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# STAY CONNECTED—FOR YOUR OWN MENTAL HEALTH AND THE HEALTH OF OTHERS



By Jennifer Nevans  
EDITOR

Last month, people from around the world came together to take part in the biggest conversation around mental health. Now in its 11th year, the Bell Let's Talk campaign aims to promote mental health education, research and awareness and end the stigma of mental illness.

For every applicable text, call, tweet or TikTok video using the hashtag #BellLetsTalk, as well as for every view of the Bell Let's Talk social media video and for every Facebook or Snapchat video made using the campaign filter, Bell donated five cents to mental health initiatives across Canada.

A recent poll conducted by the Angus Reid Institute found that with lockdowns, isolation and social distancing, 50 per cent of Canadians reported worsening mental health since the pandemic began. That's why it's important now more than ever to stay connected—for your own mental health and the health of others.

Before the pandemic, about 45 per cent of farmers reported experiencing high stress, according to a national survey of farmer mental health led by Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton from the University of Guelph.

Mental health organizations, advocacy groups and the government have recognized there's a growing concern about mental health in the agriculture industry—even before the virus. Rates of stress, anxiety and suicide are much higher among people who work in this industry compared with the general population. In fact, farmers are 68 per cent more susceptible than the general public to experience chronic stress, which can lead to physical and mental illnesses.

Farm Credit Canada's *Rooted in Strength: Taking Care of Our Families and Ourselves* lists 14 common stressors on the farm, including finances, workload, volatile markets, machinery breakdowns, livestock well-being and uncertain crop yields, among others. Which of these stressors can you resonate with?

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, the pressures that come with this work often mean producers are putting their farm ahead of their own well-being.

The good news is with initiatives like Bell Let's

Talk, conversations around mental health have heightened in recent years as more people step into the spotlight to share their stories.

Last summer, Ontario dairy farmer Courtney Denard shared her struggles with mental health in a June 2020 cover story for the magazine. While the pandemic has added to her stress, mental illness was an issue she struggled with her entire life.

The Ontario farmer found relief in advocacy work and speaking about mental health on social media and through the Bell Let's Talk initiative.

"Count your blessings, recognize your emotions, reach out to people when you need to, especially if you are in crisis," Denard says. "We need to keep the conversation going."

To assist dairy farmers and encourage conversations around mental health, Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) compiles a list of mental health resources producers can access at [milk.org/mentalhealth/](http://milk.org/mentalhealth/). The web page includes mental health news, events, resources and help lines. It's not an exhaustive list of resources, but it's a start if you're looking for support. If you haven't already, DFO encourages you to visit the web page and share the link with family and friends.

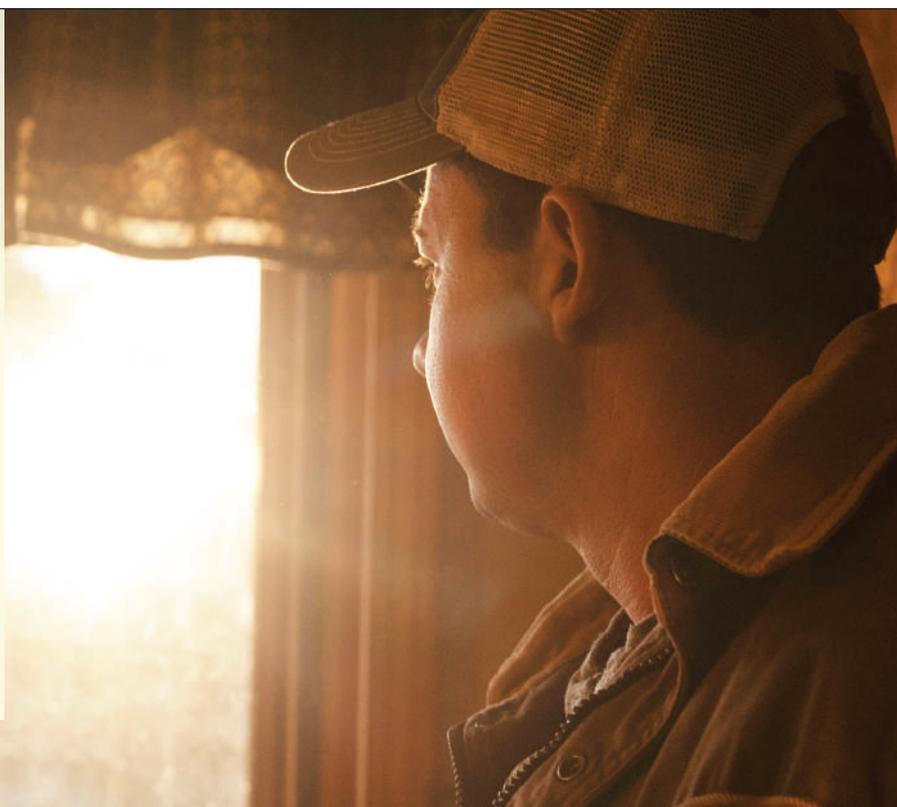
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# LACTANET CANADA TO PERFORM PROACTION INDEPENDENT VALIDATIONS STARTING *JUNE 2021*

**D**airy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) has selected Lactanet as the service provider to perform independent proAction validations, after undergoing a request for proposal (RFP) process last year.

Lactanet's experience working with on-farm programs, its competitive bid and its understanding of the realities of dairy farming were some of the factors that went into this decision.

In December 2019, DFO's board announced it was beginning the process of moving toward using independent validators for proAction to further strengthen the program's credibility with consumers and enable field services representatives (FSRs) to focus on the provincial Raw Milk Quality Program (RMQP).

Over the last year, DFO sought feedback from dairy producer committees (DPCs) on the selection criteria for the service provider, as well as elements of the program's delivery. Throughout the summer, DPCs were updated on the process for the RFP.

DFO has now entered into a contract with Lactanet to carry out the work over the next

four years, starting on June 1, 2021. Lactanet will be responsible for activities related to program verification, such as scheduling, conducting and approving proAction validations, among others. DFO will remain responsible for activities related to producer support, such as providing notices and reminders, as well as the penalty application and appeal processes.

This change in the delivery of proAction demonstrates an increased transparency to consumers and mitigates criticisms of having self-regulated practices.

Producers can direct any questions they have about this process to their FSRs.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q: How will it affect my farm?**

**A:** Once implemented, you will continue to have your FSR conduct Grade A inspections and be your first point of contact. You will have an independent proAction validator conduct your proAction validation on-farm. Veterinarians will continue to be trainers. From



an on-farm standpoint, the program will remain the same other than who conducts the validations.

### **Q: What will FSRs be doing now?**

**A:** FSRs will focus on the RMQP. FSRs are producers' first point of contact for producer needs.

### **Q: How will this affect Grade A inspections?**

**A:** Grade A status will continue to be a prerequisite to proAction. However, inspections will no longer be scheduled with the proAction validation, and they will be unannounced. If your farm's status is Grade A, your validation will proceed. However, if your farm's status is conditional Grade A or non-Grade A, your validation will not be conducted or approved until the farm's status returns to Grade A.

## PRODUCERS HAVE UNTIL **MARCH 31** TO REGISTER FOR DDPP

**C**anadian dairy producers will have until March 31, 2021, to register for the Dairy Direct Payment Program (DDPP).

Eligible producers should have received a letter from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in mid-January, which includes a special code and details on how they can register for the program, either online or using a paper form.

In November 2020, the federal government announced an updated timeline regarding trade compensation for the dairy industry and market access concessions made under the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

It set a schedule to deliver the remaining \$1.405 billion through direct payments to farmers over an accelerated three-year time-

line: \$468 million in 2020-21, \$469 million in 2021-22 and \$468 million 2022-23.

The Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC), in collaboration with provincial milk boards, is getting ready to administer payments to producers. Producers eligible for the payment in 2021 are those who held quota on Oct. 31,

2020. Registered Ontario producers are eligible for \$447.05 per kilogram based on their October 2020 quota.

For more information on the DDPP, visit <https://bit.ly/3sWh8JV>, email [info.direct.p@cdc-ccl.gc.ca](mailto:info.direct.p@cdc-ccl.gc.ca) or call 1-877-246-4682 (TTY: 613-773-2600).

## SUMMARY OF DAIRY DIRECT PAYMENT PROGRAM

- The Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC) will accept registrations until March 31, 2021, which is the end of the government fiscal year;
- Registered Ontario producers are eligible for \$447.05 per kilogram based on their October 2020 quota;
- Eligible producers must register every year of the program to receive a payment;
- Eligible producers should have received a mailed letter from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in mid-January that contains a special code and details on how to register;
- Once producers receive the letter, they will need to register either online or using a paper form. In both cases, producers will need the codes indicated in their letter. Producers should keep the letter in case they need to contact the CDC concerning their program registration at a later date.



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## **2020 AT A GLANCE**

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- 92,000+ GestaLab samples collected for pregnancy confirmation
- 23,500+ Mastitis4 samples tested
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- 100,000+ electronic registrations submitted
- Launched DairyTrace for traceability

## **OTHER DHI ONTARIO & WEST HERD STATISTICS**

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## DFO LAUNCHES MILK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WITH NEW INDUSTRY LOGIN PAGE

Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) has launched the second phase of its website redesign—an updated industry website, which includes a comprehensive Milk Management System (MMS) for producers, processors, transporters and DFO staff.

The new platform, which launched in early February 2021, is a web-based system that uses modern software to integrate all aspects of the milk marketing supply chain, including milk collection, billing, payment, quota exchange and invoicing. It offers more flexibility to help producers effectively access their information online.

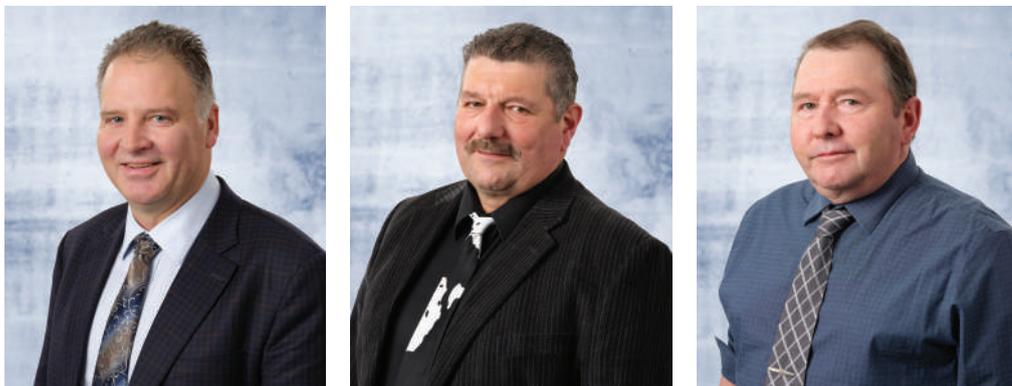
MMS replaces DFO's current IT system, including the industry website, login page and producer dashboard.

“When you log in to the system, you will still see the important information you have al-

ways had access to, such as test results and milk statements, but it will have a brand new look and feel,” says Murray Sherk, DFO's board chair in a letter to all producers earlier this year. “We want to reassure you the functionality you have come to depend on will remain in the new MMS, and the platform has been improved to support future growth.”

The letter also detailed how producers can pre-register for MMS to ensure continued access to DFO's online systems. For those who do not have access to the Internet, DFO hosted a telephone town hall meeting to allow DFO staff to explain the login process and features of the new platform.

Those who require assistance with MMS can call the support centre at 1-866-517-2326 or email [mmssupport@milk.org](mailto:mmssupport@milk.org).



» FROM LEFT are Murray Sherk, Dairy Farmers of Ontario's (DFO) board chair, Nick Thurler, DFO's vice-chair, and Steve Runnalls, DFO's second vice-chair.

## 2021 DFO BOARD EXECUTIVE ELECTED

Dairy Farmers of Ontario's (DFO) board elected its 2021 board executive at a special meeting held on Jan. 13, 2021, following DFO's annual general meeting (AGM).

Murray Sherk, board member for Region 8, was re-elected as chair. Nick Thurler, board member for Region 2, was re-elected as vice-chair. Steve Runnalls, board member for Region 12, was elected as second vice-chair.

As well, Arlene Minott was reappointed as corporate secretary to the board, and Rey Moisan was reappointed as treasurer to the board.

At a special board meeting held on Sept. 30, 2020, DFO's board declared Bart Rijke (Region 1), Don Gordon (Region 5) and Vicky Morrison (Region 9) elected by acclamation to each serve four-year terms, effective Jan. 13, 2021, immediately following the adjournment of DFO's AGM.

## ON-FARM COMPONENT PAYMENT POLICY UPDATE

Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) has updated its *Quota and Milk Transportation Policies* book to reflect changes to the on-farm component payment policy, previously announced by P5 boards in January 2020.

Changes to the on-farm component payment policy have been implemented, effective Feb. 1, 2021, in Ontario, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and will be implemented in Quebec and Nova Scotia no later than Aug. 1, 2021.

These changes have been made to allow producer payments to better reflect the market revenue for solids non-fat (SNF) and ensure better equity between producers in an environment of SNF structural surplus. It does not affect plant billing, but rather the method of distributing revenue among producers.

Before the policy changes, producers were paid the same price for all SNF less than or equal to the ratio of 2.30 and were not paid for SNF when the ratio exceeded 2.30. With the modified policy, two SNF/butterfat (BF) ratios are used to establish payment parameters for SNF below the 2.30 SNF ratio cap. Meanwhile, all BF produced on a within-quota basis is paid at a similar rate as the previous price. For more information on these changes, refer to the Markets section in the January 2021 issue of *Milk Producer*.

For Ontario producers, the new on-farm component payment policy will be reflected in the March 15, 2021, producer milk statement for payment of February milk.

To view the updated *Quota and Milk Transportation Policies* book, visit DFO's industry website. Producers should direct any policy questions to their field services representative.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) is on LinkedIn. Follow DFO at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/dairy-farmers-of-ontario/> to see regular posts on dairy industry news and updates.

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# ARRELL FOOD INSTITUTE EXPERT SHARES INSIGHT INTO *FUTURE OF CANADA'S FOOD SYSTEM*

By Jennifer Nevans  
EDITOR

Turning challenges into opportunities was a key theme during Dairy Farmers of Ontario's (DFO) virtual annual general meeting—a concept Dr. Evan Fraser weaved throughout his presentation as the keynote speaker on Jan. 13, 2021.

Fraser, who is the director of the Arrell Food Institute (AFI) at the University of Guelph, provided more than 600 dairy producers, industry partners and guests with insight into some of the challenges the industry will face in 2021 and beyond. He also shared how the industry can turn those challenges into opportunities.

From dairy concessions as a result of trade agreements to regulatory changes to supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic, Fraser says the dairy sector will face several hurdles, but one notable challenge is the change in consumer preference and buying habits.

"I'm seeing evidence published in the last 10 months that suggest, at the global level, demand for meat and dairy may not be rising as fast as we expected," he says, adding the global population is also not rising as fast as expected and will likely decline after 2050 to a level that is lower than today.

He says about 70 per cent of the world population is reportedly either reducing meat consumption or leaving meat off the table entirely—and millennials are driving the worldwide shift away from meat. These changes are supported by some dietitians and other professionals and are also reflected in the new *Canada's Food Guide*.

Couple this with the fact there are new products coming to market, such as bioengineered

or lab-made dairy products, that will compete against traditional livestock products at the grocery store, the dairy sector will face increased competition.

"We all have to be prepared for the very real possibility that a company focused on using cellular agriculture to produce dairy proteins will be competing for space in the grocery aisles," he says. "We have to recognize the fact that at the global scale, we may be approaching peak livestock consumption due to a lower and older population, changing consumer demands and new protein products."

