

### Ergot Awareness

#### In this Issue:

Dr. Christensen .....	3
Notices .....	4
Hot Tips .....	5
Premise I.D. ....	11
Quota Exchange.....	13
Production.....	16
SCC Reports .....	17
Best Practices.....	19
Pasteurizer .....	20
Classifieds.....	21
Directors .....	21

*Given the wet weather conditions this year, ergot continues to be an issue – here’s a reminder about the importance of testing, and a reprint of Dr. Christensen’s article on the subject:*

Ergot contamination of cereal grains is not a new problem, however, the effects on dairy herds seems to have become much more severe in the past two years.

Ergot problems with animals and people have been known for centuries, and the life cycle of the fungus was described almost 200 years ago. The ergot bodies (sclerotia) are formed in the flowering part of the plant. They can be a few millimeters to several centimeters in length. Some will fall to the ground and overwinter. If they are buried in the soil 3 cm or more deep they will not germinate the next spring. If on or near the soil surface they will germinate producing many very small mushroom like bodies. Spores are formed in these bodies and they are shot into the air. These spores infect the open flowers on cereals and other grasses. The spores germinate and infect a seed embryo producing a sticky fluid. This fluid contains a large number of spores. These spores can be carried to other plants by insects or

plant to plant contact. These spores grow into the dark colored sclerotia that contaminate grain or they drop to the ground to repeat the cycle. Where zero-till is practiced the sclerotia (ergot bodies) may not be buried resulting in a high infection level the next year. Cool wet weather when the crop is flowering stimulates spore production in the newly infected head.

The main type of ergot is the fungus, *Claviceps purpurea*. It can infect rye, triticale, wheat, barley, oat, crested wheat grass, brome grass, quack grass and other grasses. Other fungi may infect grasses, but do not produce the same family of toxic alkaloids. The ergot alkaloids are complex compounds similar in structure to natural hormones that regulate the nervous system. They mimic these normal body compounds and interfere with their function. Ergot bodies contain at least 50 such compounds. There are seven that are of main concern for their effect on dairy cattle and other livestock. There is a lack of information on the levels that affect production and health of livestock. Individual ergot bodies may contain no toxic compounds or over 100,000 parts per billion (ppb).

## ***Ergot cont'd***

The old guideline that up to 0.1% ergot bodies in a ration were safe is not satisfactory. The total safe level depends on the amounts of the seven most toxic alkaloids. The Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Columbia Missouri is regarded as one of the best sources of analysis and guidelines. They suggest that problems are likely to occur if the total of the seven toxic ones exceed 100 to 200 ppb. However they have observed effects at 50 ppb in the ration.

In dairy cows the effect of even a low dose is reduced feed intake and reduced milk yield. This is mainly a result of reduced prolactin production, which is necessary to maintain milk synthesis. This effect has been documented in several herds in Saskatchewan when the TMR was estimated to contain less than 100 ppb. The sources of ergot included barley silage, grass hay, barley grain, grain screenings and distillers grains.

Another effect of ergot alkaloids is on the circulatory system. They cause constriction of blood flow resulting in damage to the ears, tail and feet. Lameness and eventual sloughing off of hooves may occur. Death of the animal may occur due to paralysis of the respiratory center.

Some ergot compounds cause uterine contractions and reduced blood flow to the uterus resulting in abortion.

When ergot bodies have been observed in a feed it is important to have the feed analyzed in order to know if dilution with other feeds is possible or if the feed must be eliminated. The **Prairie Diagnostic Service located at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon** can analyze for ergot alkaloids and common mycotoxins.

At present the main alkaloids found in Saskatchewan can be analyzed at a cost of \$60 per sample. The cost for Fusarium mycotoxins is \$80 per sample or \$120 for both. In general samples of 0.5 to 1.0 kg are suggested.

Information on submission forms and sampling can be obtained on their web site; [www.pdsinc.ca](http://www.pdsinc.ca) , or by phone at 306-966-7316. Assistance in interpreting results can be provided by Dr. Barry Blakely at 306-966-7350.

Feed Company representatives and Veterinarians may have access to other analytical services that can analyze ergot alkaloids and other fungal and mold toxins.

*--by Dr. Dave Christensen*

### **REMINDER: INCENTIVE DAYS**

**September:** 3 days

**October:** 2 day

**November:** 1 day

## Grant Honours Dr. Dave Christensen



O&T Farms announced that it will help establish a travel grant for students enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan, the **Dave Christensen Travel Fellowship Fund**. The Fund will support the work of the University of Saskatchewan and Dr. David Christensen in agriculture and bioresources.

“The University of Saskatchewan has played a significant role in helping to develop nutritional feeds supporting dairy producers and processors,” said Elan Ange, CEO of O&T Farms. “As part of the process, Dave has believed in student development and the

creation of world-class ambassadors for our province and country. We feel a strong commitment to the University and Dave and wanted to help foster his development practices.” O&T Farms will support the travel fund with five annual payments beginning in 2014.

