to gain more information on cover cropping in the Canadian Prairies. The survey is open to any farmer in the Prairies (MB, SK, AB) who grew a cover crop in 2020 or who is thinking about using cover crops. Participants will take part in a short (approximately 15 mins) online survey:

<https://sites.google.com/view/prairiecovercropsurvey/Survey>

The survey is designed to provide information to industry stakeholders on how and why farmers in the prairies are using cover crops. We want the voice of dairy producers to be heard and to have a say in the future of cover crop research. Participants will receive a survey report describing location and agronomy for cover crops, as well as benefits and challenges experienced.

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Yvonne Lawley
Yvonne.Lawley@umanitoba.ca
(204) 474-6504

Alberta Production and Quota Update

Source: Jonathan Ntoni, Policy Analyst

Production Update:

Daily average production in October was 2.18 million litres, a decrease of 7,094 litres (-0.32 per cent) over September. The average butterfat density in October 2020 was 4.3301, a 3.24 per cent rise from September.

Comparing on an annual basis, there was -0.67 per cent growth in volume in the 12-month period ending October 2020 over the 12-month period ending October 2019; and a +0.60 per cent growth in butterfat production for the same period. See the chart below for the most recent 24-month trend.

Quota Update:

The WMP's rolling 12-month quota decreased by -0.21 per cent in September over August. Alberta's daily producer quota issuance rate in September 2020 was 91,670 kg/day, 96.45 per cent relative to past 12-month CDC quota allocation (daily producer quota issuance is 94,114 kg in October).

Pools' Quota Utilization:

Cumulative Quota Positions (CQP) as at the end of September 2020 for the WMP, P5 and P10 were -0.38, -1.05 and -1.61 per cent respectively. This means that the respective pools on a cumulative basis are all under-producing by their respective percentages as stated above.

The WMP under-filled its monthly CDC quota allotment by 516,858 kilograms of butterfat in September 2020 or -6.09 per cent relative to -7.79 per cent same period last year.