However, where there are challenges, there's opportunities, he says. AFI and the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI) took part in a Growing Stronger project that studied how the food system performed during the pandemic. They learned the food system bent but didn't break—though it came close to breaking a couple of times, especially during the onset of the pandemic, Fraser says.

They also learned most of the issues related to the food system, such as labour shortages or food insecurity, were known by the industry for many years, but were publicly brought to light because of COVID-19.

AFI and CAPI discovered consumers believe the agri-food industry can and should be a cornerstone of the economy, providing an opportunity for the industry to play a leadership role.

In the post-COVID-19 plan, he says the industry should focus on three priorities—shortening the supply chain to make sourcing materials and food easier, embracing innovation and technology and adopting the notion of sustainability as the core identity of the dairy industry.

"I really do believe changing demographics, new consumer preferences and alternative pro-



» DR. EVAN FRASER is the director of the Arrell Food Institute at the University of Guelph.

tein products mean demand for livestock may fall this century," he says. However, with those challenges come new opportunities for the Canadian livestock sector—if the industry focuses on the right priorities.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Dairy Farmers of Ontario's (DFO) annual report is available online. Each year, the annual report provides an overview of DFO's operations, including milk quality and production practices, transportation, research, new marketing initiatives, communications and government relations and complete financial statements. The new annual report is available on DFO's consumer website at <https://new.milk.org/About-Us/Annual-Report>.

“ At the global scale, we may be approaching peak livestock consumption due to a lower and older population, changing consumer demands and new protein products.

—Dr. Evan Fraser



*Editor's note: Dairy Farmers of Ontario held its first virtual annual general meeting on Jan. 13, 2021. Jennifer Nevans filed these reports.*

# DFO COMMITTED TO DELIVERING ON PRIORITIES OF 2021

**I**n a year of uncertainty, dairy producers found a way to stabilize and even thrive," says Cheryl Smith, Dairy Farmers of Ontario's (DFO) chief executive officer.

Smith shared an organizational update and her outlook for 2021 with dairy producers, industry partners and guests at DFO's annual general meeting on Jan. 13.

Last spring, the industry entered into a new world of lockdowns, remote work, school closures, health and safety protocols, supply chain disruptions and grocery store lineups because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The closure of food service and hospitality early on was not only a blow to our anticipated growth rate for 2020, it was a force producers had to contend with at the farm level and one consumers had to deal with at the grocery stores," Smith says. However, consumers still recognized the nutritional value of milk and started consuming more dairy at home, resulting in a significant rise in all dairy product sales at retail.

"Knowing market conditions were ripe, we doubled down on marketing, pivoting into digital so we could capitalize on the mass consumer switch to in-home everything," Smith says.

This included the successful launch of the Savour Ontario at Home social media campaign, as well as DFO's first customer relationship management program. To ensure the organization moved forward in a fiscally responsible way, DFO staff reviewed its processes, budgets and spending priorities last year.

Smith says DFO's business operations have now pivoted from crisis response to a new business as usual, and she acknowledged impacts from the pandemic will follow the industry into 2021 and beyond.

Food awareness will remain top of mind in 2021, Smith noted, with consumers continuing to question where their food comes from, and the industry continues to advocate for increasing consumer trust in farmers and renewing the focus on the role of dairy nutrition in health.

"We remain optimistic and will continue dis-

cussions with industry partners to make sure we're ready to go when they are," Smith says about DFO's plans for 2021.

DFO is focused on growth with work ladder-ing up in five areas: production, pricing, demand, stewardship and organizational effectiveness.

"We want to increase the effectiveness of the milk allocation system and look at quota policies to enhance production management," she says. "We will continue to review internal governance and look at ways to increase productivity through technology. We will maintain high milk quality and take action on sustainability. And, we will promote diversity and inclusion."

Smith says she's impressed by how Ontario producers and DFO staff have seized the opportunity to prove their agility, demonstrate accountability and show their commitment to producing quality milk.

"Everything we do, we do in pursuit of unapologetically supporting our Canadian dairy system," she says.

## COLLABORATION WAS KEY TO INDUSTRY'S SUCCESS IN 2020

**C**ollaboration among dairy sectors was key to the industry successfully coping with the challenges it faced last year.

"A year ago, we could never have imagined we would be holding our 2021 annual general meeting (AGM) through our computer screens and phones rather than our typical face-to-face gathering at the Royal York in Toronto, Ont.," says Murray Sherk, Dairy Farmers of Ontario's (DFO) board chair, in his address during the AGM on Jan. 13.

Citing the challenges the industry faced last spring, which strained the agri-food industry and put Canada's food system in the spotlight, Sherk says from the onset, all sectors played an integral role to address production and demand, absorb the impacts of COVID-19 and form better communication among sectors.

"Collaboration was quite spectacular," Sherk says. "All partners across the food supply chain came together to meet the needs as seamlessly as possible."

This includes producers acting quickly to

adjust production in the first weeks of the pandemic, as well as working with transporters and processors to put health and safety protocols in place to protect workers and ensure the industry continued to produce high-quality dairy products for consumers.

Sherk also noted how quickly the industry came together to support those in need. This included the \$100,000 donation from DFO to support Feed Ontario, along with an additional 200,000 litres of milk donated in partnership with Gay Lea Foods. The donation was on top of the industry's regular annual program with the Ontario Dairy Council and Ontario Milk Transport Association, which donates more than a million litres of milk to Feed Ontario.

"I was very impressed by the desire to help, especially the passion from our dairy producer committees that went over and above by physically helping move product when we were challenged by program logistics," Sherk says.

While the pandemic brought on many challenges, it also provided some silver linings and highlighted the strengths of the supply management system, Sherk says. Supply management allowed the industry to continue production despite border closures and without government intervention.

"Like other commodities, we also experienced losses at the farm level," he says, in the amount of \$300 million in 2020, according to Dairy Farmers of Canada's assessment, which does not include the second wave and recent lockdowns. "Dairy farmers did not ask for direct financial support to offset these losses. Instead, farmers shared their collective losses, highlighting another strength of supply management."

Looking ahead to 2021, Sherk says there are still many unknowns, but he's confident the industry can continue working together to be agile and flexible to adapt to changing markets and meet the needs of the coming year.



➤ **FROM LEFT** are Barbara Paquet, Lactanet Canada's board chair, and Neil Petreny, Lactanet's chief executive officer.

## LACTANET LEADERS SHARE ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE AT AGM

**W**orking together and adapting to change will be an important part of a successful future, says Barbara Paquet, Lactanet Canada's board chair.

The organization recently held its virtual annual general meeting (AGM) on Jan. 13, 2021, to share industry updates, reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2021.

"We have demonstrated by working together, we can overcome all of the issues the industry could imagine as possible roadblocks to partnerships, including language, culture, traditions, regionality and control," Paquet says about the past year.

Lactanet was formed in 2019 as a partnership between the Canadian Dairy Network, Valacta and CanWest DHI to create an integrated suite of dairy services.

"This year's AGM marks not only the completion of the organization's first full year as Lactanet, but 2021 also celebrates the 40th anniversary of Ontario DHI," Paquet says.

During the meeting, Paquet highlighted three initiatives currently underway, including a new national resolutions process, a collaborative animal improvement initiative and the addition of a second external Lactanet director for enhanced board governance.

"I am proud of what we have accomplished in our first 19 months together and look forward to creating a broader vision of our future together with industry partners," she says, who thanked dairy producers for their support and patience as Lactanet modifies protocols during COVID-19.

Neil Petreny, Lactanet's chief executive officer, highlighted accomplishments for the organization during 2020, such as the launch of eDHI, a bulk

tank fatty acid profile service in Quebec and the introduction of a new selective dry cow therapy tool to support the reduced use of antibiotics.

Other significant achievements include the official launch of DairyTrace, as well as a record for DairyComp, which reached 50 per cent of DHI cows in Ontario and Western Canada that are now managed by this on-farm herd management software.

Looking ahead, Petreny says a new partnership known as the International Dairy Data Exchange Network (iDDEN) was also formalized with six international milk recording partners. The goal of this collaboration is to develop and standardize a more efficient data exchange process with equipment manufacturers.

Petreny also announced the release of the new feed efficiency evaluation with the April proof run.

"While this genetic trait will be available for all sires as usual, results will only be provided for female animals to herds using milk recording services," Petreny says. "Herds not using milk recording services will have to wait until December 2021 to access female evaluation results—and there will be a fee attached."

This new approach is intended to recognize the contribution of individuals who participate in industry programs and introduce a fee-for-service to those who do not—an issue that has been discussed in the industry for many years.

"I would like to emphasize that Lactanet is more than milk recording," he says. "Our partnership means we are now involved in a wider range of dairy herd management activities, including genetics, expanded lab services, advisory services and educational programs. You will see more of this in the year to come."

## APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR ALBERTA MILK'S NEW ENTRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**A**lberta Milk is now accepting applications for its New Entrant Assistance Program (NEAP), which helps qualified new farmers enter the dairy industry in Alberta by offering a quota loan at no cost.

"The New Entrant Assistance Program is a way for our industry to try to support those coming into the dairy industry in Alberta," says Stuart Boeve, chair of Alberta Milk's board of directors. "We continually review the program to make improvements to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of new dairy farms. We're proud that 22 new farms have entered the industry through this program."

The program works by matching two kilograms of quota from Alberta Milk for every kilogram of quota purchased by the new entrant, up to 25 kg per day at no cost. This loan translates to enough quota to milk about 20 to 25 additional cows.

While using the program, new entrants can expand up to 100 kg per day of total quota holdings, or about 80 to 100 cows. The loaned quota usage gradually expires beginning in the 11th year and reduces to zero at the end of year 19, marking the end of participation in the NEAP for the new entrant.

Applications will be accepted until March 31, 2021. The process to qualify for the program consists of submitting an application that includes a two-year financial business plan, a 10-year implementation plan, a risk mitigation plan and a signed conditional letter of approval from the applicant's financial institution agreeing to finance their operation.

This year, Alberta Milk's board of directors sought direction on how to improve the sustainability of the program. All accepted new entrants will now be allowed to use the NEAP loaned quota as equity or security with financial institutions.

For more information on the program, visit [albertamilk.com](http://albertamilk.com) or call 1-877-361-1231.

In addition to NEAP, Alberta Milk is also continuing to accept applications for its Organic Entrants Assistance Program (OEAP). Similar to the NEAP, the program is designed to encourage growth in organic dairy production in Alberta but has different guidelines. To review the OEAP requirements, visit [albertamilk.com](http://albertamilk.com).





## U OF G LEADING GLOBAL DAIRY FARMING GENOMICS PROJECT

Improved human, animal and environmental health is the goal of a \$12-million, University of Guelph-led international genomics project expected to revolutionize breeding in Canada's dairy farming industry.

The four-year project will be the first large-scale project integrating novel genetic traits for fertility, health and feed efficiency into a national database to help farmers and breeders, says Christine Baes, an animal biosciences professor at U of G who is leading the project.

The project builds on the world-class platform created for dairy research at U of G through its partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), called the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance, says Malcolm Campbell, vice-president of research at U of G.

Project members aim to identify novel genetic traits for a new selection index for dairy cattle resilience. Baes says the group will develop traits that help animals adapt to changing environmental conditions while maintaining milk productivity, dairy herd health and cow fertility—all in a way that feeds people and protects the environment.

Results will directly benefit farmers and cattle breeders, helping them identify superior livestock for breeding. She says the system will ultimately help farmers save \$200 million in costs associated with poor cow fertility and disease, as well as animal feed that makes up the largest expense in milk production.

"This project can address key challenges the industry is facing, enhance sustainability of dairying and provide a long-term competitive advantage for Canada's dairy industry," Baes says, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Livestock Genomics.

Baes leads the initiative, along with co-principal investigators at the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta and Université Laval. Other Canadian partners include researchers at the University of Prince Edward Island and at companies and industry organizations across the country.

*Continued on page 17*



➤ **FROM LEFT** are dairy producers Dan Aitken and John Werry, along with Emily Fern from Feed the Need Durham and William Kowalczyk and Lianne McDonald from the Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty.

*Photo courtesy of Bruce Sargent*

## ONTARIO DAIRY FARMERS SUPPORT FOOD BANKS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Jennifer Nevans  
EDITOR

For Ontario dairy farmers, the desire to help their community and those struggling amid the COVID-19 pandemic is the driving force behind some of their recent donations during crisis.

"The need has always been there—COVID-19 is just amplifying it," says John Werry, co-owner of Loa-De-Mede Farms in Oshawa, Ont. "We, as individuals and businesses, need to do what we can to help."

While the dairy industry has had to pivot because of the pandemic, dairy farmers have been fortunate to be able to keep their businesses running, he says.

"Many other families and businesses have not been so fortunate—that fact is not lost on our dairy producer committee (DPC)," Werry says.

During the onset of the pandemic, the Durham Region DPC reached out to Feed the Need Durham, a charitable organization fighting to end hunger in Durham Region, and asked what dairy farmers can do to help the community during the pandemic. The DPC was told lack of refrigeration space is an issue many food banks struggle with.

In response, the DPC loaned two of its own small fridges to the Simcoe Hall Settlement House for its after-school program—but the dairy producers wanted to do more. They wanted to help Feed the Need Durham's two largest food banks.

"We knew we didn't have enough funds to cover two new, large fridges for the food banks ourselves, so that's when we approached the local dis-

trict egg farmers to see if they would be willing to help," Werry says.

Together, the groups pooled their resources and purchased two industrial-sized fridges, fully stocked with \$2,500 worth of food, donated by Kawartha Dairy.

"Kawartha Dairy was thrilled to work with local dairy farmer partners to support those in need in our community," says Brian Kerr, chief executive officer of Kawartha Dairy. "We are honoured to support the mission with nutritious milk, cream and butter to help put food on people's tables during these difficult times."

The fridges were donated to the Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty in Oshawa, Ont., a group that provides meals to those in need, and the St. Andrews Community Food Bank and Support Centre in Whitby, Ont.

Lianne McDonald, program supervisor at Back Door Mission, says there has been an increase in visitors to the food bank since the pandemic started.

"This increase in demand has given rise to a need for a capacity upgrade of our food storage facilities," she says. "Back Door Mission thanks (Ontario dairy and egg farmers) for their donation. We are grateful for this thoughtful gift that will help us serve more than 200 patrons every day."

Werry hopes others who learn about this story will be inspired to give back to their own communities.

"Hopefully, our project and future initiatives will encourage other groups and businesses to share in the goodwill," he says.



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# DAIRY DISTILLERY RELEASES CANADA'S FIRST LACTOSE-FREE CREAM LIQUEUR

By Allison Williams  
CONTRIBUTOR

Omid McDonald, founder and chief executive officer of Dairy Distillery in Almonte, Ont., describes the new Vodkow Cream liqueur as “simple”—but in the best way.

“It really shows off the dairy cream flavour and farm freshness,” he says. “It’s not too sweet, and it’s natural and sustainable.”

Vodkow Cream, launched in November 2020, is produced using the company’s Vodkow vodka made from milk permeate, a byproduct of dairy processing that’s normally discarded.

“We’re proud Vodkow Cream is the first and only spirits bottle to feature the blue cow logo,” McDonald says, adding Dairy Farmers of Canada’s logo is well known to consumers, letting them know the product is 100 per cent Canadian and purchasing it supports Canadian dairy farmers.