Over a long and illustrious career as a Professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Saskatchewan, Dave Christensen made contributions to the Saskatchewan, Canadian and international dairy industries through his research and extension. Many of his former students are leaders in the feed and livestock industries. Dave has also made significant contributions to the development and implementation of dairy policy in Western Canada.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (1958) at the University of Saskatchewan, a Master of Science degree (1960) and a PhD (1963) at McGill University. Early in Dr. Christensen’s career, he helped establish the Saskatchewan Feed Testing Laboratory. This initiative brought scientific nutrition information and ration formulation to the farm.

Dr. Christensen was one of the first nutritionists to appreciate the extent and economic impact of trace mineral deficiencies in cattle in Western Canada. Trace mineral supplementation is now widespread, primarily as the result of a 10-year research program led by Dr. Christensen.

In 1965, he returned to the U of S as an Assistant Professor. He was a tenured professor at the University of Saskatchewan since 1976, and served an 11-year term as head of the department of animal and poultry science. Dr. Christensen continues to help support the departments with his accredited work and mentorship.

## Save the Date!

The Saskatchewan Dairy Conference will be held this year on **November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>** at the Saskatoon Inn!



Look for more information **COMING SOON!**

## 2014 Fall Producer Meetings

Registration at 9:30 am, meeting starts at 10:00 am.

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Swift Current**  
F.O.E. Eagles  
1910 S Service Rd W  
Swift Current, SK

**October 24<sup>th</sup> – Warman**  
Legends Centre\*\*  
701 Centennial Blvd. N.  
Warman, SK

**October 27<sup>th</sup> – Fort Qu'Appelle**  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Company Avenue (Off Main)  
Fort Qu'Appelle, SK

**\*\*Note Venue Change!**

**Congratulations Team Saskatchewan**  
on winning **Premier Province**  
at the 2014 Western Canadian Classic Youth Dairy Show!

## Nominations Reminder

**The deadline for receipt of nominations for the SaskMilk Board of Directors is September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.**

# I got another quota increase, now what?

By Leland Fuhr MSc, PAg

In my line of work I get the opportunity to travel many miles across this great province of ours and talk to many different dairy producers. Every farm I set foot on is different, and I don't mean that in any type of bad way. It isn't for the sake of disorganization or mismanagement, but the reason the farms are different is because there are many different ways to accomplish the same goal. I think that this is what I find most interesting about my line of work, as different farmers open my mind to different practices and ways of thinking. Although sometimes, these same differences are what I find most challenging, as every farm has a wide range of bottlenecks, perceived or real. Nonetheless, the goal remains the same: work with producers to fill quota with high quality milk, keep cows healthy, and improve profit while doing so.

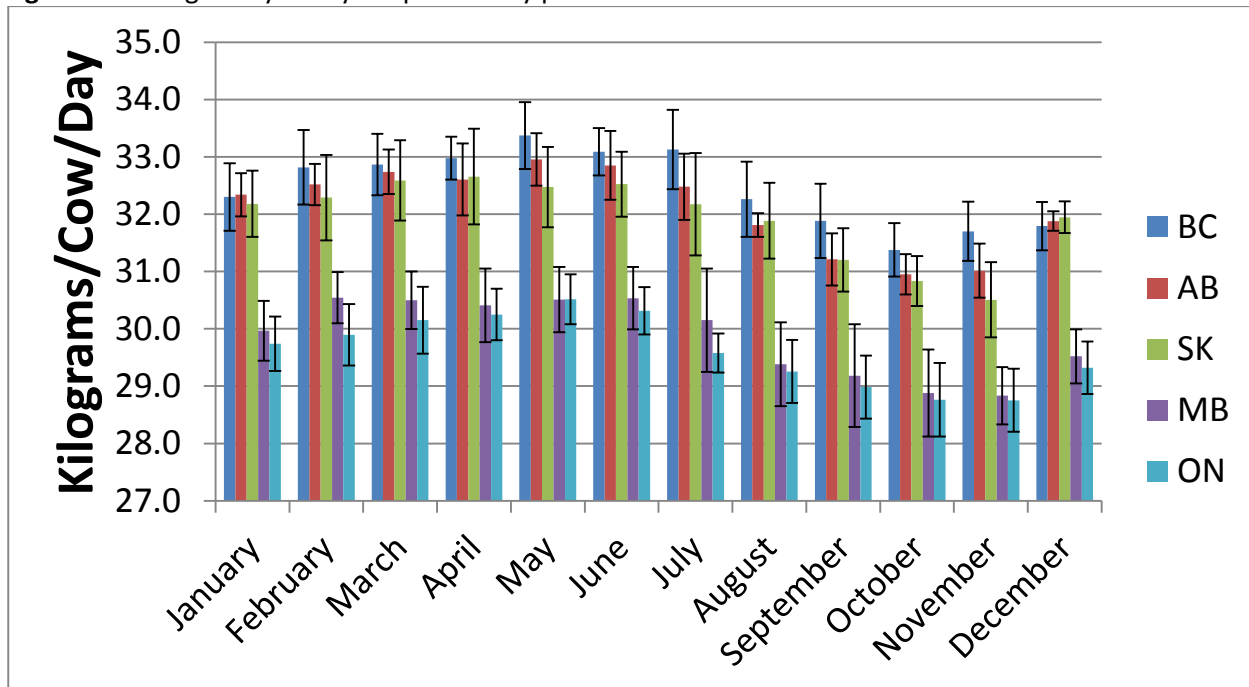
**Hot tip #1: Use a nutrition/management advisor. These types of experts can be provided by your feed supplier, may be independent consultants, or it could even be your veterinarian if they have the knowhow and time. It is important to work with advisors because the more expert people you can have thinking about the same problem(s), the more likely you'll come up with a successful solution.**

