

On-Farm Excellence Excellence à la ferme

AVC-UPEI Symposium – September 21, 2019 Nancy Douglas – Atlantic proAction Coordinator







Past vs Present

In the past, consumers were content with the quality of their milk based on food safety inspections and milk testing

Today, customers want expect more:

Milk and dairy products they buy are safe and wholesome Milk and dairy products have been produced responsibly The food they buy meets clearly defined social standards

Change was imminent





Food Safety

Traceability





prc/action



Animal Care

Biosecurity

Environment







Milk Quality

- Somatic cell count regulatory limit reduced to 400,000 cells/ml in 2012
- Regulated provincially farms are provincially licensed
 - Inspections
 - No inhibitors in milk
 - Bacteria requirements
 - Somatic cell count (reflects herd udder health)







Food Safety

Module was the foundation for proAction

Food Safety: HACCP-based program – a systematic approach to identify, prevent, control and reduce food safety risks

Designed to maintain Milk and Meat safety on dairy farms through:

Improved management practices Increased communications Effective record keeping







Livestock Traceability

3 pillars of livestock traceability: animal identification premises identification animal movement

Objective:



Monitoring and controlling outbreaks

Important for many countries to which animals and genetics are exported Maintain trust of consumers and partners

Credibility

On-farm validation of farmer requirements began September 2017





Biosecurity

- Program based on biosecurity Standard
- > On-farm validation of farmer requirements began in September 2019
- Requirements include an on-farm assessment questionnaire to be completed with a veterinarian

Biosecurity for Your Dairy Farm

Do you want to help protect the health of your herd? Consider developing a biosecurity plan for your dairy farm.

Biosecurity is about managing risk and focuses on preventive practices designed to:

Exclude disease from your farm

Manage the spread of disease within your farm Contain disease to prevent spread to other farms



1

Environment

Requires all farms to complete an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) self-assessment On-farm validations of this component to begin in September 2021









Animal Care

- Based on Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle
- National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) recognition
- Animal assessments by Holstein Canada: Benchmarking project
- On-farm validation of farmer requirements began September 2017









The main categories are:

≻Housing

≻Movement

≻Bedding

Stocking density

➢Visual contact







The main categories are:

≻Housing

≻Feed and water

➢ Free access over 10 days of age (water)

≻Maintain health, vigor and growth







The main categories are:

≻Housing

- ➢Feed and water
- Animal health and biosecurity
 - ≻Assessment
 - ➤Tail docking
 - ➢Pain control
 - ➤Anesthetic (i.e. freezing)
 - ➤Analgesic (i.e. a painkiller)







The main categories are:

≻Housing

- ➤Feed and water
- ➢Animal health and biosecurity
- Handling and shipping animals
 - ➢Evaluate animal before shipping
 - ➢Quiet animal handling techniques
 - ≻Traceability
 - ≻Residues







The main categories are:

≻Housing

- ➤Feed and water
- ➢Animal health and biosecurity
- ➤Handling and shipping animals
- >Staff training and communication
 - ➢Quiet animal handling techniques
 - ➢Record keeping







Cattle Assessment Requirement

- AC14: Do you evaluate the lactating herd for Body Condition Score; hock, knee and neck injuries; and lameness, and:
 - a) Keep records of the results?
 - b) Take corrective action if the herd scores are in the yellow or red zones?





Cattle Assessment Requirement

- Assessment required every two years
- Holstein Canada conducts majority of assessments with qualified assessors
- Random sample size of cattle assessed (margin of error is 15)
- Excludes cattle in sick pens: farmer already taking corrective actions for them
- All of the measures are assessed on the same animal, on the same day
- Cattle are scored as "acceptable" or "requires corrective action" (gait score includes "monitor")



Sample Size Calculator

Average # of cattle in milking herd (lactating and dry*)	Sample size: minimum number of cattle for assessment
≤ 20	14
30	18
40	21
50	23
70	27
90	29
100	30
150	33
250	37
350	38
450	39
550	40
750	40
≥1000	5%