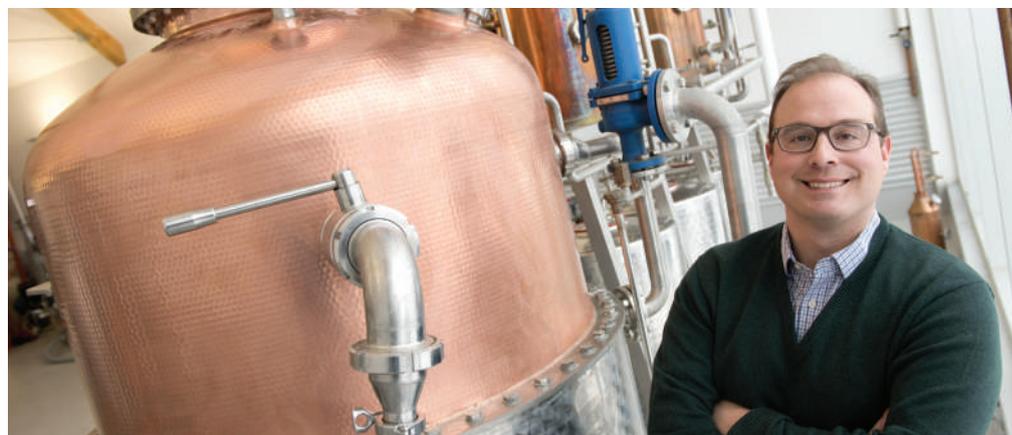
Instead of buying a cream base from a third party, Dairy Distillery makes it from scratch. “We invested in our own homogenizer and the know-how to do the entire process ourselves,” McDonald says. This has allowed Dairy Distillery to innovate and make North America’s only lactose-free dairy cream liqueur.

Vodkow products are sold in old-time milk bottles, referring to its dairy heritage. Chilled, over ice or in cocktails are McDonald’s suggestions for enjoying Vodkow Cream. “The cocktail possibilities are endless,” he adds.

## PARTNERING WITH PASSIONATE TASTEMAKERS



» **THREE LOCAL** artisans in Almonte, Ont., collaborated with Dairy Distillery to create new flavours of Vodkow Cream.



» **DAIRY DISTILLERY** founder Omid McDonald stands next to a copper still, which is used to make the alcohol in Vodkow Cream.

Customers have always asked about more flavours, and the right moment arose around the time of Vodkow Cream’s invention. “We are surrounded by passionate tastemakers in Almonte—and we wanted to work with them,” McDonald says. In the newly launched gift pack, the Almonte Friendship Series, three local businesses provide additional cream liqueur flavours and are featured in Dairy Distillery’s short, promotional documentary.

Erica Gilmour and her husband, Drew, co-founders of Hummingbird Chocolate, are passionate about helping cocoa bean farmers access sustainable and international markets. Their business uses direct trade, developing relationships with farmers.

“It’s been amazing to have Dairy Distillery as neighbours and to create products together,” Gilmour says. She describes the chosen chocolate variety as “buttery and caramel-y” and says it goes well with dairy.

Equator Coffee specializes in fair trade, organic coffee beans. President and founder Craig Hall says the company strives to reduce the inequality in the world.

“We’re thrilled with the collaboration—it’s been fun.” A cold-brew coffee was chosen for Vodkow Cream. “The dairy industry is important to the Ottawa Valley. (The partnership is) a great way to connect to the rural community,” Hall says.

Fulton’s Pancake House and Sugar Bush is an organic, family-run maple syrup business. Shirley Fulton-Deugo is a fourth-generation owner and maple producer, and her son Scott Deugo is a fifth-generation maple producer. Their main goals

are to love the land and use sustainable forestry.

“We don’t damage the tree—we tap (trees) conservatively. Maple syrup is a sustainable product,” Fulton-Deugo says.

Vodkow Cream uses the darkest, most robustly flavoured grade of maple syrup. “Dairy Distillery is helping the dairy industry and local economy so much,” she says.

Fulton-Deugo is especially grateful to Dairy Distillery for donating initial maple cream profits to Fulton’s. The maple cream launched in February 2020, and then Fulton’s was hit hard by COVID-19 closures at the height of sugaring season in March 2020.

Now reinventing their multi-generational business under new protocols to maintain its viability, they haven’t forgotten Dairy Distillery’s kindness. “We ended up sharing the donation with the community,” Fulton-Deugo says. “Dairy Distillery is such a generous, upstanding, creative business with values that align with ours.”

Along with a strong focus on sustainable processes, McDonald says passion for their work is the other main similarity between Hummingbird, Equator, Fulton’s and Dairy Distillery, calling it a partnership of like-minded Almonte folks. “Passion leads to innovation and perfection,” he says. “Each one of our partners is passionate about their craft. You can taste it.”

Vodkow Cream is available at the LCBO or from [www.vodkow.com](http://www.vodkow.com).

Allison Williams

is Dairy Farmers of Ontario’s communications specialist.



*U of G leading global dairy farming genomics project, cont'd from page 14*

About 40 U of G researchers, including eight faculty members and numerous staff and student researchers from the Ontario Agricultural College and the Ontario Veterinary College, will take part.

The U of G researchers will work with the dairy herd at the state-of-the-art Ontario Dairy Research Centre in Elora, Ont., as well as work with cattle at more than a dozen area farms to gather health and feed efficiency data for the national project.

Project partners will use that information, along with fertility data from other members and centres across Canada and partner countries, to develop and refine a national evaluation system for individual animals. The system will be run by Lactanet Canada.

“Building on previous work, this is the first time that traits for calf health, fertility and feed efficiency will be collectively implemented into a genetic evaluation program for dairy cattle,” Baes says. “This will definitely improve how we breed cattle in Canada.”

Besides improving animal health, the project is intended to make milk production more environmentally sustainable. Researchers will study genetic traits for feed efficiency.

By improving feed efficiency, Baes says farmers can help limit livestock emissions of methane, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. She says this research may also help reduce the environmental impact of dairy farming by limiting the amount of cropland needed to produce cattle feed.

Genome Canada will provide \$4 million toward the project, and \$3 million will come from regional genome centres: Ontario Genomics, including the Ontario Research Fund, Genome Alberta, Genome Quebec and Genome British Columbia.

The project will also receive funding from Lactanet Canada, as well as companies and organizations in dairy genetics and production, including GrowSafe, Allflex, Afimilk, NEDAP and Illumina. The project involves collaborators in the United States, Europe, Brazil and Australia.

“The generous support from government and industry partners across Canada will enable U of G researchers to collaborate nationally and globally on projects that will benefit dairy farmers and dairy consumers alike, with phenomenal environmental and economic benefits,” Campbell says.

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# SHARING THE BENEFITS OF BIOGAS IN DAIRY FARMING

By Canadian Biogas Association  
CONTRIBUTOR

A growing need for clean energy, sustainability and climate change, as well as income diversification, has created an emerging interest in biogas and the many opportunities it offers for Canadian farmers.

Incorporating a biogas system on a farm can lead to environmental and business advantages and provides a closed loop opportunity for agricultural businesses—extracting energy while recycling valuable nutrients.

## WHAT IS BIOGAS?

Biogas is a renewable source of methane gas, created when organic matter breaks down in an oxygen-free environment. This biological process is referred to as anaerobic digestion (AD) (Figure 1). The main component of biogas is methane, also the key component of natural gas. Biogas is created from organic materials or carbon sources found in:

- **Agriculture feedstock** – livestock manure and crop residue;
- **Non-agricultural feedstock** – source-separated organic materials from residences and commercial businesses, landfills and biosolids from wastewater treatment.

## HOW IS BIOGAS USED?

A biogas project can be highly specialized, using one or more carbon sources, or designed as an integrated, multipurpose system accepting and processing multiple materials for a range of energy applications. Biogas produces renewable heat, electricity and pipeline quality gas that can be stored in the pipeline and used for transportation, household heating or industrial, commercial and institutional processes.

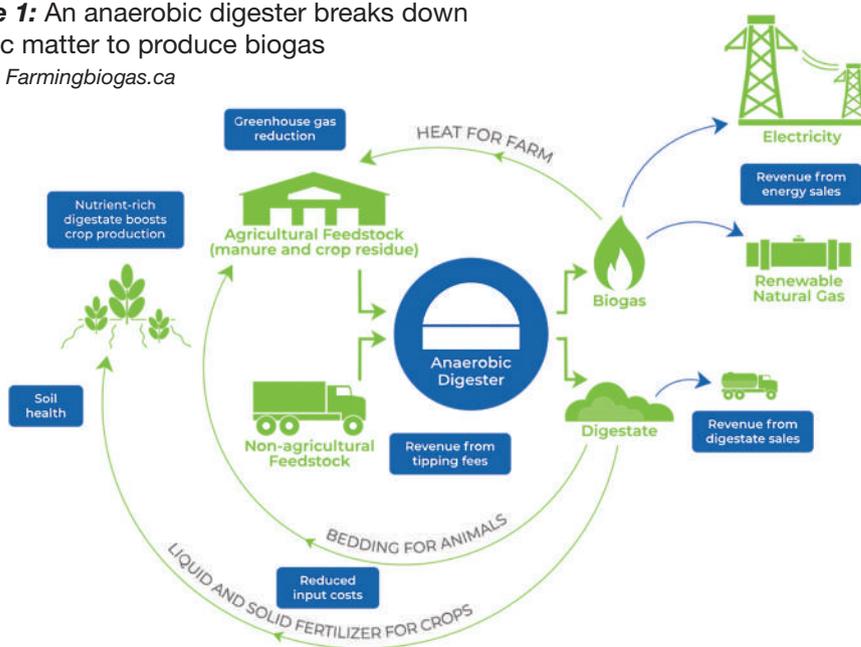
## BIOGAS BENEFITS

Biogas offers significant opportunities for agricultural producers, including:

- **Reducing a farm's environmental footprint** – Biogas production helps enhance a farm's environmental stewardship and sustainability. Capturing and using methane through AD can significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from manure systems, mitigating the impacts of climate change. Biogas also produces nutrient-rich digestate that boosts crop production and transforms lost nutrients into soil amendments, provides a green energy source, such as renewable heat, electricity and natural gas, for farm activities, removes

**Figure 1:** An anaerobic digester breaks down organic matter to produce biogas

Source: Farmingbiogas.ca



odorous compounds from raw manure, and reduces pest populations and commercial fertilizer requirements and costs;

- **A business opportunity for the future of the farm** – Converting manure and other feedstock into renewable energy can also help a farm diversify its sources of income and create new opportunities for the next generation. Biogas production can improve a farm's financial portfolio through energy sales and add revenue through tipping fees from non-agricultural feedstock. It also reduces input costs, such as fertilizer, and mitigates risk as world markets and supply management evolves. Finally, biogas production also supports local agricultural production, reducing food waste in communities and collaborating with neighbouring farms.

## WHERE TO LEARN MORE

Farmingbiogas.ca is a new go-to resource designed specifically for farm businesses. Developed by the Canadian Biogas Association (CBA), the website is part of an educational campaign to help farmers explore biogas production as an opportunity for their farm.

CBA also produces educational resources for agricultural producers. Reports, such as *Farm to Fuel – Developers' Guide to Biomethane* and the *Current Status and Future Potential of Biogas Production from Canada's Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector*, are of particular value to CBA's members who are agricultural producers interested in starting a biogas project.

CBA can also connect producers to industry experts, consultants, technology providers

and other agricultural producers participating in the biogas sector. Further resources offered by CBA include informative newsletters outlining current biogas developments, pertinent research and projects advancing biogas development in Canada, invitations to upcoming biogas events and more.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT

The annual Value of Biogas conferences are hosted by CBA to connect the biogas and renewable natural gas industry and promote learning opportunities for the sector. This year, the conferences are held online to safely connect industry stakeholders in a virtual format. The first conference was hosted in January 2021, and the upcoming conference will take place from April 27 to 29, 2021, and will offer participants value-packed programming, content, pertinent information for developers and updates affecting the biogas and renewable natural gas sectors.

- The 2021 Value of Biogas Conferences will include:
- Acclaimed speakers presenting on key industry issues, including policy development, industry trends, case studies, feedstock, digestate and more;
  - Virtual exhibitor showcase, featuring diverse services, products and technologies;
  - Networking opportunities, including virtual face-to-face meetings and group conversations.

For more information, sponsor and exhibitor opportunities and to register, visit <https://biogasassociation.ca/vob2021/> or email [jgreen@biogasassociation.ca](mailto:jgreen@biogasassociation.ca).

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# REFERENCE MANUAL RELEASED FOR PROACTION ENVIRONMENT MODULE

By Dairy Farmers of Canada  
CONTRIBUTOR

**D**airy Farmers of Canada (DFC) has finalized the requirements and released the *Environment Reference Manual* for proAction's environment module, which will come into effect on Sept. 1, 2021.

The manual outlines the environment module's five requirements designed to mitigate risks and promote positive action on dairy farms.

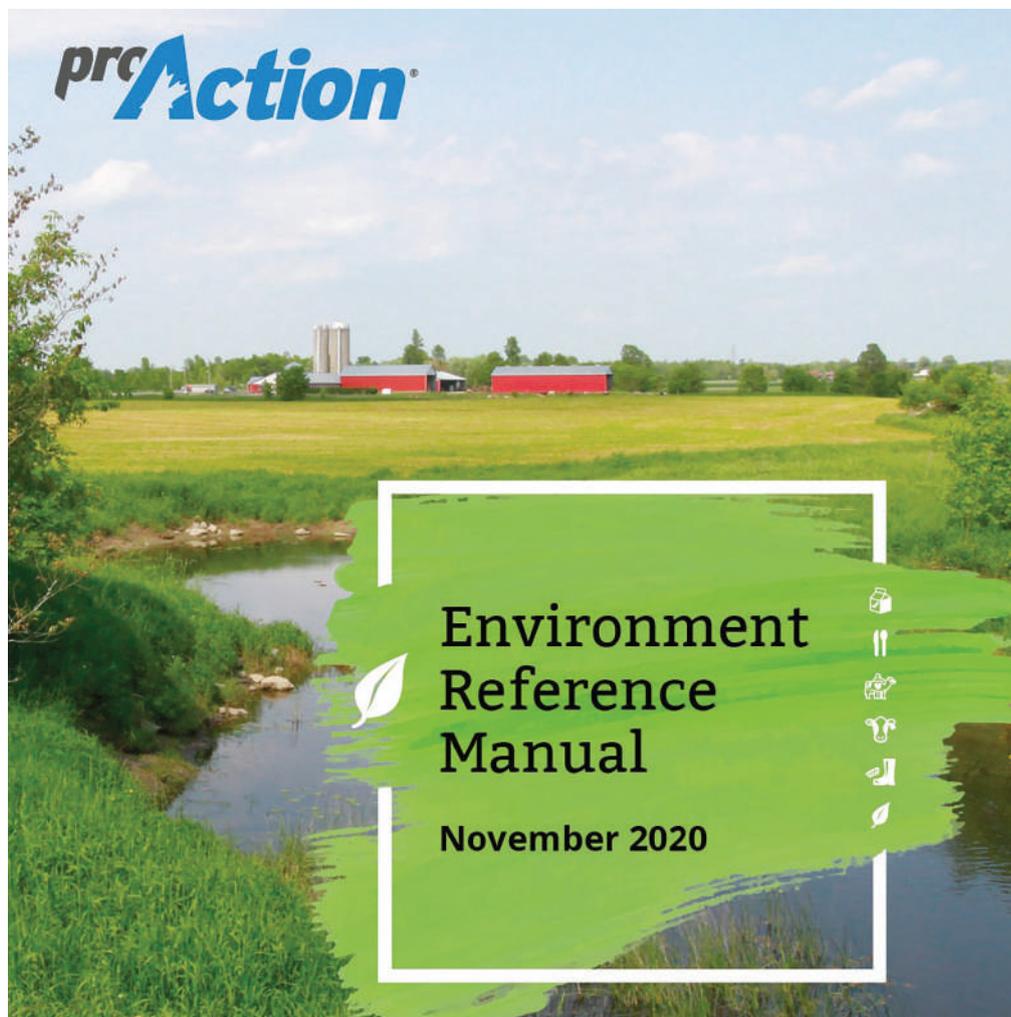
As previously announced, the module's foundational requirement is the environmental farm plan (EFP) or, in the province of Quebec, the agri-environmental support plan (plan d'accompagnement agroenvironnemental, PAA) or PAA-equivalent. This requirement enables farmers to develop and implement individual action plans, evaluating areas of strength while addressing areas with improvement opportunities.