It's been more recent that, in my travel from farm to farm, the same question has been popping up, where producers have been asking, "Why doesn't the province give us incentive days when we have a better chance of filling them?" To which the answer that usually follows is, "Because that would be counterproductive to the idea of a quota system." A quota system is implemented for many reasons, one of which is to prevent overproduction that would devalue the end product. If we wish to consistently match up supply and demand, then we need to consistently fill the same amount of quota year-round. The challenging part is the cows don't seem to care about the concept of quota.

**Hot tip #2: There are three things your cattle do that keep them healthy and happy and make you money. Those three things are eat, drink, and rest. I may be over simplifying dairy farming, but most of my advice to producers revolves around these three things. There needs to be enough room for every cow to eat together and there should always be feed in front of your cows, but not so much that it spoils before they can eat it. Make sure that refusals are cleaned away daily. Of all the things you do for your cow, nothing else has a bigger impact on milk production than an abundance of clean water. You need to remember that about 88% of the milk that leaves your farm is water. Limiting water is a sure way to limit milk production. You should have a minimum two watering stations per pen of animals, and a watering station for every 20 to 25 cows. One milking cow requires 30 to 35 gallons of drinking water every day. I challenge you to calculate out how much drinking water your herd needs and then ask yourself if they can all get that on your farm in a single day. For my last point it is important to define that a resting cow is a cow that is lying down. When a cow lies down she has improved blood flow to her udder, which improves her milk production, and as well it keeps her off her feet, reducing the chance of lameness. Resting is an activity that a cow should be doing for the majority of every day.**

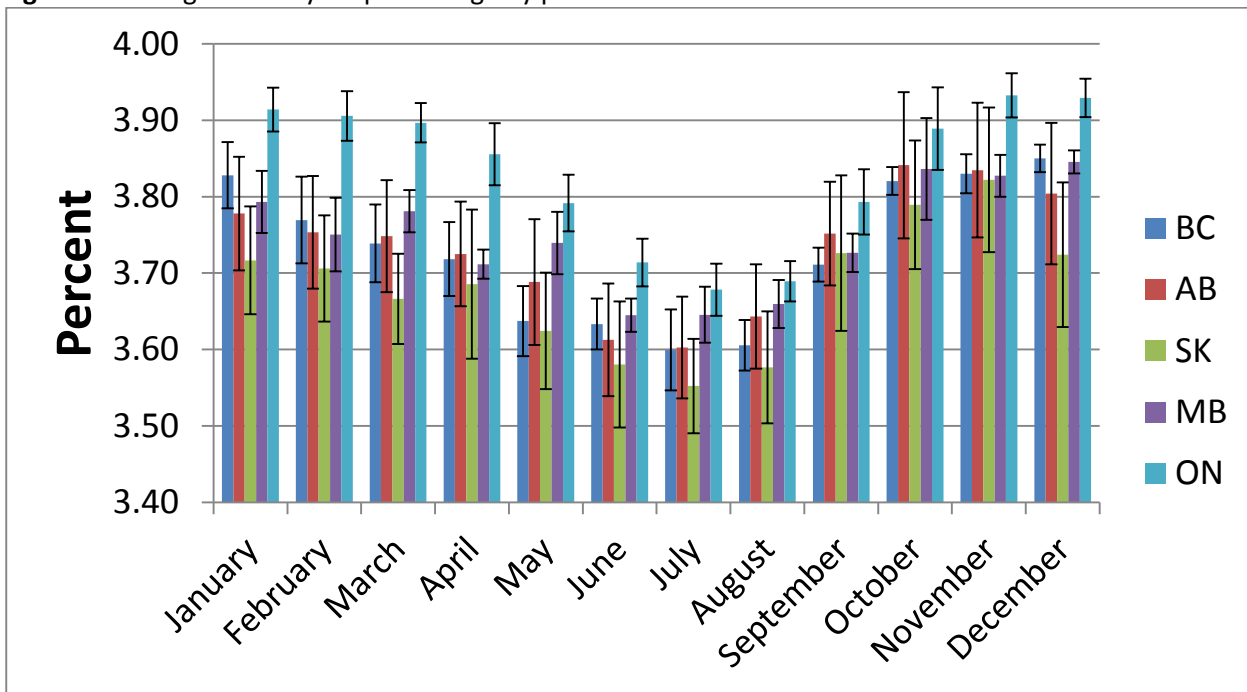
As much as we've tried to change the cow through breeding and genetic selection, she still carries her natural seasonal programming. Much like the other large ruminants of North America (Deer, Bison, Elk, Moose, etc.) the cow would most preferably give birth to her young once a year in the springtime. Her programming to do things at specific times of the year is the reason you may have noticed that cattle milk better in the part of the year when day length is increasing, and it becomes more challenging to get milk in the part of the year when day length is decreasing. To illustrate my point I have provided three graphs in Figures 1 through 3. The data for these graphs comes from CanWest DHI and show the daily average milk production levels per cow for five Canadian provinces. The averages were calculated from data for the years 2007 to 2012 and are separated by month.