Cattle Assessment CURRENT Requirement

- The program is based on continuous improvement with the excellent targets being the ultimate goal.
- > The first assessment:
 - ➢ Is benchmark for farm
 - > Determines how farm compare to peers and identifies area for improvement
- For subsequent assessments, farmers should strive for and be able to demonstrate continuous improvement



Peer Report Targets

Measure	Excellent	Green	Yellow	Red
Body Condition Score	≥95%	≤25 th percentile	>25 th and <75 th percentiles	≥75 th percentile
Hocks	≥90%	≤25 th percentil∉	>25 th and <75 th percentiles	≥75 th percentile
Knees 2	≥90%	≥90% ≤25 th percent	octh and areth	
			percentiles	
Neck	≥90%	≤25 th percentile	>25 th and <75 th percentiles	≥75 th percentile
Lameness	≥90%	≤25 th percentile	25 th and <75 th percentiles	≥75 th percentile





Cattle Assessment CURRENT Requirement

Implement corrective actions, as necessary

- If a result is in the Yellow Zone: work on corrective actions to move into the Green Zone
- If a result is in the Red Zone: write a corrective action plan to move out of the Red Zone
 Zone
- > Work on solutions with vet or dairy specialist or advisor
- Show improvement on next assessment results

Note: DFC will re-evaluate expectations for corrective actions and continuous improvement after gathering data to determine trends







Body Condition Score (BCS)

On a scale of 1 (emaciated) to 5 (fat), cattle Require corrective action if they score ≤ 2 :

BCS 1:

SHORT RIBS:

- Ends sharp to touch
- · Loin prominent, shelf-like appearance
- · Obvious scalloping over top and ends
- BACKBONE:
- · Vertebrae prominent in chine, loin and rump area
- Individual bones easily visible HOOK AND PIN BONES:
- · Sharply defined, very angular in appearance
- No discernable fat pad
- THURL (area over pelvis):
- Severe "V shaped" depression without fat cover
- TAIL HEAD:
- · Sunken and hollow on either side of tail head with obvious folds of skin
- Ligaments connecting pin bones to spine are sharply defined
- Vulva prominent.

BCS 2

SHORT RIBS:

- Ends not as prominent as BCS 1, but can be felt
- · Edges easily felt, with slight fat cover, and slightly more rounded appearance
- · Overhanging shelf effect less apparent

BACKBONE:

- · Vertebrae in chine, loin and rump area, less visually distinct
- · Easily feel individual vertebrae
- HOOK AND PIN BONES:
- · Bones still prominent, angular
- No fat pad palpable
- THURL (area over pelvis):
- · Less severe "V shaped" depression
- Little tissue cover
- TAIL HEAD:
- Both sides of the tail head are sunken and hollow
- · Sharply defined ligaments connecting pin bones to spine











Body Condi SHORT F

- SHORT RIBS:Ends can be felt with moderate pressure
- Ribs appear smooth without noticeable scalloping
- Overhanging shelf effect much less apparent
- BACKBONE:
- · Vertebrae in chine, loin and rump area appear rounded
- · Backbone visible, but individual vertebrae not distinct
- HOOK AND PIN BONES:
- · Visible, but smooth, with rounded appearance
- Fat pad palpable
- THURL (area over pelvis):
- Forms "U shaped" depression
- TAIL HEAD:
- · Both sides of tail head somewhat hollow, but skin folds not distinct
- · Ligaments connecting pin bones to spine are rounded in appearance

BCS 4

SHORT RIBS:

- · Individual rib ends not visible, only felt with firm pressure
- Overhanging shelf effect slight, barely visible BACKBONE:
- · Vertebrae in chine rounded, smooth
- Loin and rump areas appear flat HOOK AND PIN BONES:
- Rounded, with obvious fat covering THURL (area over pelvis):
- Area between hooks and pins almost flat
- Pelvic bone only felt with firm pressure TAIL HEAD:
- · Sides of tail head not hollow, no skin folds
- Some fat deposit palpable

BCS 5

SHORT RIBS:

- · Ends can't be seen or felt
- No overhanging shelf effect
- BACKBONE:
- Vertebrae in chine, loin and rump not visible
- Difficult to feel individual vertebrae HOOK AND PIN BONES;
- Very round, buried (almost disappearing) in fat tissue
- THURL (area over pelvis):
- Appears flat
- · Filled in between the hooks and pins
- TAIL HEAD:
- Hollow filled in
- · Areas on both sides of tail head buried in fat tissue

Adapted from What's the Score? Body Condition Scoring for Livestock CD-ROM CD 400/40-1_with permission of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. <u>www.agriculture.alberta.ca</u> Copies of the CD can be ordered on-line at: <u>http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex9622</u>











Hock Injury

- Score the tarsal joint of the hock:
- Score according to photos below:









Knee Injury

✤ Score the front of the knee only

✤ Score according to photos:



Score 'A' Acceptable

No Swelling. No hair is missing, some hair loss or

No Swelling. Bald area.



Score 'R' Requires corrective action

Broken skin or scab and/or swelling (< 2.5 cm). May have bald area



Major swelling (≥ 2.5 cm). May have bald area/lesion.







Neck Injury

Score the top of the neck:



Part of the neck in contact with neck rail or chain (stall/feed bunk)

Score according to photos:

Score 'A' A	Acceptable	Score 'R' Requires corrective action
No swelling. No hair is missing, some hair loss or broken hair.	No swelling. Bald area visible	Broken skin or scab and/or swelling. May have bald area





Lameness Scoring Methods

Two methods:

1. Gait or locomotion scoring

- Preferred method
- Use with free-stall cattle
- Use with tie-stall systems where cattle are routinely exercised, if possible and practical
- 2. Stall lameness scoring
- > Use in tie-stall cattle where walking and observation of cattle is not practical





How did farms fare?

On average:

- > 98% of sampled cows in a herd scored within the conformity range for body condition.
- > 90% scored within the conformity range for locomotion,
- ➢ 85% for hocks,
- ➢ 94% for knees and;
- > 97 % for necks.







Verification at the Farm

- Independent on-farm validation occurs every two years, or annually, depending on the province
- Self-declaration required in the in-between years
- 5% of farms randomly selected for on-farm validation during in-between years
- > 99% registration on-farm for current scope





What Do We See Across the Maritimes

- Assessments
- Non-lactating
- Cattle Health Declaration

prefaction





Date: _____

Please Note: the Declaration is valid for one year and must be renewed annually.

Guidelines for the Declaration:

The intent of the Cattle Health Declaration is to satisfy the export requirement from foreign countries to demonstrate that milk used in exported products is sourced from healthy animals. An annual herd health inspection conducted by a veterinarian is the minimum requirement.

A veterinarian should look for evidence or visible signs in the herd for a disease that is transmissible to humans by milk or that adversely affects the quality or flavor of the milk. If the milk is considered acceptable by the provincial regulatory body, the veterinarian should be able to sign the Declaration.

All Canadian producers are required to obtain the Declaration because milk is co-mingled in Canada and milk destined for export products is not segregated.

The Cattle Health Declaration does not include animal welfare. It is specific to animal health.





How do we Ensure National Consistency?

- Producer on farm validation
- Annual Consistency Sessions & Shadows
 - Validator
 - Assessor
 - Provincial Coordinators
- DFC Internal Audits
- DFC Third Party Audits





WHY???







What Do Other Program Look Like?

- Corrective actions
- Random/trigger audits
- Unannounced Audits
- Pay to be part of the program
- Auto fails
- Loss of contracts
- 1-3 days in length

Saputo

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

SAPUTO IMPLEMENTS PROGRESSIVE ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY ACROSS GLOBAL OPERATIONS

(MONTRÉAL, June 1, 2015) – Saputo Inc. ("Saputo") (TSX: SAP), one of the leading dairy processors in the world, announced today the implementation of a progressive Animal Welfare Policy and recent agreements concluded with the University of Guelph (Canada) and the University of Wisconsin–Madison (USA). Through these initiatives, Saputo reinforces its commitment to bringing industry leaders and dairy farmers together to improve animal care.