The second requirement, the environmental questionnaire, allows farmers to assess the use of on-farm practices related to soil health, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, silage seepage and plastic waste. Through this exercise, farmers can note positive actions they already take while learning about new ideas to consider. The aggregated information will help the industry describe practices undertaken to advance environmental stewardship.

The remaining requirements aim to reduce the risk of contamination of soil, groundwater and surface water from wastewater and manure, and make the best use of manure and other nutrients on the farm.

Long before they became part of the collective consciousness, environmental protection and animal welfare were fundamental to Canadian dairy farmers' values. But public perception has not always kept pace due to the rising spread of misinformation about dairy consumption and the production process.

As interest grows from industry stakeholders



and society in the environmental sustainability of agricultural systems, farmers have a vested interest in taking their stewardship to the next level under the transparency of proAction.

Careful oversight of environmental resources carries benefits, such as the further enhancement of soil health and biodiversity, the preservation of the quality of land and water, the reduction of the carbon and environmental footprint and the ability to provide consumers with the dairy products they love for generations to come.

The *Environment Reference Manual* is now available at [www.dairyfarmers.ca/proAction](http://www.dairyfarmers.ca/proAction), along with a variety of fact sheets and other resources. Farmers are encouraged to contact their provincial dairy association for further information. 🍓



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# P5 BOARDS ANNOUNCE 2021 FALL INCENTIVE DAYS

By Jennifer Nevans  
EDITOR

To allow producers to maintain their current production level, which adequately responds to the projected market demand, P5 boards have announced fall 2021 incentive days to be issued on a non-cumulative basis to conventional producers. This includes one day in August, two days in September, two days in October, and one day in November.

“Forecasts show demand for domestic milk is still growing this dairy year despite our current situation with COVID-19 lockdowns,” says Patrice Dubé, Dairy Farmers of Ontario’s (DFO) chief economics and policy development officer. “As the economy reopens and vaccines continue to roll out, if market demand re-

mains strong, P5 boards could potentially top up fall incentive days later in the year.”

Sales at the retail level remain strong for most dairy products. For the four weeks ending Nov. 28, 2020, sales for fluid milk, fluid cream, yogurt, ice cream and cheese increased by 5.4, 14.7, 4.1, 14.4 and 10.1 per cent, respectively, compared with the same four-week period the year before. This was offset by a 0.6 per cent decrease in butter sales, which can be volatile from period to period due to consumers purchasing and storing butter.

Total national butterfat requirements for November 2020 reached 1.14 million kilograms of butterfat per day—a 1.05 per cent drop from November 2019. Meanwhile, total P10 milk production in November 2020 reached 1.09 million kg—a 3.49 per cent increase from November 2019.

Total butter stock levels reached 24,347 tonnes at the end of December 2020, which is lower compared with the previous two years. Cheese stocks reached 98,900 tonnes at the end of December 2020—an increase of 900 tonnes compared with the previous month.

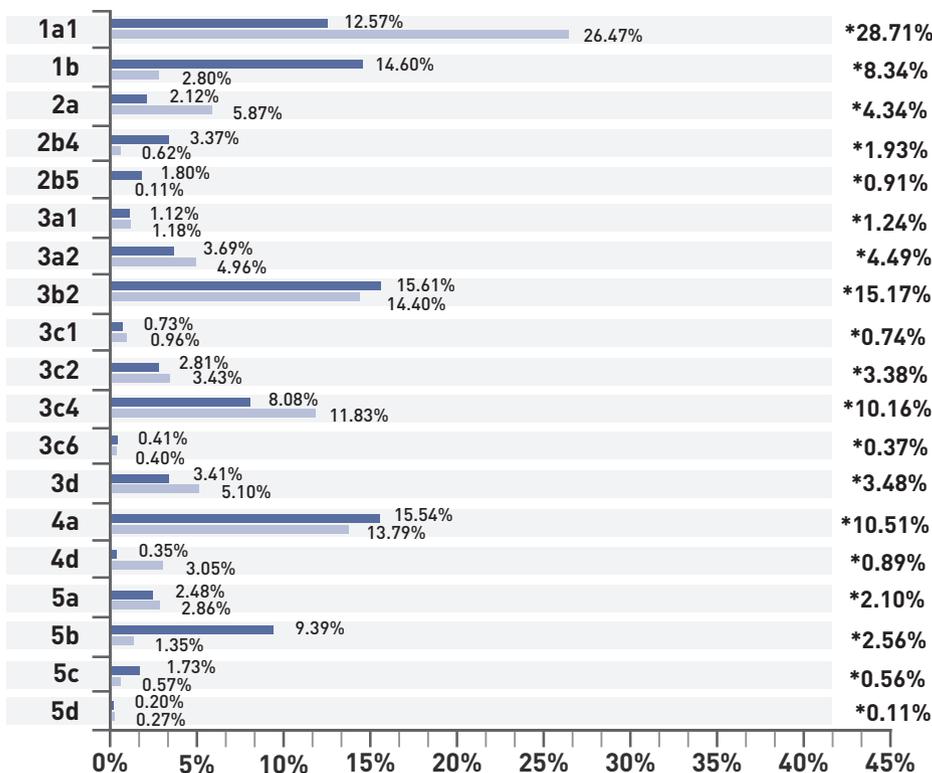
P5 boards are currently forecasting butter stocks to be slightly more than 30,000 tonnes by the end of July 2021, which is below the 35,000-tonne target for the end of the dairy year. Dubé expects butter stocks will remain lower than the July targeted level if P5 production in the spring is not sufficient.

“I think butter stocks could be lower than the targeted level considering the food service industry will reopen and the vaccine’s arrival is expected to improve the situation in the coming year,” he says. “We also know imports are not coming in at the same extent we were forecasting. On

## P10 UTILIZATION BY CLASS\*

For October 2020 (kg of butterfat/kg of solids non-fat)

■ % Butterfat  
■ % Solids non-fat  
\* % Revenue



**Class 1a1 (includes Classes 1a2, 1a3, 1c and 1d for confidentiality reasons)** Fluid milk and beverages

**Class 1b** Fluid creams

**Class 2a** Yogurt, yogurt beverages, kefir and lassi

**Class 2b4 (includes Classes 2b1, 2b2 and 2b3 for confidentiality reasons)** Fresh dairy desserts, sour cream, milkshakes and sports nutrition drinks

**Class 2b5** Ice cream and frozen yogurt

**Class 3a1** Specialty cheese

**Class 3a2** Cheese curds and fresh cheeses

**Class 3b2 (includes Class 3b1 for confidentiality reasons)** Cheddar cheese and aged cheddar

**Class 3c1** Feta

**Class 3c2** Asiago, Gouda, Havarti, Parmesan and Swiss

**Class 3c4 (includes Classes 3c3 and 3c5 for confidentiality reasons)** Brick, Colby, farmer’s, jack, Monterey jack, muenster, pizza cheese, pizza mozzarella and mozzarella other than what falls within 3d.

**Class 3c6** Paneer

**Class 3d** Mozzarella used strictly on fresh pizzas by establishments registered with the Canadian Dairy Commission

**Class 4a** Butter and powders

**Class 4d (includes Classes 4b1, 4b2, 4c and 4m for confidentiality reasons)** Concentrated milk for retail, losses and animal feed

**Class 5a** Cheese for further processing

**Class 5b** Non-cheese products for further processing

**Class 5c** Confectionery products

**Class 5d** Planned exports



# MONTHLY QUOTA PRICES (\$/kg)

the production side, a significant increase has been observed in other P5 provinces in recent months, which will help meet P5 demand for the rest of the dairy year.”

In addition, new processing investments, such as the fairlife and Feihe plants, help maintain a stronger demand than anticipated, even during a pandemic, Dubé says.

If new butter stock projections confirm stocks will be at a lower level than the 35,000-tonne target for July 2021, there will room to put additional milk in the system to rebuild those stocks for the remainder of the dairy year.

P5 boards’ primary objective is to continuously monitor the milk market situation and meet demand in the most optimal way. Given these uncertain times, P5 boards will continue to adapt production signals to address market changes, as required.

## JANUARY PRICES

PROVINCE	PRICE/kg	AMOUNT WANTED/kg	AMOUNT FOR SALE/kg	AMOUNT PURCHASED/kg
Alberta	\$45,485	375.30	86.12	49.12
Saskatchewan	\$38,500	127.00	5.00	5.00
British Columbia	\$36,500	2,061.14	30.00	30.00
Manitoba	\$34,500	190.63	248.53	45.00
Ontario	\$24,000	19,819.39	206.68	206.40
Quebec	\$24,000	18,362.44	368.96	368.78
New Brunswick	\$24,000	623.60	3.20	3.20
Nova Scotia		Exchange cancelled		
Prince Edward Island	\$24,000	414.70	10.00	10.00

\*Newfoundland does not operate a monthly quota exchange. Quota is traded between producers.

\*\*Quota cap price of \$24,000 in effect in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Quebec.

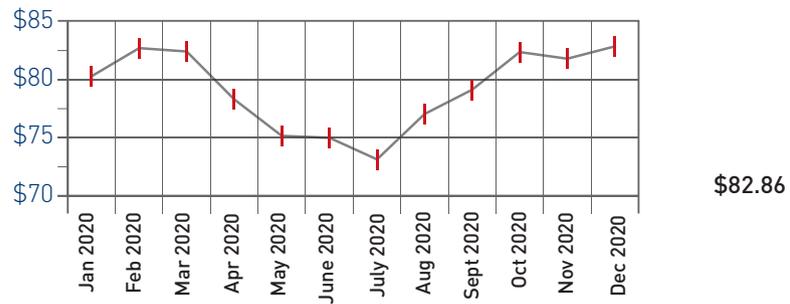
## ONTARIO DEDUCTIONS, PER HL

For December 2020

	Within quota	Over-quota
DFO administration	\$0.625	\$0.625
DFO research	\$0.050	\$0.050
CanWest DHI	\$0.060	\$0.060
Transportation	\$2.780	\$2.780
Market expansion	\$1.400	\$1.400
<b>Total deductions</b>	<b>\$4.915</b>	<b>\$4.915</b>
<b>Average total net</b>	<b>\$77.940</b>	<b>-\$4.915</b>

\*These figures are based on Ontario’s average composition for December 2020 of 4.22 kg butterfat, 3.26 kg protein and 5.94 kg other solids, rounded to the nearest cent.

## ONTARIO MONTHLY PRODUCER AVERAGE GROSS BLEND PRICE



A total 3,343 producers sold milk to DFO in December compared with 3,387 a year earlier.

## U.S. CLASS PRICES

The December 2020 Class III Price, US\$15.72 per hundredweight, is equivalent to C\$45.74 per hectolitre. This equivalent is based on the exchange rate US\$1 = C\$1.28162, the exchange rate when the USDA announced the Class III Price.

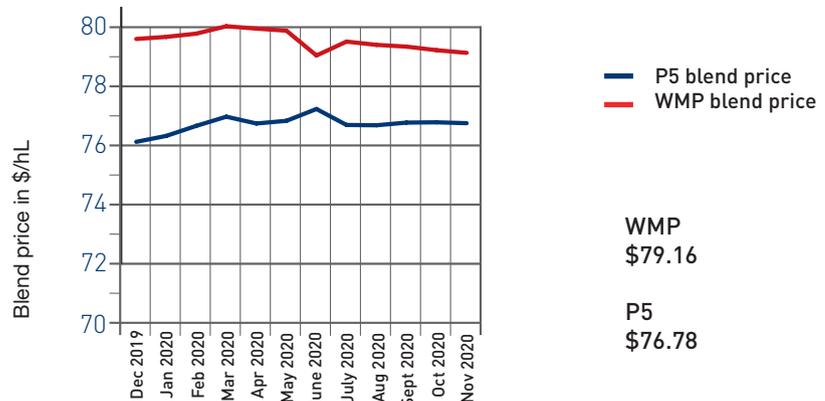
The Class III Price is in \$ US per hundredweight at 3.5 per cent butterfat. One hundredweight equals 0.44 hectolitres. Canadian Class 5a and Class 5b prices track U.S. prices set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Source: USDA

## P5 AND WESTERN MILK POOL BLEND PRICES\*

The graph below shows the 12-month blend price for the P5 provinces and Western Milk Pool (WMP).

\*There is a three-month lag reporting these figures.







# AUTOMATED MILKING SYSTEMS

## Are they a fit on your farm and in your life?

By Craig Lester  
CONTRIBUTOR

**T**hirteen years ago, D.R. Vaandrager was in the process of upgrading his milking parlour at Lavender Farms in Abbotsford, B.C., when it struck him that he could go a different route. He took those plans, set them aside and decided to invest in an automated milking system (AMS).

And while he has had a few late nights fixing the AMS, he says he doesn't regret the decision because it's changed his lifestyle.

"Thirteen years ago, our oldest was six years old," Vaandrager says. "(Because of our AMS), I was able to put the boys in hockey, and I was able to help coach hockey. It created a lot of flexibility."

There's been a steady growth of producers across the nation like Vaandrager, moving from a conventional parlour to an AMS.

For example, Alberta has experienced steady growth over the past five years, seeing an average of 12 farms per year converting to AMS. Today, there are 114 operations with AMS, meaning about 23 per cent of the approxi-

mately 500 farmers across the province have an AMS, according to Alberta Milk.

British Columbia has seen similar numbers, with 30 per cent of the nearly 500 herds in the province using an AMS, according to the B.C. Dairy Association.

The same can be said about the number of dairy farms in Ontario. Dairy Farmers of Ontario says operations using the system jumped from 526 to 558 in the past year. There are more than 3,300 dairy farms in the province, according to the Canadian Dairy Commission.

### LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

Long before a farmer opens a sales catalogue or takes in a robotic milking demonstration, experts say they should ask themselves some questions about their operation and establish a plan for the future, so they know definitively where the farm is headed.

Richard Siebring, co-owner and public relations and sales manager at Pacific Dairy Centre in Chilliwack, B.C., says it's imperative to plan accordingly and see what the farm will look like in a year, five years and 10 years.

Ed Vandenberg, who handles capital sales with

J&D Farmers Dairy Service in Abbotsford, B.C., points out producers need to realize this is what they will be doing day in and day out and they need to understand how an AMS will be managed.

"Most people embrace it, some people learn as they go, and some people are just quick adapters and really enjoy that lifestyle," Vandenberg says.

### CONSIDER THE COSTS

Siebring says it's interesting to see the evolution of AMS since the early 2000s, including the change in price. "They're not as expensive as they used to be," he says.

Both Siebring and Vandenberg say producers considering a switch to robotics need to remember milking is always happening if robots are in the barn.

"At the end of the day, you are looking at less scheduled labour with robotics," Vandenberg says, adding there are more maintenance costs to consider with an AMS compared with a conventional parlour, but the benefits are cow comfort and increased milk production.

*Continued on page 26*



» **AT DAVISON FARMS** in Maple Ridge, B.C., a jersey leaves one of two DeLaval VMS V300s after her first robotic milking. Photo courtesy of Brianna Anderson from J&D Farmers Dairy Service

“ We need a lot more open space around the robots in order for the cows to feel comfortable going through them without feeling crowded or intimidated.

—Ed Vandenberg

**Automated milking systems,**  
*cont'd from page 25*

On the flip side, Siebring says there are power savings with a parlour, which can be turned off.

He says deciding whether to install an AMS comes down to the producer's management style, and the herd's size determines part of that management style.