**Figure 1.** Average daily milk yield per cow by province.

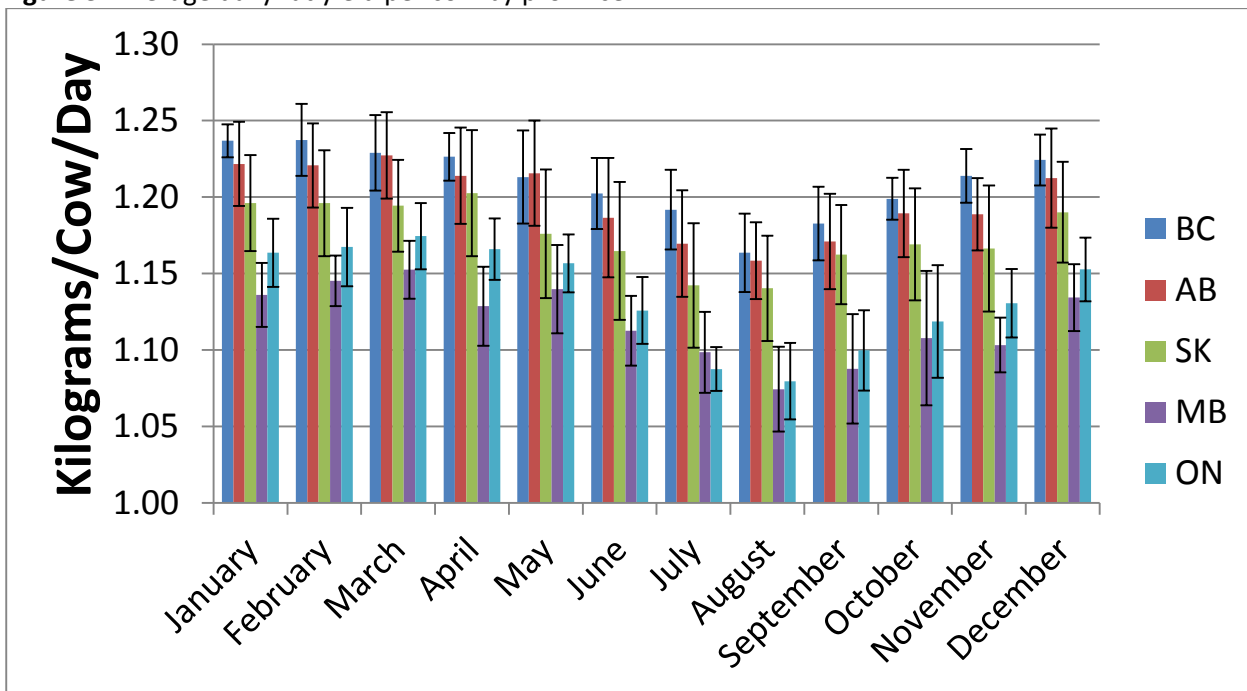


**Hot tip #3: Have a stress-free calving line.** Calving is the most stressful thing a cow will go through in her lifetime. If a cow freshens in poorly she will milk at less than optimal levels and she will be more difficult to breed back, meaning it will be a longer time before she can return back to giving you high levels of milk. Moreover, her medical and breeding costs will also increase. It is best to provide a pregnant animal at least three weeks (21 days) before calving in the environment where you plan to have her give birth so she can become accustomed to it. There needs to be adequate water, feed, and feeding space. As well, all pregnant mothers need their resting space (minimum 120 square feet per cow). The calving group is the most important group of animals on the farm and they deserve the appropriate amount of attention and care.

**Figure 2.** Average monthly fat percentage by province.



**Figure 3.** Average daily fat yield per cow by province.



After studying Figure 1 closely you are probably now realizing that we are heading into a decreasing milk volume season. The kneejerk reaction is to think that, “Oh boy, everyone going onto new feed really drops production.” To which I have to say that’s very likely not the case. This data covers all the provinces from British Columbia to Ontario. Here in Saskatchewan our primary forage is barley, which normally comes off in July/August, while the provinces that rely chiefly on corn won’t be harvesting it until late September/October. Meanwhile, the changes in production data from month to month show virtually the same trend from province to province. My personal experience is

also that the majority of clients I work with are still using last year's feedstock this time of year and many won't be changing until close to, or after, the new year. That isn't to say that you can totally rule out feed changes as the reason for lost production on your farm.