Sobeys is committed to the humane and respectful treatment of all livestock animals within our supply chain.



The company has taken a leading role in animal welfare, being the only major Canadian retailer to offer our customers beef, pork, chicken and turkey that meet the Certified Humane standard. The standards apply to the entire life cycle of the animals from birth to slaughter and are designed to ensure that the animals have ample space, shelter and gentle handling to limit stress, among other specified criteria. Further, as associate members of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), we are proud to work with a variety of stakeholders to improve codes of practice and animal welfare in Canada, including the codes for beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, pigs and sheep.

Given the above, we are pleased to see the progress made by the Dairy Farmers of Canada with their *proAction Initiative*. This national sustainability framework demonstrates leadership in several areas, including animal care, and will further benefit milk producers and consumers in Canada.

Sincerely,

Scott Tudor Director, Sustainability









We feel that the proAction Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP), completed on each farm and overseen by a veterinarian, will be an excellent approach to reducing and mitigating risks for animal health. Biosecurity software designed to simplify the on-farm risk assessment is under development and we look forward to further collaboration with its authors to make the on-farm biosecurity assessment efficient and comprehensive while at the same time be user-friendly.

Finally, we understand that this initiative will become mandatory to all dairy farmers in Canada. We are fully aware of the extensive work that Canadian dairy farmers do every day to comply with existing regulations and standards and, through proAction, to go the extra step to prove they are responsible, sustainable and innovative food producers. We admire their level of dedication. Canadian dairy veterinarians consider it an honour and a privilege to work with our dairy farm clients.

CABV/ACVB looks forward to continuing to work in collaboration with DFC, its members and dairy farmers. We believe that together we can help improve the health and welfare of the Canadian dairy industry. The proAction[®] Initiative, a proactive and comprehensive animal health and food safety program based on continuous improvement provides the solid foundation and framework towards that goal.

Respectfully yours,

Henry J. Ceelen, DVM CABV/ACVB President









DPAC-ATLC Dairy Processors Association of Canada Association des Transformateurs Laitiers du Canada

DPAC/ATLC Statement

DFC proAction (including Animal Care) Initiative

Dairy producers and processors have a collective interest in maintaining consumer trust and confidence in the Canadian milk supply.

DPAC/ATLC recognizes that national and provincial dairy farmer leadership have assumed their responsibility to undertake the development of a number of on-farm programs under proAction. These include: Milk Quality, Food Safety (Canadian Quality Milk – CQM), Animal Care, Traceability, Biosecurity and Environment.

It is our understanding that DFC is this month voting on a number of resolutions that will further evolve certain elements of proAction, including Animal Care.

Based on the information that has been shared with DPAC/ATLC to date, the introduction and implementation of the Animal Care module of the DFC proAction initiative is a first step in evaluating, monitoring and addressing on-farm animal care practices.



DPAC/ATLC and its members look forward to the opportunity to work with DFC as this initiative evolves further.





DPAC Involvement

- ➤ 3 Areas of interest
 - ➤ Tail docking
 - Pain control
 - ➤ Euthanasia
- Animal Care Technical Committee
 - Continuous Improvement





Good news stories

- Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB)
 - Approached DFC proAction staff
 - Administrative side CFIA approved
- US Processor
 - Wants to develop their own program
 - Looking at proAction as the "gold standard"



CONGRATULATIONS!

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNILEVER SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE CODE AND SCHEME RULES

Dairy Farmers of Canada

IS DECLARED A SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIER FOR

Raw Material	% Production	Valid From	Valid To
MIR	100%	20 May 2019	19 May 2022

Petronella Meekera Head of Sustainable Sourcing Date: 20 May 2019

> PARTNER TO WIN





Unilever













Questions?

Nancy Tedford-Douglas PEI, NL, NS (Zones 1-2-3) 902-394-1657

Lindy Brown NB and NS (Zones 4-5-6) 506-432-4330, ext 104