Siebring says if the herd is 200 cows or less, it's a coin toss on which way to go from an economic standpoint.

“It becomes a decision for the farmer from a management standpoint,” he says. “What do they want to manage? Do they want to manage a box, or do they want to manage a parlour? Each one of (those options has) pros and cons.”

**MANAGEMENT PREFERENCE**

Those pros and cons should take into consideration the lifestyle the farmer wants and the farm's current workforce.

For Vaandrager, an AMS created the lifestyle he wanted for his family. However, AMS is not for everyone, and Siebring says in some circumstances, it's just not a fit.

“When you are the owner of the farm, you might be doing the milking yourself,” he says. “You're going to try to make milking as comfortable and easy as possible, so you'll likely invest in the equipment.”

However, if the producer has hired workers, a conventional parlour may be a better fit. He says there are many options for farmers, so they

need to ask themselves what they want.

Vandenberg says producers need to enjoy their life no matter which option they choose.

“You want to make sure that's the lifestyle you want,” he says, adding farmers need to think about the long-term future of their farm.

According to Vandenberg, if producers are planning to expand, such as building an addition or a new facility down the road, they should take those plans into consideration when choosing their milking system.

“You might have to add onto the barn, so ask yourself where will the next robots be installed

five years from now? Maybe you'll need a whole new barn with robots,” he says.

**ADAPTING TO THE CHALLENGE**

Making the leap from a conventional parlour to an AMS is a big jump.

Vaandrager says he has met a few producers over the years who simply didn't trust an AMS to milk their cows.

They would ask him: “How do I just trust this thing is doing its job?” And he would answer: “Well, it's just simply what it does. You have to change your mindset and allow the thing to do its work.”

Siebring says the largest hurdle producers must overcome is forgetting their old process of milking cows and creating new standard operating procedures for an AMS.

His conversations with producers often start with them telling him about the challenge of breaking old habits.

He says farmers need to understand automa-



tion handles the tasks they have been used to doing every day.

With an AMS, producers need to be on their computer, analyzing the data coming in and making decisions based on that information.

## ANIMAL COMFORT

Whether producers are using an AMS or parlour, comfort is the real key to success, according to Siebring.

He has seen firsthand scenarios where a lack of cow comfort has disrupted milk production.

“If you throw robots into a renovated barn, you won’t see the same (milk production) numbers—not as much as you would in a new barn.”

Vandenberg points out producers don’t have to handle the animals as much with an AMS. “You are not going to the barn two or three times a day, rodeoing cows for milking and filling holding areas with cows.”

He says all that activity keeps the cows away from eating, drinking and lying down—crucial components for making sure there is good milk production from each cow.

Vandenberg believes AMS is good for cows since it doesn’t take them away from their routine.

“They can go on their own to get milked and fed, and they’re not spending so much time away from the basic components they need for comfort in order to produce more milk for the dairy.”

He says there have been lessons learned over the years on how robotics can help manage herds.

“We need a lot more open space around the robots in order for the cows to feel comfortable going through them without feeling crowded or intimidated,” Vandenberg says. “Foot health is also very important.”

Vandenberg adds if the cows are not com-



fortable, not only will they move less but it will impact their overall progress, as well as their health and milk production.

## WHERE IS AMS HEADED?

Vaandrager says the information provided by an AMS continues to improve, allowing producers to make better management decisions.

He says with profit margins shrinking, producers need to shift their thinking to ensure every cow is performing her best. He says this is where precision data come in.

Vandenberg echoes that sentiment, saying AMS is going to be the product of choice in the future. However, he believes there will still be producers who choose to go with a

conventional milking parlour.

“These are the producers who like seeing their cows two or three times a day in a milking parlour and who want to expand quickly with a big rotary so they can add more cows to the herd without having to change much to the milking system.”

## CONCLUSION

Vandenberg says it’s imperative for farmers to ensure an AMS fits their management style before they choose to install one.

Siebring believes if some producers don’t see the success they thought they were going to get from a robot, it could be because it didn’t fit their management style.

Both indicate the farmer will see positive milk production if they stick to what they are comfortable with.

Vaandrager warns robots will not entirely replace producers in the barn. “They’ll give you some flexibility, but don’t assume they’re going to run the farm for you,” he says. “They’re just a machine that’s sitting in the corner.”

Vaandrager loves cows but dislikes milking them in a parlour. That’s why installing an AMS worked for him and gave him the life-style he wanted. 🐄



Photo courtesy of Mark Wescott, Dairy Lane Systems Ltd., Komoka, Ont.

Craig Lester is a freelancer journalist.

# FROZEN GROUND AND NUTRIENTS DON'T GET ALONG

By Lilian Schaer  
CONTRIBUTOR

There are various reasons why farmers apply manure in the winter. Lack of storage capacity or an attempt to avoid soil compaction caused by heavy equipment are two common motivators for a practice that has negative impacts on the environment while also attracting added scrutiny to farmers and farming methods.

As the industry learns more about nutrient losses and how phosphorus moves in the environment, it has become abundantly clear frozen ground and nutrient application don't get along. And that means farmers should avoid applying manure, whether solid or liquid, on frozen or snow-covered ground wherever and whenever possible.

Manure is rich in nutrients and micronutrients that are important for healthy crop growth. It can also help build underground biodiversity and add structure that will improve the water-holding capacity of soil, especially when used with cover crops, minimum till or no-till and other practices that boost soil health.

Manure applications can always be susceptible to run-off and nutrient loss, but winter manure applications in particular are prone to nutrient losses. That's because after freeze-thaw events, air pockets in the soil that have filled with water can refreeze to form an impervious, concrete-like layer. That means water from melting snow combined with winter or early spring rains isn't absorbed into the soil. Instead, it carries manure and nutrients across this impervious layer and off the field into water courses.

Phosphate can move off the field, dissolved in water or attached to eroding soil particles, and flow into lakes, streams and waterways where it can promote algae growth. As algae die and decompose, they use up available oxygen in the water, which impacts aquatic life.

Research shows there's a higher risk manure from winter application will move during spring thaw. In fact, 60 to 80 per cent of sediment and phosphorus loading occurs between November and April, and surface run-off accounts for about 80 per cent of dissolved phosphorus loss.

It's important to remember both solid and liquid manure can run off, and even though solid manure might still be visible in the field after application, some nutrients will still dissolve and find their way

into waterways.

To avoid spreading manure in the winter, producers can:

- **Build additional storage.** Make sure the farm has adequate manure storage capacity for the size of the herd or flock, including a contingency in case a wet fall or delayed harvest make it difficult to get all the manure out before winter;
- **Cover existing storages.** Extend the holding capacity of existing manure storage by installing a roof to keep out rainwater. Calculations by Christine Brown, field crop sustainability specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, show, for example, a 115-head dairy barn with a 12 by 145-foot circular liquid manure tank can store up to 121 extra days of manure if it is covered;
- **Add temporary storage.** For solid manure, temporary storage in field is one approved solution when barn storage is limited

for bedded-pack manure from cow or heifer barns, or even calf hutches. The key is identifying the best location that will have minimal impact on water and neighbouring properties;

- **Make a deal.** Look at excess manure as a resource that can help reduce commercial fertilizer costs and consider selling it to other farmers in the area without livestock;

- **Rotate crops.** Adding an extra crop to the rotation is one way to have additional options for spreading manure over the course of the year. Wheat is one of the easiest crops to add for ex-

panded manure management options, but winter barley, winter canola or even hybrid rye are also options for consideration;

- **Use technology.** Manure application technology is continually evolving, making it easier to apply manure into crops during the growing season. Not only does this take the pressure off during spring and fall, but it offers yield-boosting potential too.

Using manure is a sustainable agricultural practice, but it's important to manage it responsibly in order to minimize environmental impact, so timing really does matter. More information about all of these topics is available at <https://www.farmfood-careon.org/timing-matters/>.

Using manure is a sustainable agricultural practice, but it's important to manage it responsibly in order to minimize environmental impact, so timing really does matter.

*This article is provided by Farm & Food Care Ontario as part of the Timing Matters project. It was funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*



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# HELPING PRO SEASONAL DI

By Workplace Safety & Prevention Services  
CONTRIBUTOR

Short winter days and cold weather that keeps everyone inside can send people's moods into a nosedive. According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, up to 15 per cent of Canadians suffer from the "winter blues," and another five per cent from the more debilitating seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

These disorders can affect a farm worker's health and well-being, as well as his or her functional ability and performance quality, says Krista Schmid, a mental health consultant with Workplace Safety & Prevention Services. "Safety, productivity, engagement and customer service can all be compromised," she says.

Employers can help keep farm workers safe and engaged by taking the following six steps:

**1. Open a dialogue to destigmatize depression.** Consider bringing in an expert who can talk about seasonal depression and SAD and open the topic up for discussion. "This will help normalize it in the workplace and encourage employees to come forward if they need help," Schmid says. In place of an expert, distribute information and spell out what help is available to employees;

**2. Empower farm workers with personal coping strategies.** Lack of light is the culprit behind winter depression and SAD. Treatment for SAD usually involves light therapy for 30 to 90 minutes a day. SAD lights are available for purchase from several sources. Here are other methods employees can consider for themselves:

- Spend more time outside during daylight hours;
- Eat a balanced diet and get adequate sleep;
- Join a group or volunteer. Choose an uplifting activity;
- Engage in physical activities to boost energy and well-being and reduce stress;
- Seek professional counselling;
- Develop a resiliency plan to help them adapt to or recover from adversity;



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# PRODUCERS COMBAT DEPRESSION

• Develop a support network—friends, family and doctor—to ease feelings of isolation or depression.

**3. Recognize when someone needs help.** SAD and winter blues are characterized by a low mood, difficulty concentrating or making decisions, fatigue, faulty memory, irritability, decreased interest and productivity and slow reaction time. Train farm managers, supervisors and the joint health and safety committee members in mental health first aid so they can recognize signs of depression and offer support. “It’s about reaching out when someone is acting differently—not judging,” Schmid says;

**4. Provide workplace accommodation.** “It’s not about turning the world upside down. It’s a tweak here, an adjustment there,” Schmit says. Accommodation might include access to a SAD light, flexible hours, ensuring people take their breaks or simply moving a workstation

closer to a window. “Ask each employee what would work best for them.”

**5. Offer onsite activities to build a sense of community and provide coping mechanisms.** Examples include:

- Yoga, boot camp or other exercise;
- A walking group;
- Mindfulness and meditation workshops;
- Book clubs on refocusing the mind;
- Lunch-and-learns focusing on simple ways to integrate wellness for mental health;
- Breathing techniques to reduce stress;
- Healthy eating workshops.

**6. Provide mental health resources.** Make sure employees know what’s available to them through their benefits plan, the company’s employee assistance programs and in the community.

For free online resources to help employers create a psychologically healthy workplace, as well as resources for employees, visit [thinkmentalhealth.ca](http://thinkmentalhealth.ca).



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# NON-OBVIOUS BENEFITS OF COLOSTRUM AND TRANSITION MILK

By Veal Farmers of Ontario  
CONTRIBUTOR

At the Healthy Calf Conference in November 2020, Dr. Michael Nagorske from the Saskatoon Colostrum Company spoke about the value of colostrum and transition milk. Colostrum is widely recognized as an important source of antibodies, designed to help protect calves against disease and infection. However, research is increasingly showing the value of bovine colostrum extends well beyond antibodies.

When bovine colostrum is fed to other species, such as mice, it has been shown to reduce intestinal damage (*Filipescu IE, et al., 2018*) and enhance immune response to influenza (*Wong ED, et al., 2014*). This means producers may be unaware of the additional benefits colostrum and transition milk can provide to their calves.

Colostrum contains more than 40 oligosaccharides that stimulate gut microflora, which calves lack at birth and are critical to overall health development. In addition, 50 of the more than 500 proteins in colostrum are exclusive to it and not found in whole milk. This makes post-day one transition milk a critical tool in fighting disease, including scours, in calves.

Calves are born with underdeveloped intestines—in fact, they are the last organ to de-

velop—with many changes occurring two to three weeks after birth. The first several milkings contain higher levels of antibodies than whole milk that specifically target diseases, such as *E. coli* and rotavirus. Transition milk also contains colostrum fats, and all-natural antimicrobials, such as lactoferrin, lysozyme and lactoalbumin, as well as growth factors and immune stimulants.

It may not be a coincidence calves typically scour in the first two to three weeks of life, before their gut is fully functional. Gut development happens on four levels—the microbial barrier (commensal bacteria), chemical barrier (mucus layer), physical barrier (epithelium) and immunological barrier. Bioactives in colostrum and transition milk work synergistically on all four layers of the gut in ways the industry is only beginning to understand.

Whether transition milk is from cows on the farm or mimicked using colostrum replacer in combination with milk replacer, research is now putting the value of transition milk in mitigating disease and promoting gastrointestinal health into perspective.

A recent study by Dr. Michael Steele's team from the University of Guelph demonstrated feeding calves transition milk over three days can have a profound impact on the intestinal villi and stimulate development of the gastrointestinal tract. Other studies have recorded an in-

crease of three kilograms total body weight in calves fed transition milk or colostrum replacer with milk replacer for just three days (*Van Soest, et al., 2020*).

Feeding mimicked transition milk has also been shown to have an 85 per cent reduction in scours, 64 per cent reduction in respiratory disease, 79 per cent reduction in depression and 72 per cent reduction in navel abnormalities (*Chamorro et al., 2017*).

Nagorske suggested a more proactive rather than reactive approach for farmers addressing calf-rearing issues, highlighting the link between calves that get scours and respiratory disease. He points to what could be overlooked—the non-obvious benefits of feeding colostrum and transition milk—to help calves get off to a healthy start and reach their full potential. 🐄

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# REDEFINING INDOOR, OUTDOOR SPACES

New research provides opportunity for more dairy cow movement and reviews best management practices

By Shelley Crabtree  
CONTRIBUTOR

According to a 2019 dairy cattle survey conducted by the National Farm Animal Council, providing freedom of movement to dairy animals is one of the top five predominant welfare concerns among respondents—43.7 per cent of which were the public.

The public generally sees increasing movement and exercise as good for human health. By extension, the same concepts are applied to domesticated animals and production animals in confinement. Growing evidence shows health and welfare benefits for dairy animals, but many questions remain on how dairy cattle can best benefit in the context of existing housing and management practices and why the animals behave in certain ways toward exercise or more movement.

New research led by Elsa Vasseur at McGill University, and funded by the Dairy Research Cluster 3 (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Dairy Farmers of Canada), will soon change the industry's understanding of cow movement and exercise for dairy cattle housed in tiestalls. Vasseur and her collaborators

are rethinking how spaces can be adapted to provide dairy cows the opportunity for more movement and exercise.

The research team is in the process of developing, redesigning and testing indoor and outdoor spaces in a tiestall environment to allow cows more movement while minimizing the costs for producers to make changes, as well as minimizing environmental impacts. Their results will serve to develop best management practices that are efficient, cost-effective and sustainable, with beneficial effects for the animals, including improvements to cow comfort and health.

The research project is timely given revisions to the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle*, 2009, and targets for better animal welfare outcomes are being considered by the industry. Until recently, very little research had been done on the relevant and practical options to provide opportunities for movement or exercise to dairy cattle in tiestall housing systems.

Tiestall housing makes up about 70 per cent of the dairy cattle housing systems used in Canada, and were built because of its advantages, such as minimizing competition for feed and lying space and the ability to care

and observe animals individually. But for the public, they are seen as restricting the animal's natural or normal behaviours.