**Hot tip #4: DO NOT FEED BARLEY STRAIGHT OFF THE COMBINE! Fresh barley grain contains a plant hormone that acts as a potent anti-microbial, which means it can really throw your herd for a loop. Never fear though, if you bin the barley for six weeks this hormone will dissipate during the heat bloom and the barley will be safe to feed. This does mean that you will need carryover of old stock barley. Remember too, that with conventional bins the last product to go in is the first stuff to come out, so don't put new crop barley on top of old crop barley that you are currently feeding. This same cautioning is also why I advise producers to not feed new crop barley silage until after at least six weeks of fermentation.**

Looking at the fat percentage in Figure 2, you may have breathed a sigh of relief, seeing that we're heading into a season where the fat percentage is increasing. This is likely a function of the cooler weather coming on or, much to the relief of the cows, the hot weather leaving us. Either way the resulting fat percentage can be multiplied by the average milk yield to get the average fat yield as shown in Figure 3. Looking at Figure 3 it is apparent that fat yields are lowest through the summer and fall, and this is exactly the reason incentive days are given out at those times. It is difficult for everyone to produce their quota in the second half of the year so incentive days are awarded to encourage those that are able to overproduce to do so and make up the shortcoming.

**Hot tip #5: Although it is a little late for it this year, you should implement ways to keep your cows cool during any stretch of weather over 15C, as cows experience heat stress at temperatures hotter than this. Keeping cows cool during the summer improves production during those months and also minimizes any "hangover" effect moving into the fall. You might wonder how a cow that runs at 39C can experience heat stress in ambient temperatures lower than that. The answer is that the cow warms up the air around her body to 39C and then that air acts as an insulating barrier and the cow then cannot remove any more heat from her body, causing stress. The simple solution to this is to mechanically move air over the cow's body, replacing the insulating barrier with air cooler than 39C. In situations where temperatures are approaching or exceed the body temperature of the cow, evaporative cooling works. With evaporative cooling you need to get the cow wet and then mechanically move air across her body, allowing the evaporating water to remove heat.**

I like showing the graphs in Figures 1 through 3 to producers for a couple of reasons. The first is to help them understand what kind of challenges they are facing with managing quota and why the marketing board wants them to fill incentive days at only certain times of the year. The second reason is to prove to dairy farmers that environment trumps nutrition. If cow environment didn't have an overriding influence on nutrition we wouldn't see the exact same seasonal trends from province to province.

If you are going to implement any of the suggestions I have made to improve production I suggest you focus on the environment and management changes as they will have a more lasting impact on your farm. That being said, many of the nutrition points could help you out too. The following are more tips that might help you out.



**Hot tip #6:** Managing moisture content of wet feeds on farm is the most important practice for feeding cows. Wet feeds like silages don't always contain the same amount of water from day to day. If you're not regularly checking the amount of moisture in your wet feeds then it means there is a good chance the ration you are feeding is not consistent. If you are not feeding the correct ration on a daily basis it makes it difficult for your nutrition advisor to have any impact on the production from your herd.

**Hot tip #7:** There are only 24 hours in a day for people and cows alike, both have places to go and things to do. Your cows do have a daily time budget and, as I mentioned before, their time is best spent eating, drinking, and resting. However, there are times you have to handle the animals for milking, treatment, breeding or otherwise. The rule for a cow's time budget is she should never spend more than four hours, in a twenty-four hour period, away from eating, drinking, or resting. If this is not the case on your farm you better find ways to get things done more efficiently so the cow can get back to doing the things that make milk.

**Hot tip #8:** A big key to dairy nutrition, if you are feeding a TMR, is the physical form. The goal of a TMR is to have the cow eat a ration where every mouthful of feed is exactly the same. Fine feed digests faster and more completely, but too much fine feed causes digestive upset. Long feed helps build rumen mat and slows feed passage down so that it's more completely digested, as well as prevents digestive upset. However, there is such a thing as feed that is too long, where the cows sort it out and only eat the fine feed. My recommendation is to closely follow the guidelines of the Penn State Particle Separator. Similar to long rations, dry rations are more readily sorted by cattle. Many times adding water to the TMR to get the total ration moisture to or greater than 50% can help stick the ration together and limit sorting.

**Hot tip #9:** The law of diminishing returns does apply to dairy cattle. Do not overstock your cattle. When cattle are overstocked their dairy efficiency (amount of milk produced per unit of feed eaten) is diminished. Many times when herds are not filling their quota the manager decides that the answer is to milk more cows. If you wish to milk more cows you better find the additional resources and space for those extra cows. If you put more cows into an area with limited resources (feed, water, and rest) you may just find the bulk tank doesn't get any fuller and your cows start to have more feet, medical, and breeding challenges.