Evidence to date on cow movement and exercise suggests the outcomes can benefit the animals' health, behaviour and welfare. Some studies demonstrated:

- Cows are motivated to access the outdoors when provided the opportunity in both winter and summer conditions when housed in different indoor housing systems, such as a typical freestall barn, deep bedding composted pack, etc.;
- Tiestall farms that provided cows with outdoor access had 20 per cent fewer lame cows and 16 per cent fewer cows with hock injuries at the end of the winter—the period during which cows are most restricted to the indoors—than farms providing no outdoor access;
- Tiestall cows have fewer hoof lesions (10 per cent less) if access to an outdoor yard was provided.

## HOW TO ADAPT AN EXISTING TIESTALL SYSTEM

Researchers are examining several options to increase cow movement in tiestall systems.

*Continued on page 36*



» **RESEARCHERS AT** McGill University discovered cows are motivated to access the outdoors when provided the opportunity in both winter and summer conditions. Above are images of experiments researchers conducted related to movement outdoors during March 2019 (left image) and July 2019 (right image).

*Photos courtesy of Elsa Vasseur from McGill University*

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*Redefining indoor, outdoor spaces,  
cont'd from page 34*

They are measuring the optimal amount and length of time for movement and exercise at different frequencies, observing cows' behaviour indoors and outdoors, recording the types of activities the cows engage in and observing how active they are during exercise periods.

Researchers will also evaluate the effects of providing exercise on cows' locomotion and on different outcome measures of welfare, such as lying time and injuries, as well as the impact on milk production.

An economic and environmental assessment will identify the effects of providing indoor and

outdoor exercise periods on farmers' workloads, as well as the effects on air and groundwater quality.

## WHY COWS BEHAVE IN CERTAIN WAYS TOWARD EXERCISE

Researchers note there may be challenges to consider when the opportunity for more movement or exercise is provided to cows. It depends on an individual cow's motivation to do so.

"Perhaps the biggest barrier to the efficacy of outdoor access as a means to elicit increased locomotor activity in the cow is the fact it is largely dependent on the individual cow to engage in activities related to movement when provided this addition to her housing environment," says

Elise Shepley, a PhD student working on the research project. "Cows that display higher levels of locomotor activity are likely to do so in any environment in which they are placed and vice versa for low activity level cows. When providing free access to the outdoors, it is necessary to consider the cows' preference to go outdoors or stay inside."

To download a copy of the project summary, visit <https://bit.ly/3ihosKT>.

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## PROJECT DETAILS

**Principal investigator:** Elsa Vasseur from McGill University

**Co-investigators:** Stéphane Godbout from Institut de recherche et de développement en agroenvironnement, Sébastien Fournel from Université Laval, Marianne Villettaz Robichaud from Université de Montréal, Yan Martel Kennes and Pierre Ruel from Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault

**Collaborators:** Anne-Marie de Passillé and Jeff Rushen from the University of British Columbia, Steve Adam from Lactanet Canada and Doris Pellerin from Université Laval

**Period:** 2018-22

**Partners:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Dairy Farmers of Canada, as well as in-kind contribution from Centre de recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault (CRSAD)

**Budget:** \$542,525

### Shelley Crabtree

is the communications and knowledge transfer specialist for the Dairy Research Cluster.

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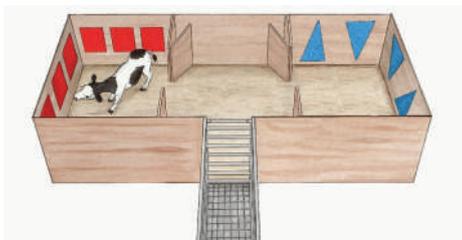
# ASSESSING IMPACT: USING THE MEMORY OF D

## TO IDENTIFY LESS PAINFUL METHODS

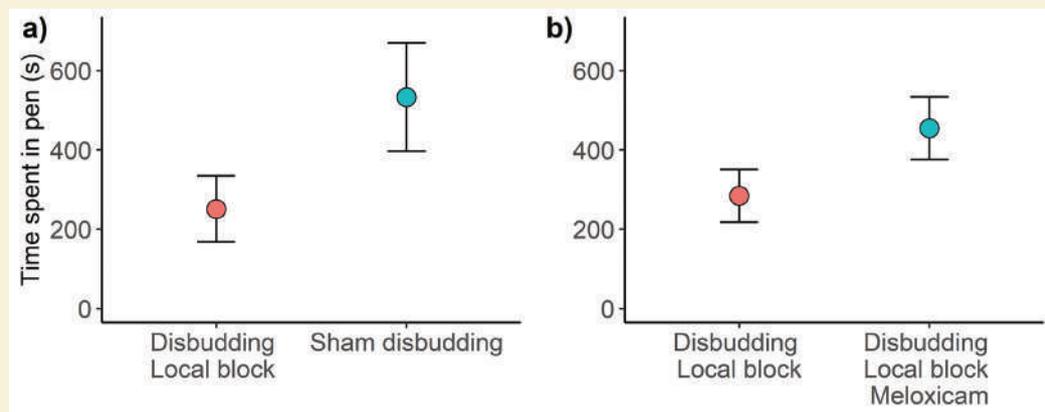
By Thomas Ede, Marina von Keyserlingk  
and Daniel Weary  
CONTRIBUTORS

Hot iron disbudding is a common procedure on dairy farms. When no pain medication is provided, calves show a strong and immediate response, including attempts to escape.

**Figure 1:** An experimental apparatus where calves received different procedures in the pens with red squares and blue triangles. During test sessions, gates were taken out, allowing the calf to freely roam between



**Figure 2:** Aversion test results showing the amount of time spent in pens where calves had previously received different disbudding procedures. **Figure 2a** shows calves spent more time in the pen where they experienced sham disbudding versus real disbudding with a local block. **Figure 2b** shows calves spent more time in the pen where they had experienced disbudding with both a local block and a post-operative analgesic versus disbudding with only a local block.



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When a local anesthetic is provided—usually lidocaine, a local block that numbs nerves, preventing pain signals from being transmitted—these immediate pain responses are reduced. Unfortunately, local anesthetics are only effective for a few hours and much remains unknown regarding pain after this local anesthesia wanes.

In a series of recent studies at the University of British Columbia's Dairy Education and Research Centre in Agassiz, B.C., we assessed the impact of this post-operative pain by measuring the calves' memory of this experience.

To do so, we built an apparatus divided in three pens, as illustrated in *Figure 1*. Two of these pens were mounted with distinctive panels—red squares and blue triangles—making it easier for calves to associate the memory of the post-operative pain with a specific pen.

Calves were always sedated using xylazine and given a lidocaine nerve block to prevent pain during disbudding. Calves were then allowed to recover in one of the distinctive pens for six hours—enough time for the effects of the lidocaine to wane and calves to feel the effects of the post-operative inflammatory pain.

In one study, calves were disbudded in one of the two distinctive pens, and in the other pen, calves experienced a sham procedure where they were given xylazine sedation but no disbudding.



# DISBUDDING

A few days later, the memory of the two experiences was tested by bringing calves back to the apparatus and allowing them to move freely between the two distinctive pens.

We predicted calves would avoid the pen where they associated a more negative experience. Consistent with this prediction, calves avoided the pen where they were disbudded, indicating even with a sedative and lidocaine nerve block, calves experienced pain in the hours after disbudding and associated this pain with features of the pen (Figure 2a).

In a second experiment, we tested the effect of providing a post-operative analgesic—meloxicam—in addition to the sedative and lidocaine block. In this case, calves spent more time in the pen where they had received the meloxicam versus the pen where they did not, suggesting the analgesic helped reduce post-operative pain, making the experience less aversive to the calves (Figure 2b).

These results indicate calves remember the pain they experience after disbudding and associate these painful memories with where the procedure happened. More practically, the results illustrate the importance of providing calves with both a local block and an analgesic, such as meloxicam, to treat the pain that occurs in the hours after disbudding.

Alternatively, disbudding can be avoided using polled genetics.

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Dairy Education and Research Centre  
Faculty of Land and Food Systems

# SORGHUM: AN ALTERNATIVE TO CORN SILAGE FOR DAIRY COWS

By Mario Mongeon  
CONTRIBUTOR

Corn is a widely grown crop across Ontario with around 300,000 acres of land devoted to growing corn silage for livestock feed in the province. Whole plant corn silage is widely used by dairy farmers because of its high yield and energy value in feed rations. Although yields and energy values vary from year to year, one can expect harvesting 20 to 22 tonnes of dry matter per hectare.

Several reasons may explain the growing interest in finding an alternative to corn as a forage source. The high nitrogen requirement and low nitrogen utilization efficiency of this crop may become an environmental issue to the public. The wide row spacing used for corn can also increase the risk of soil erosion, and with corn being susceptible to dry conditions, the likely increase in the frequency of drought events with climate change may impact yields in the future. A crop rotation program with the goal of breaking the cycle of certain corn pests may also be desirable, and an alternative forage

crop for dairy feed is required.

Sorghum is a warm season annual grass that requires soil temperatures above 12 degrees Celsius. It will perform best in years when the growing season has higher-than-average temperatures and will outperform corn when grown in dry years. When corn and sorghum are subjected to similar water stress conditions, corn silage yields can be much more affected than those of sorghum.

### YIELDS

Corn can generally be planted earlier than sorghum since corn can tolerate slightly cooler soil temperatures. There could be up to a three-week delay between corn and sorghum planting. Although there are cultivars and hybrids suitable for temperate regions, recent tests carried out in Quebec show it takes at least 2,300 corn heat units to grow sorghum successfully.

A notable aspect of these studies relates to dry matter yields per hectare, which would be comparable to those of corn silage since yields of between 12.9 and 18.9 metric tonnes of dry matter were measured between 2010 and 2012.

Continued on page 40

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*Sorghum: An alternative to corn silage for dairy cows, cont'd from page 39*

A two-year study published in June 2019 reports sorghum average dry matter yields of 18 metric tonnes on a site located west of Montreal, Que., with an average of 3,150 corn heat units. Another site located west of Quebec City, Que., reported average yields of up to 20.5 tonnes of dry matter per hectare during the same period.

**FEED VALUE**

Crude protein levels are similar to corn silage but can be variable. Crude protein content can be affected in part by the amount of nitrogen available to the plant and fertilization regimen.

A frequently raised criticism of sorghum silage relates to higher contents of neutral detergent fibre (NDF), acid detergent fibre (ADF) and lignin. However, it appears genetic improvement and the development of new hybrids and cultivars may circumvent these problems. Significant improvement of sorghum fibre digestibility has been achieved through genetic selection for the brown midrib (BMR) trait, which is associated with the reduction of lignin in corn and sorghum plants, among others.

Lignin is a fibre component that is considered indigestible. Reducing its content in the plant improves overall fibre digestibility and increases energy values to the point that in vitro true digestibility (IVTD) of conventional corn silage and BMR sorghum are now very similar. In addition, the palatability of BMR sorghum is improved significantly compared with conventional sorghum. Since lignin plays an important role in plant rigidity, some BMR sorghum varieties might have a higher risk of lodging.

**Table 1:** Average of 2015 and 2016 nutrient concentrations of corn silage and two hybrids of sweet sorghum grown at five sites in Canada. (All plants harvested when the silage corn reached 65 per cent moisture.) *Adapted from Alix, 2019.*

Nutrients (%)	BMR sorghum silage	Conventional corn silage
Acid detergent fibre (ADF)	34.7	26.7
Neutral detergent fibre (NDF)	59.2	50
In vitro true digestibility (IVTD)	82.0	77.8
Neutral detergent fibre digestibility (NDFd)	70.6	58.9
Total digestible nutrient (TDN)	53.0	54.4

It is interesting to note BMR sorghum varieties do not have the extent of yield reduction associated with the BMR trait in corn silage.

In 2015 and 2016, a conventional corn silage and two BMR sorghum hybrids were grown in five regions in Canada, including Agassiz, B.C., Lethbridge, Alta., Ste-Anne, Que., St-Augustin, Que., and Kentville, N.S. Average nutritional values are listed in *Table 1*.

Although fibre content differs between sorghum and corn silage, sorghum fibre digestibility is such that the net feed values expressed in total digestible nutrient (TDN) are very similar. Since sorghum silage can have higher NDF levels, dry matter intake can be limited. This is an important point when feeding early lactation cows.

When it comes to formulating rations, although corn and sorghum silage have similar energy values on paper, the two feeds behave differently when fed to cows. Simply switching similar quantities of sorghum silage to replace corn silage is not a good idea. A good portion of the energy found in corn silage comes from its high starch content, while most of the energy in sorghum silage comes from the digestible fibre.

Starch from corn silage is a rapidly fermentable energy source in dairy cows' rumen. Well-cared corn silage can easily reach starch values in excess of 30 per cent. On the other hand, sorghum has a much lower starch



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content—usually between 10 to 15 per cent—and starch from sorghum behaves differently in the rumen and will degrade at a much slower pace than corn or barley.

The layer that surrounds the outside of the seed—the pericarp—acts as a physical barrier to digestion of nutrients contained within the kernel of corn, sorghum and other grains. When grains are ingested whole, they are nearly indigestible. This demonstrates the inability of rumen microbes to efficiently penetrate the pericarp to get to the nutrients inside the kernel.

It's now common practice to crack or split kernels with a kernel processing harvester to improve overall availability and digestibility of starch contained in the corn grain. Corn kernel size can range from 25 to 40 grams per 100 kernels. In comparison, sorghum vary in kernel size—from one to three grams per 100 kernels. Since the sorghum kernels are much smaller, it would take a very aggressive sorghum silage processing to achieve a significant increase of grain cracking. Mechanical processing of sorghum grains during sorghum silage harvesting could prove challenging.

## HARVESTING AND STORAGE

Forage sorghum is typically wetter at harvest than corn but will ferment well because the plant is rich in sugar. Because of the high moisture level, bunker and heap silos are the preferred storage systems. Tower silos should be avoided since the height of the silage mass would create too much seepage. Ensilability studies demonstrated BMR sorghum ferments well, even if moisture levels are high (Table 2).

During the forage fermentation process, lactic acid is the main acid that lowers pH. To ensure good palatability, the lactic acid concentration in the silage should be four times greater than the acetic acid concentration, and acetic acid concentration should not exceed 20 grams per kilogram.

Although some differences were observed between sorghum and corn silage fermentation parameters, researchers report both sorghum and corn silage fermented well under similar conditions. The measured concentrations of volatile fatty acids were within the range reported for excellent quality silages. Sorghum silages at both sites had three to six times more lactic acid than acetic acid, and an acetic acid concentration of less than 20 g/kg. The propionic and butyric acid concentrations were very low for corn and sorghum silage despite higher moisture level in the sorghum silage.

*Continued on page 42*



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**Sorghum: An alternative to corn silage for dairy cows, cont'd from page 41**

These low values indicate good quality and palatable silages.

**TOXICITY CONCERNS**

Prussic acid poisoning can be a concern in feeding sorghum. As plants mature and plant height increases, the risk of prussic acid poisoning is reduced. Only during times of stress, such as drought or frost, will toxicity remain high in maturing plants.

Management practices can reduce the risks

of prussic acid poisoning. It is best not to ensile the forage for three to five days after a killing frost and allow forage to ferment for at least three weeks before feeding.