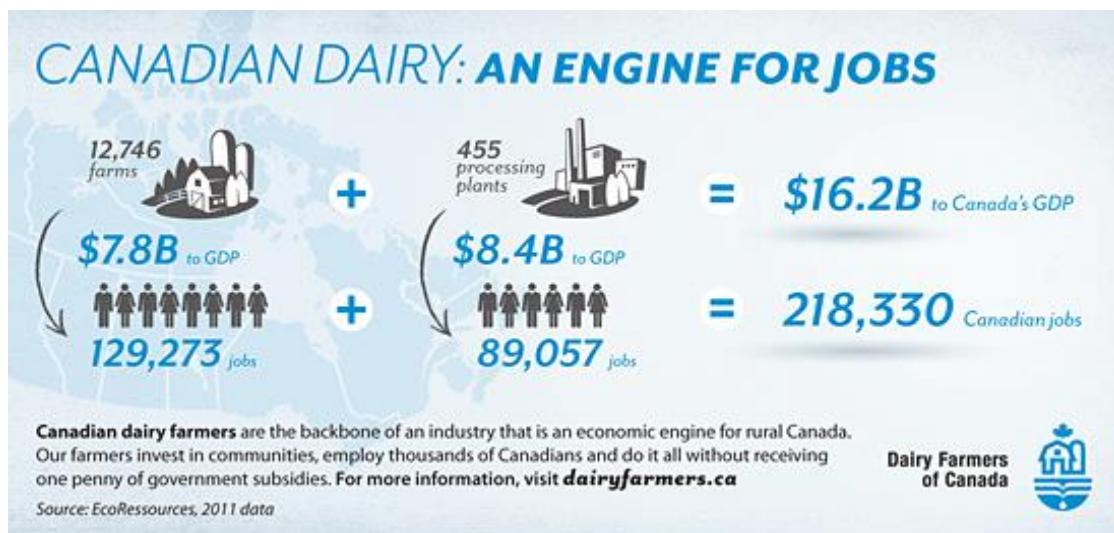
**Hot tip #10:** Be proactive and not reactive with lameness. Lameness in dairy cattle is one of the biggest causes of lost milk production and profit. Foot bathing and having hooves trimmed are prevention practices that should be done regularly to reduce the chances of your cows getting lame. If your cows are limping around with inter-digital dermatitis or other forms of lameness you better get the problem fixed and immediately implement good practices that prevent feet and leg problems.

**Hot tip #11: Beware of feed toxins.** Over the last few years feed toxins have been at the forefront of our mind, and rightfully so. It is unfortunately an area where we still have a lot to learn. What is known is that high enough levels of toxins adversely affect the health and production of our cows. In the future, it is likely that we will also start to become more concerned about the possibility of toxins being transferred into meat and milk. It is my personal belief that knowingly feeding toxins without taking appropriate action is an animal welfare concern as well as a human nutrition concern. Your feeds can be tested for toxins, and action can be taken to prevent adverse outcomes.

Now that you have read through this article, and after contemplating the points I have made while comparing them to your herd, you may be thinking, “Where’s the silver bullet that solves my problems? You’re a nutritionist and there surely is something I can put in my ration that will improve production and fat yield.” There are no silver bullets, but one thing I will suggest to try, if you aren’t already doing so, is use palm oil fats in your milk cow ration. Palm oil fats are made from a vegetable oil, are a solid at room temperature, and have been shown to improve milk fat yield in dairy cows. My one warning with the use of this type of product is it will not work if you have true milk fat depression in your herd. How can you tell that palm oil isn’t working or will not work in your ration? If you divide your milk protein by milk fat you get your protein:fat ratio, which should normally be lower than 0.90. If you get a protein:fat ratio of greater than 0.90 you likely have milk fat depression and you’ll need to get it fixed before you can boost the fat with a palm oil product. Sometimes just fixing milk fat depression will get your production up enough to fill quota, and it won’t always require the cost of additional feed products.

In the end, I would like to strongly emphasize that you are operating a business where the priorities are high quality milk for human consumption, and animal welfare. There is no substitution for good management. Happy milking!

## Did you know...?



## **Saskatchewan Premises Identification (PID)**

The Saskatchewan Premise Identification (PID) program is an integral part of Canada's traceability system. PID utilization will be mandatory for movement reporting in the amended Federal Traceability Regulation that is planned to be in force by early January 2016.

If you were already registered on the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency's PID Database you will have received a letter earlier this summer from Saskatchewan Agriculture. The CCIA Database is being phased out in Saskatchewan and being replaced by the Saskatchewan Premises Identification (PID) program.

PID facilitates linking livestock and poultry to geographic locations for planning and responding to animal health issues and emergency response and is one of the three pillars of a livestock traceability system. The other two pillars are animal identification and animal movement reporting. The plan of the national traceability system includes all livestock and poultry species produced in Canada.

Traceability is one of the programs under the DFC ProAction Initiative. Currently 93.5% of dairy farmers in the country have their premises identified with an official premises –ID number (PID). One of the focuses of the DFC Livestock Traceability Working Group is to work with provincial organizations and provincial governments to complete premise identification of all dairy farms.

To accomplish this SaskMilk is entering into an information sharing agreement with Saskatchewan Agriculture and will provide general information to the Saskatchewan Premises Identification Program in order to have all SaskMilk licensed dairy farms issued a PID number.

**If you do not want SaskMilk to provide this information and have a PID number assigned to you, please contact Deb Haupstein on or before October 31, 2014.  
306-721-9486     [deb.haupstein@saskmilk.ca](mailto:deb.haupstein@saskmilk.ca)**



# Premises identification

## FOR THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY SYSTEM

### WHY IDENTIFY THE PREMISES?

Knowing where livestock and poultry are located provides valuable information in responding to animal disease outbreaks and food safety issues. This allows for a swift and accurate response in the event of an animal disease outbreak or natural disaster.

### WHAT ARE "PREMISES" IN THE CONTEXT OF TRACEABILITY?

According to the definition given by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: "a premises is any parcel of land on which animals, plants or food are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of".

The "premises" are defined by a legal land description of the lot, or in its absence, by its geo-coordinates.

### PREMISES INCLUDE:

- Farms and stables
- Pastures and community pastures
- Feedlots
- Assembly yards
- Abattoirs
- Auction and livestock sale facilities
- Racetracks and competition facilities
- Rendering plants
- Exhibitions and fairgrounds
- Veterinary facilities
- Livestock and poultry research facilities
- Hatcheries
- Insemination centres
- Zoos and petting zoos

### WHAT IS A PREMISES IDENTIFICATION NUMBER?

It is a unique identifier, based on national standards, that is assigned to a "premises" within a province or territory.

The national standard for premises-ID numbers is:

- 2 letters for the province;
- + 6 alpha-numeric characters;
- + 1 check digit.

### Examples of premises-ID:

**AB1234561**

**ON1234565**

### HOW TO USE IT?

The premises-ID number is the only location identifier for animal movement reporting.

### HOW DO I GET MY PREMISES-ID NUMBER(S)?

The identification of premises is the responsibility of the provincial government.

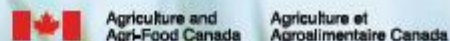
**We invite you to contact your provincial association or your provincial department of agriculture directly for further information.**

### SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Online: [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/PID](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/PID)

Phone: 1-866-457-2377



# QUOTA EXCHANGE

The market-clearing price established for the September 2014 Quota Exchange was **\$30,500.00**

The next Quota Exchange will be held on **October 15, 2014**. All offers to sell and bids to purchase quota through the Quota Exchange must be received at the SaskMilk office by midnight, **October 6, 2014**. SaskMilk recommends that offers and bids be submitted well in advance of the deadline date to ensure adequate time for corrections, if necessary.

When making bids on the Quota Exchange, the price on offers to sell quota is the minimum price that the producer is prepared to accept for that quota. Only if the market-clearing price is equal to or greater than the producer's minimum price will that producer qualify for participation in the Exchange. Conversely, the price on offers to purchase quota is the maximum price that the producer is prepared to pay for that quota. Only if the market-clearing price is equal to or less than the producer's maximum price will that producer qualify for participation in the Exchange. The clearing price is set at the price where the smallest difference exists between the accumulated volume offered for sale and the accumulated volume bid to purchase.

The results of the Quota Exchange are outlined in the following Table.

## SEPTEMBER 2014 QUOTA EXCHANGE RESULTS SUMMARY

<b>Market Clearing Price per kilogram of butterfat</b>	<b>\$ 30,500.00</b>
<b>Daily Kilograms offered to Purchase</b>	<b>22.00</b>
<b>Kilograms offered to Sell</b>	<b>34.13</b>
<b>Kilograms sold</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Number of Producers</b>	
- offered to purchase	<b>3</b>
- purchased quota	<b>1</b>
- offered to sell	<b>6</b>
- sold quota	<b>4</b>

## SEPTEMBER 2014 QUOTA EXCHANGE CLEARING PRICE RESULTS

Price (\$/daily kg b.f.)	No. of Sellers	Cumulative Sellers	Daily Kgs b.f. offered for sale	Cumulative sales	Cumulative Sales less Cumulative purchases	Cumulative purchases	Daily Kgs b.f. offered to purchase	Cumulative Buyers	No. of buyers
\$28,000.00	1	1	6.00	6.00	-16.00	22.00	0.00	3	0
\$29,000.00	1	2	1.20	7.20	-14.80	22.00	0.00	3	0
\$29,500.00	0	2	0.00	7.20	-14.80	22.00	6.00	3	1
\$30,000.00	1	3	2.00	9.20	-6.80	16.00	6.00	2	1
<b>\$30,500.00</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>11.20</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
\$31,000.00	1	5	13.35	24.55	24.55	0.00	0.00	0	0
\$32,000.00	1	6	9.58	34.13	34.13	0.00	0.00	0	0

**\* Please contact Bev Solie at 306-949-6999 for inquiries dealing with quota management sheets, the Quota Exchange, for transfer credits, or with any other quota transactions.**

## TRANSFER CREDIT SUMMARY REPORT

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS TRANSFER IN	# OF PRODUCERS TRANSFER OUT	TOTAL KGS BUTTERFAT
August	16	14	13,911
September	13	12	12,097
October	18	14	14,374
November	18	16	14,816
December	16	16	12,105
January, 2014	20	17	19,783
February	23	16	19,294
March	26	21	21,973
April	16	12	11,722
May	15	12	12,618
June	10	8	7,204
July	15	12	13,322
August	15	12	11,915

## PRIVATE TRANSFERS PROCESSED

MONTH	DAILY KILOGRAMS
Sept	22.00
Oct	0.00
Nov	10.00
Dec	110.26
Jan-2014	522.98
Feb	0.00
Mar	132.84
Apr	419.23
May	145.23
June	18.50
July	20.00
Aug	615.73

## OVER QUOTA (OVER 5 DAYS) REPORT BY MONTH

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS	KGS BUTTERFAT
August	8	1,145
September	7	653
October	8	563
November	11	1,375
December	20	5,216
January, 2014	21	5,133
February	17	2,940
March	19	2,338
April	20	4,163
May	13	1,411
June	15	1,791
July	11	1,266
August	3	354