Just like with silage corn, nitrate poisoning and formation of toxic silo gas can also occur. High nitrate levels are only a problem under abnormal growing conditions, such as high nitrogen fertilization and prolonged drought followed by rain. ☹️

*References:*

*Forage yield, nutritive value, and ensilability of sweet pearl millet and sweet sorghum in*

*five Canadian ecozones. Hugo Alix, Gaëtan F. Tremblay, Martin H. Chantigny, Gilles Bélanger, Philippe Seguin, Keith D. Fuller, Shabtai Bittman, Derek Hunt, Francis J. Larney, Surya N. Acharya, and Anne Vanasse Can. J. Plant Sci. 99: 701–714 (2019) Graduate Student Literature Review: Current perspectives on whole-plant sorghum silage production and utilization by lactating dairy cows. C. L. McCary, D. Vyas, A. P. Faciola, and L. F. Ferraretto J. Dairy Sci. 103:5783–5790 (2020) Guide de production du sorgho sucré au Québec. P. Bélanger, O. Lalonde, M-N. Thivierge, A. Vanasse Centre de Recherche sur les Grains. 2018 <https://cerom.qc.ca/publications/2020/07/31/guide-rpbq-sorgho-sucre>*

**Table 2:** Average BMR sorghum and corn silage data (2015 and 2016) measured at two sites in Quebec. (All plants harvested when the silage corn reached 65 per cent moisture.) *Adapted from Alix, 2019.*

Nutrients (%)	BMR sorghum silage	Conventional corn silage
Dry matter content (%)	24.2	33.5
Moisture content (%)	75.8	66.5
Ph	3.8	3.75
Lactic acid (g/kg)	61	34
Acetic acid (g/kg)	15.75	11
Propionic acid (g/kg)	0.31	0.12
Butyric acid (g/kg)	0.10	0

**Mario Mongeon**

is a livestock specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – Alfred Resource Centre.

This article is prepared by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs livestock technology specialists to provide information producers can use on their farm.



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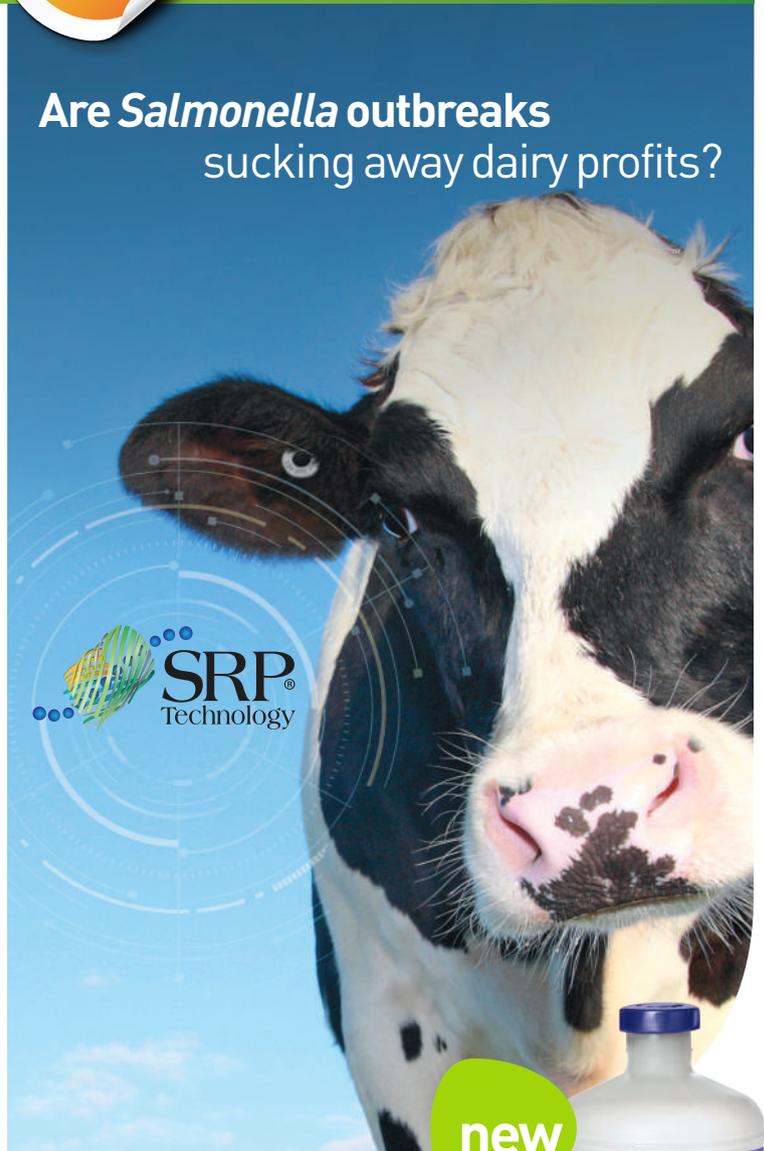
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# IS YOUR **SILAGE** READY?

By Renato J. Schmidt  
CONTRIBUTOR

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3. Limit the opportunity for growth of spoilage microbes by restricting oxygen penetration into the face and top of silage.

## STARCH DIGESTIBILITY

After several months of storage, the starch in silage is more readily available for microbial fermentation in the rumen. In fact, in vitro studies have shown about a 30 per cent difference in ruminal starch digestibility after four months of fermentation. Therefore, producers should wait until the starch becomes more digestible before feeding new silage, so the cattle can get more out of its energy value.

If needed, producers can plan for earlier opening times. They can add a proven silage inoculant containing enzymes if they think they'll have to open new silage early. This allows the fermentation to be more efficient, and the resulting silage to be more consistent. Inoculants with high activity enzymes help break down plant fibre, which can improve fibre digestibility. The product label should clearly indicate guaranteed levels validated by independent research studies.

## TRANSITION GRADUALLY

When producers are ready to open the new silage, make the transition gradual—over a 10- to 14-day period—and adjust the ration to balance changes in dry matter and nutrient content. New silage can be introduced as 25 per cent of the silage portion of the ration in the first three days, then 50 per cent of the ration the next three days and so on, until the transition is complete.

## LIMIT THE GROWTH OF SPOILAGE MICROBES

As silage is opened and distributed, it is once again exposed to air. Oxygen allows aerobic microorganisms that survived the ensiling process—such as bacilli, molds and especially yeasts—to grow. These microbes use key nutrients in the silage, and this activity produces heat. Excessive heat can denature proteins and other nutrients in the silage. Molds growing on the silage may also produce mycotoxins that can reduce animal performance and cause herd health and fertility issues.

*Continued on page 46*

# DAIRY FARM WANTED

Family looking to buy an ongoing dairy farm in Bruce, Huron or Grey county.

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## Dairy Farmers of Ontario Virtual Annual Meeting

Thank you to our industry partners, out-of-province guests and producers for joining us for our first virtual meeting.

We look forward to connecting with you at future events and meetings, in whatever capacity that may be.



### *Is your silage ready?* cont'd from page 45

Inoculants including *Lactobacillus buchneri* NCIMB 40788—like MAGNIVA Titanium forage inoculant—will be more resistant to heating and spoilage since this organism dramatically reduces yeast levels. As well, inoculants can contain high activity enzymes. By including these management practices, producers can be ready to feed silage with success. 🍷

#### **Renato J. Schmidt**

*is the forage products specialist at Lallemand Animal Nutrition North America.*

### NEW N NOTED

**M**ilk Producer's special section, *New N Noted*, offers an opportunity for agribusinesses to inform readers about new and exciting products available to them. To have your new products and services in our issue, forward your information to [pat.logan@milk.org](mailto:pat.logan@milk.org) (space restrictions will apply). *Note: Descriptions of products and services are for the information of our readers only. Publication of this information does not constitute endorsement by Milk Producer.*



# Are you ready for winter?

Dairy Farmers of Ontario is reminding producers to clear their laneways of ice and snow.

### Why is this important?

- creates a safe environment for milk transporters;
- ensures timely milk pickup;
- reduces DFO's winter transportation costs;
- mandated through DFO's Farm Yards and Lanes Policy.

Yards and laneways that bulk tank milk graders travel on must be cleared of snow and clearly marked with poles and reflecting markers. Ice buildup should be salted and-or sanded.





Consistent, even milk-out from quarter to quarter, milking after milking.

## Magnum™ 450TL

### The Liner with Turbo Action

- **Transitional Shape** – “Hugs” the teat rather than pinching for comfort, results in less squawks and unit kick-offs
- **Round Shoulder** – Low mouthpiece vacuum, less mouthpiece congestion
- **Tapered Barrel** – For optimal teat massage and faster milk-out
- **Transitional Wall Thickness** – Ideal teat placement for a healthier teat end
- **Lowered Placement of Liner Touchpoint** – Keeps teat ends healthy
- **2400 Milkings** – Fewer liner changes

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Tara Partner Ag Services  
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GLPI 3327

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*A-team*



Fat 82kg +.15%  
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GLPI 3311

PROGENESIS

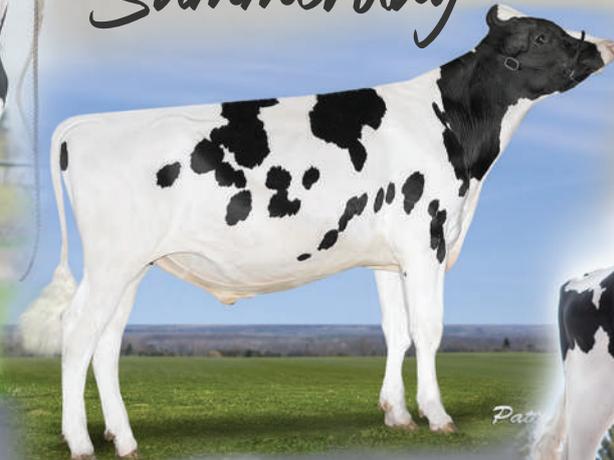
*Parachute*



Fat 106kg +.47%  
Fat & Protein 177kg  
GPA LPI 3455

PROGENESIS

*Summerday*



Fat 89kg +.04%  
Fat & Protein 161kg  
GPA LPI 3298

DRUMDALE

*Allday-P*



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GPA LPI 3545

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EastGen's "Fat Boys" will maximize your profits with the new milk pricing formula to be implemented in 2021. Our "Fat Boys" deliver breed leading volumes of Fat and Protein while making healthy profitable cows. Contact your EastGen Rep to learn more about our outstanding offering of exceptional Fat & Protein sires.

## LES EXPERTS DE L'ARRELL FOOD INSTITUTE DONNENT LEURS AVIS SUR L'AVENIR DU SYSTÈME ALIMENTAIRE

Par Jennifer Nevans  
RÉDACTRICE

La transformation des défis en possibilités était un thème clé lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle de Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) — un concept que le Dr Evan Fraser, conférencier principal a développé tout au long de sa présentation le 13 janvier.

Dr Fraser, directeur de l'Arrell Food Institute (AFI) de l'Université de Guelph, a donné un aperçu aux 600 et quelques producteurs laitiers, partenaires industriels et invités présents de certains des défis auxquels l'industrie sera confrontée à partir de 2021 et a expliqué comment elle peut les transformer en possibilités.

Des concessions laitières découlant des accords commerciaux aux changements réglementaires visant à remédier aux interruptions de la chaîne d'approvisionnement causées par la pandémie, Dr Fraser affirme que le secteur laitier sera confronté à plusieurs obstacles. Notamment, le changement de la préférence et des habitudes d'achat des consommateurs qui constitue un défi de taille.

« Selon les publications des 10 derniers mois, la demande mondiale en viande et en produits laitiers n'augmente pas aussi vite que prévu », dit-il, ajoutant que la population mondiale n'augmente pas non plus aussi vite que prévu et déclinera probablement après 2050 à un niveau inférieur à celui d'aujourd'hui.

Il explique qu'environ 70 % de la population mondiale diminuerait sa consommation de viande ou n'en consommerait plus du tout. La génération Y mène ce changement mondial d'abandon de la viande. Ces changements sont soutenus par certains diététistes et autres professionnels et se reflètent également dans le nouveau Guide alimentaire du Canada.

Si l'on ajoute à cela le fait que de nouveaux produits arrivant sur le marché feront concurrence aux produits traditionnels de l'élevage à l'épicerie, comme les produits laitiers issus du génie biologique ou fabriqués en laboratoire, le secteur laitier aura une plus grande concurrence.

« Nous devons tous être préparés à la très réelle possibilité qu'une entreprise spécialisée en agriculture cellulaire pour produire des



» DR. EVAN FRASER est le directeur de l'Arrell Food Institute de l'Université de Guelph.

protéines laitières nous fasse concurrence sur les tablettes des épiceries », dit-il. « Nous devons reconnaître le fait qu'à l'échelle mondiale, nous approchons peut-être un sommet de la consommation de bétails en raison de la population plus petite ou vieillissante, de changements dans les demandes des consommateurs et de nouveaux produits protéiques. »

Toutefois, là où il y a des défis, il y a des possibilités, affirme-t-il. L'AFI et l'Institut canadien des politiques agroalimentaires (ICPA) ont participé à un projet Devenir plus fort qui s'intéressait à la performance du système alimentaire durant la pandémie. Ils ont conclu que le système alimentaire a plié sans se briser, mais qu'il a failli se briser à plusieurs reprises, en particulier au début de la pandémie, explique Dr Fraser.

Il affirme qu'ils ont aussi appris que la majorité des problèmes du système alimentaire, comme le manque de main-d'œuvre ou l'insécurité alimentaire, étaient connus de l'industrie depuis plusieurs années, mais ont été

révélés au public en raison de la COVID-19.

L'AFI et l'ICPA ont aussi appris que les consommateurs croient réellement que l'industrie agroalimentaire peut et doit être une pierre angulaire de l'économie, offrant une possibilité à l'industrie de jouer un rôle de leadership.

Dans le plan post-COVID-19, il affirme que l'industrie devrait se concentrer sur trois aspects - raccourcir la chaîne d'approvisionnement pour faciliter l'approvisionnement en matières et en aliments, s'ouvrir à l'innovation et à la technologie et adopter la notion de durabilité comme identité fondamentale de l'industrie laitière.

« Je crois réellement que l'évolution démographique, les nouvelles préférences des consommateurs et les produits protéiques alternatifs entraîneront une diminution de la demande de bétail durant ce siècle », mentionne-t-il. Toutefois, ces défis ouvrent de nouveaux débouchés pour le secteur de l'élevage canadien, si l'industrie se concentre sur les bons domaines.

# LA COLLABORATION AU CŒUR DU SUCCÈS DE L'INDUSTRIE EN 2020

Par Jennifer Nevans  
RÉDACTRICE

La collaboration entre les secteurs laitiers a été essentielle pour que l'industrie puisse relever avec succès les défis de l'an dernier.

« Il y a un an, nous n'aurions jamais pensé avoir notre assemblée générale annuelle (AGA) de 2021 par écran et téléphone au lieu de nous réunir au Royal York de Toronto, » confie Murray Sherk, président du conseil d'administration de Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) dans son discours du 13 janvier lors de l'AGA.

Citant les défis auxquels l'industrie a été confrontée au printemps dernier, qui ont mis à rude épreuve le secteur agroalimentaire et mis le système alimentaire canadien sous les feux de la rampe, Murray Sherk affirme que, dès le début, tous les secteurs ont joué un rôle essentiel pour répondre à la production et à la demande, encaisser les effets de la pandémie et améliorer la communication entre les secteurs.

« La collaboration était tout simplement spectaculaire, » ajoute-t-il. « Tous les partenaires de la chaîne d'approvisionnement alimentaire se sont

réunis pour répondre aux besoins de manière aussi transparente que possible ».

Les producteurs ont dû notamment agir rapidement pour ajuster leur production dans les premières semaines de la pandémie, et travailler avec les transporteurs et les transformateurs pour mettre en place des protocoles de santé et de sécurité afin de protéger les travailleurs et de garantir que l'industrie continue à produire des produits laitiers de haute qualité pour les consommateurs.

Le président du conseil d'administration a également souligné la rapidité avec laquelle l'industrie s'est mobilisée pour venir en aide aux personnes dans le besoin. Il fait notamment référence au don de 100 000 dollars de DFO pour soutenir Feed Ontario, ainsi qu'aux 200 000 litres de lait donnés en partenariat avec Gay Lea Foods. Ces dons sont en plus du programme annuel régulier de l'industrie avec l'Ontario Dairy Council et l'Ontario Milk Transport Association, qui donne plus d'un million de litres de lait à Feed Ontario.

« J'ai été très impressionné par le désir d'aider, en particulier par la passion de nos comités de producteurs laitiers qui se sont surpassés en aidant physiquement à déplacer les produits lorsque nous

étions coincés par la logistique du programme », explique Murray Sherk.

La pandémie a évidemment engendré beaucoup de difficultés, mais elle a aussi fait ressortir quelques points positifs et les atouts du système de gestion de l'offre, constate le président. La gestion de l'offre a permis à l'industrie de poursuivre sa production malgré la fermeture des frontières et sans intervention du gouvernement.

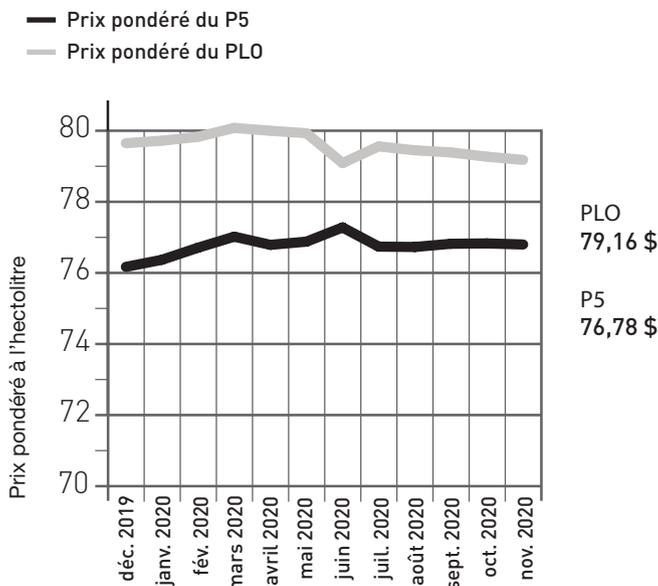
« Comme pour d'autres produits de base, nous avons également subi des pertes sur le plan des exploitations agricoles, » dit-il, d'un montant de 300 millions de dollars en 2020, selon l'évaluation des Producteurs laitiers du Canada, qui n'inclut pas la deuxième vague et les récentes mesures de confinement. « Les producteurs laitiers n'ont pas demandé d'aide financière directe pour compenser ces pertes. Ils ont plutôt partagé leurs pertes collectives, mettant en évidence une autre force de la gestion de l'offre ».

En ce qui concerne 2021, Murray Sherk ne cache pas qu'il y a encore beaucoup d'inconnues, mais il est convaincu que l'industrie peut continuer à collaborer pour rester flexible afin de s'adapter à l'évolution des marchés et de répondre aux besoins de l'année à venir.

## PRIX PONDÉRÉS DU P5 ET DU POOL DE L'OUEST\*

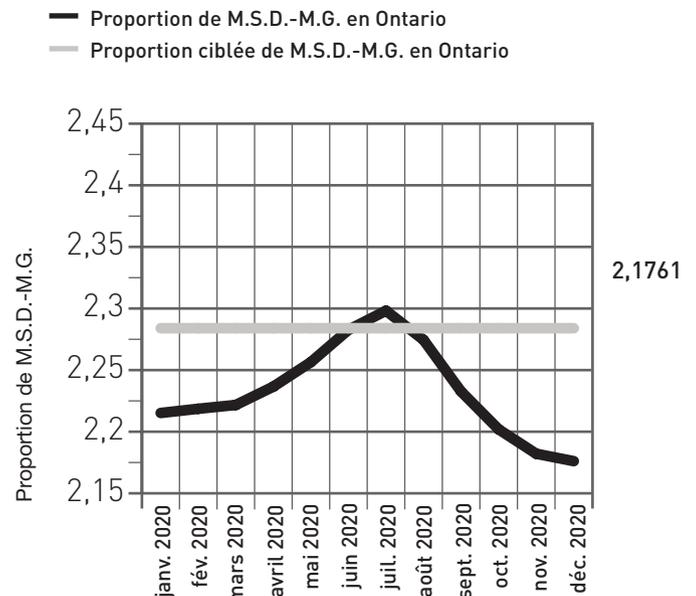
Le graphique ci-dessous montre le prix pondéré de 12 mois pour les provinces du P5 et le pool de lait de l'Ouest (PLO).

\*Ces chiffres sont fournis avec un décalage de trois mois



## PROPORTION DE MATIÈRE SÈCHE DÉGRAISSÉE À LA MATIÈRE GRASSE (M.S.D.-M.G.)

Ce graphique montre la proportion de M.S.D.-M.G. en Ontario pour les 12 derniers mois par rapport à sa proportion ciblée de 2,1722.





# LE P5 ANNONCE LES JOURS D'INCITATIF DE L'AUTOMNE 2021

Par Jennifer Nevans  
RÉDACTRICE

Pour permettre aux producteurs de maintenir le niveau de production actuel, qui répond adéquatement à la demande projetée du marché, les conseils du P5 ont annoncé les jours d'incitatif de l'automne 2021 qui seront émis sur une base non cumulative aux producteurs conventionnels. Cela comprend un jour en août, deux en septembre, deux en octobre et un en novembre.

« Les prévisions montrent que la demande en lait domestique croît toujours en cette année laitière, malgré notre situation actuelle avec les fermetures liées à la COVID-19 », affirme Patrice Dubé, directeur en chef de l'économie et du développement de politiques de Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO). « Alors que l'économie reprend et que la vaccination se poursuit, si la demande du marché demeure élevée, les conseils du P5 pourraient potentiellement augmenter les jours d'incitatifs de l'automne plus tard dans l'année. »

Les ventes au détail demeurent élevées pour la majorité des produits laitiers. Pour la période de quatre semaines se terminant le 28 novembre 2020, les ventes de lait de consommation, de crème de consommation, de yogourt, de crème glacée et de fromage ont augmenté de 5,4; 14,7, 4,1; 14,4 et 10,1 pour cent, respectivement, comparativement à la même période de quatre semaines de l'année précédente. Ces augmentations sont compensées par une diminution de 0,6 % des ventes de beurre, qui peuvent être volatiles d'une période à l'autre en raison des achats et du stockage de beurre des consommateurs.

Les besoins nationaux totaux en matières grasses ont atteint 1,14 million de kilogrammes de matières grasses par jour pour novembre 2020, une baisse de 1,05 % comparativement à novembre 2019. Pendant ce temps, la production de lait totale du P10 en novembre 2020 a atteint 1,09 million de kg, soit une augmentation de 3,49 % comparativement à novembre 2019.

Les niveaux totaux de stocks de beurre ont atteint 24 347 tonnes à la fin de décembre 2020, ce qui est plus bas que les résultats des deux an-

nées précédentes. Les stocks de fromage ont atteint 98 900 tonnes à la fin de décembre 2020, soit une augmentation de 900 tonnes comparativement au mois précédent.

Les conseils du P5 s'attendent à ce que les stocks de beurre atteignent un peu plus de 30 000 tonnes à la fin de juillet 2021, ce qui est sous la cible de 35 000 tonnes pour la fin de l'exercice laitier. M. Dubé prévoit que les stocks de beurre demeureront sous le niveau cible de juillet si la production du P5 au printemps n'est pas suffisante.

« Je crois que les stocks de beurre pourraient être inférieurs au niveau cible étant donné que l'industrie des services alimentaires rouvrira et que l'arrivée du vaccin améliorera la situation dans la prochaine année », dit-il. « Nous savons aussi qu'il n'y a pas autant d'importations que prévu. Du côté de la production, nous avons observé une augmentation importante dans les autres

provinces du P5 au cours des derniers mois, ce qui aidera à répondre à la demande du P5 pour le reste de l'année laitière ».

De plus, de nouveaux investissements dans la transformation, comme les usines de Fairlife et Feihe, contribueront à répondre à la demande plus élevée que prévu, même durant une pandémie, explique M. Dubé.

Si les nouvelles projections du stock de beurre confirment que le niveau sera inférieur à la cible de 35 000 tonnes pour juillet 2021, nous pourrions ajouter plus de lait dans le système pour augmenter ces stocks pour le reste de l'année laitière.

Le principal objectif des conseils du P5 est de surveiller la situation du marché laitier de façon continue et de répondre à la demande de la façon la plus optimale possible. Dans ces temps incertains, les conseils du P5 continueront d'adapter les signaux de production aux changements du marché, au besoin.

## PROVINCE

### PRIX DU QUOTA QUOTIDIEN (\$/kg)

PROVINCE	Prix/kg	Montant voulait/kg	Quantité à vendre/kg	Quantité achetée/kg
Alberta	45 485 \$	375,30	86,12	49,12
Saskatchewan	38 500 \$	127,00	5,00	5,00
Colombie-Britannique	36 500 \$	2061,14	30,00	30,00
Manitoba	34 500 \$	190,63	248,53	45,00
Ontario	24 000 \$	19 819,39	206,68	206,40
Québec	24 000 \$	18 362,44	368,96	368,78
Nouveau-Brunswick	24 000 \$	623,60	3,20	3,20
Nouvelle-Écosse		Exchange cancelled		
Île-du-Prince-Édouard	24 000	414,70	10,00	10,00

JANVIER PRIX

\*Terre-Neuve n'utilise pas d'échange mensuel de quotas

\*\*Plafond de 24 000 en vigueur en Île-du-Prince-Édouard Nouveau-Brunswick Ontario Nouvelle-Écosse et le Québec



### Retenues en Ontario

Pour décembre 2020

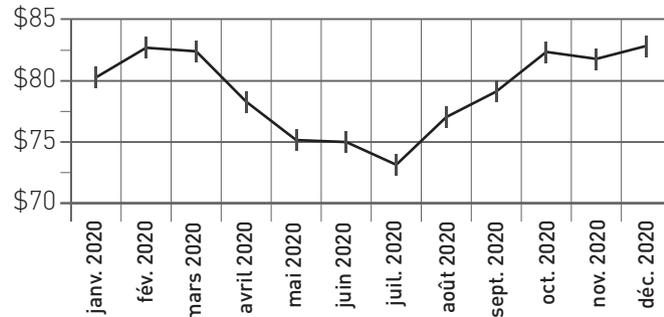
	Intérieur quota *par hL	Excédent de quota *par hL
Administration DFO	0,625 \$	0,625 \$
Recherche DFO	0,050 \$	0,050 \$
CanWest DHI	0,060 \$	0,060 \$
Transport	2,780 \$	2,780 \$
Expansion de marché	1,400 \$	1,400 \$
<b>Total de retenues</b>	<b>4,915 \$</b>	<b>4,915 \$</b>
<b>Total net moyen</b>	<b>77,940 \$</b>	<b>-4,915 \$</b>

\*Ces équivalents par hl sont calculés d'après la composition moyenne ontarienne pour décembre 2020 de 4,22 pour la M.G., de 3,26 pour la protéine et de 5,94 pour les A.M.S., et arrondis au centième près.

Le prix réel du transport pour décembre 2020 était de 2,780 \$ l'hectolitre.

### REVENU BRUT MOYEN EN ONTARIO

Retenues brutes moyennes par hL, basé sur la composition mensuelle provinciale kg-par-hL.



82,86 \$

### PRIX BRUT ACCORDÉS

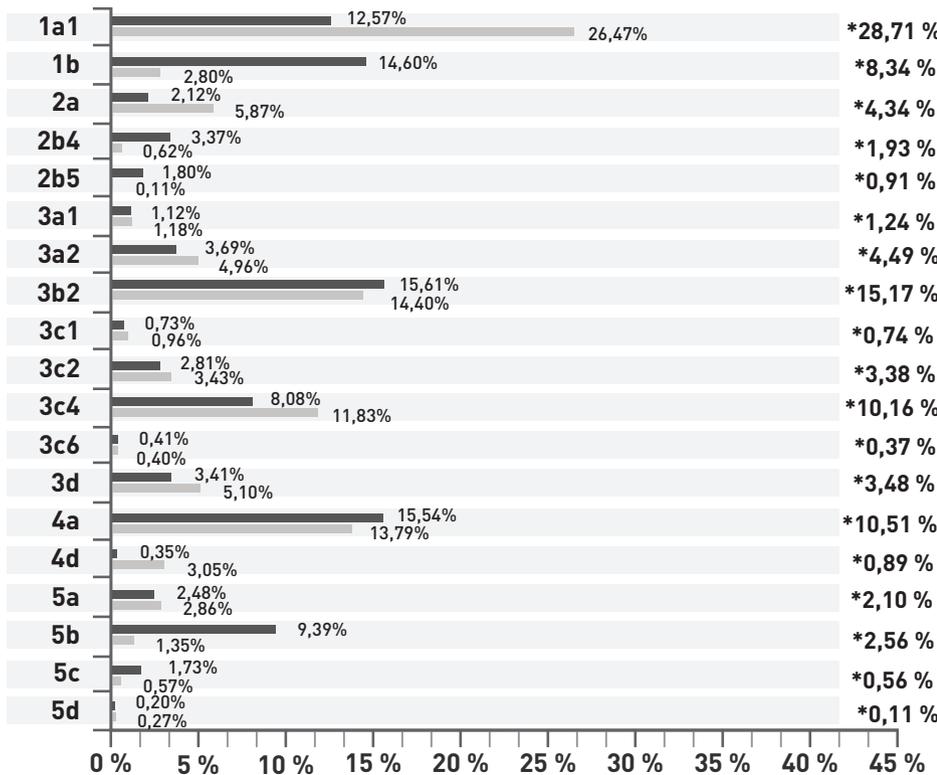
Pour décembre 2020

	M.G. par kg	Protéin par kg	A.M.S par kg	REVENU par kg de M.G.	REVENU *par hL
Prix intérieur-quota	10,88 \$	8,49 \$	1,58 \$	19,61 \$	82,86 \$
Excédent de quota	0,00 \$	0,00 \$	0,00 \$	0,00 \$	0,00 \$

En décembre, 3343 producteurs ont livré du lait au DFO comparativement à 3387 l'an dernier.

### \*Utilisation par classe dans le P10

Pour octobre 2020 (kg de M.G./kg d'extrait sec dégraissé)



**Classe 1a1 (comprend les classes 1a2, 1a3, 1c et 1d pour des raisons de confidentialité)** Lait et boissons

**Classe 1b** Crèmes liquides

**Classe 2a** Yogourt, boissons à base de yogourt, kéfir et lassi

**Classe 2b4 (comprend les classes 2b1, 2b2 et 2b3 pour des raisons de confidentialité)** Desserts laitiers frais, crème sure, milk shakes, et boissons nutritionnelles pour sportifs

**Classe 2b5** Crème glacée et yogourt glacé

**Classe 3a1** Fromages de spécialité

**Classe 3a2** Fromages en grains et fromages frais

**Classe 3b2 (comprend la classe 3b1 pour des raisons de confidentialité)** Cheddar et cheddar vieilli

**Classe 3c1** Feta

**Classe 3c2** Asiago, gouda, havarti, parmesan et suisse

**Classe 3c4 (comprend les classes 3c3 et 3c5 pour des raisons de confidentialité)** Brick, Colby, fermier, jack, Monterey jack, munster, fromage pour pizza, mozzarella pour pizza, et autres mozzarellas non couvertes dans la classe 3d.

**Classe 3c6** Panir

**Classe 3d** Mozzarella utilisée strictement sur les pizzas fraîches par les établissements enregistrés auprès de la Commission canadienne du lait

**Classe 4a** Beurre et poudres

**Classe 4d (comprend les classes 4b1, 4b2, 4c et 4m pour des raisons de confidentialité)** Lait concentré pour la vente au détail, les pertes et l'alimentation animale

**Classe 5a** Fromages destinés à la transformation

**Classe 5b** Produits non fromagers destinés à la transformation

**Classe 5c** Produits de confiserie

**Classe 5d** Exportations prévues