## SUMMARY REPORT OF CREDITS August, 2014 – 166 PRODUCERS

DAYS	# OF PRODUCERS	POSITIVE CREDITS ACCUMULATED (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
+ 5	3	852
0 to + 5	39	13,042
TOTAL	42	13,894
DAYS	# OF PRODUCERS	NEGATIVE CREDITS ACCUMULATED (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
-15	17	-33,167
-10 to -15	30	-45,391
-5 to -10	32	-40,612
0 to -5	45	-20,754
TOTAL	124	-139,924

## LOST OPPORTUNITY REPORT

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS	LOST OPPORTUNITY (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
August	14	7,625
September	19	6,589
October	16	6,941
November	11	1,979
December	10	2,487
January, 2014	8	1,723
February	8	542
March	3	240
April	7	1,104
May	10	1,792
June	5	2,823
July	9	3,717
August	17	7,315

## WEIGHTED AVERAGE COMPONENT TESTS & PRICES August, 2014

Components	Average Test	Price per kilogram Class 1 to 5
Butterfat	3.8213	11.290775
Protein	3.2300	8.290741
Other Solids	5.6801	1.178637

Based on the average component tests for the province, the average price received was **\$76.6189** per hectolitre. **The average butterfat price received per kilogram was \$20.04**

### SASKATCHEWAN MILK POOL RESULTS August 2014

Milk Sale Revenue	\$ 13,868,534.72
Western Milk Pool	\$ 1,336,633.01
Plant of Last Resort Service	\$ <u>(56,676.16)</u>
<b>Total Pool Value</b>	<b>\$ 15,148,491.57</b>

In August, Saskatchewan had a monthly CDC allocation of **775,617 kilograms** of butterfat. In the month of August, Saskatchewan production was **-19,753** of butterfat **under** and cumulatively **under** by **-86,128 kilograms** of butterfat. On a percentage basis, Saskatchewan is **-0.93%** within our CDC allocation flexibility limits based on the Continuous Quota model. The -1.50% lower flexibility limit is in effect.

	(1) Monthly Total Production  Kgs bf	(2) Total Monthly CDC Quota Allocation  Kgs bf	(3) Monthly Over or (Under) Production  Kgs bf  col. 1 – 2 = 3	(4) Lower Flexibility Limit <b>(1.5%)</b>  Kgs bf  col. 9 * -1.5%	(5) Upper Flexibility Limit <b>1.0%</b>  Kgs bf  col. 9 *1.0%	(6) Cumulative Over or (Under) Production with limits  Kgs bf	(7) Cumulative Over or (Under) Production with limits in - %  col. 6 / 9	(8) Over Quota or (Lost Production Opportunity)  Kgs bf	(9) Rolling 12 Month Total Quota  Kgs bf
<b>Aug-13</b>	759,353	743,937	15,416	(134,654)	44,885	<b>(35,322)</b>	<b>-0.39%</b>	0	8,976,941
<b>Sep-13</b>	743,013	737,951	5,061	(134,773)	44,924	<b>(34,067)</b>	<b>-0.38%</b>	0	8,984,855
<b>Oct-13</b>	782,805	796,837	(14,032)	(135,081)	45,027	<b>(48,227)</b>	<b>-0.54%</b>	0	9,005,391
<b>Nov-13</b>	758,797	770,745	(11,948)	(135,189)	45,063	<b>(60,135)</b>	<b>-0.67%</b>	0	9,012,580
<b>Dec-13</b>	794,733	805,742	(11,009)	(135,518)	45,173	<b>(70,182)</b>	<b>-0.78%</b>	0	9,034,530
<b>Jan-14</b>	789,851	769,397	20,454	(135,547)	45,182	<b>(49,676)</b>	<b>-0.55%</b>	0	9,036,438
<b>Feb-14</b>	705,370	709,836	(4,466)	(135,940)	45,313	<b>(66,474)</b>	<b>-0.73%</b>	0	9,062,696
<b>Mar-14</b>	778,842	771,216	7,626	(135,992)	45,331	<b>(58,458)</b>	<b>-0.64%</b>	0	9,066,120
<b>Apr-14</b>	759,580	765,873	(6,293)	(136,382)	45,461	<b>(64,773)</b>	<b>-0.71%</b>	0	9,092,104
<b>May-14</b>	794,737	781,223	13,514	(136,885)	45,628	<b>(57,303)</b>	<b>-0.63%</b>	0	9,125,672
<b>Jun-14</b>	761,220	759,569	1,651	(137,511)	45,837	<b>(58,840)</b>	<b>-0.64%</b>	0	9,167,373
<b>Jul-14</b>	770,028	768,975	1,053	(138,077)	46,026	<b>(57,522)</b>	<b>-0.62%</b>	0	9,205,114
<b>Aug-14</b>	755,864	775,617	(19,753)	(138,628)	46,209	<b>(86,128)</b>	<b>-0.93%</b>	0	9,241,841

- (1) Monthly Production in Saskatchewan
- (2) Total Monthly Quota = Class 1 sales + Monthly MSQ + Carry Forward
- (3) Difference between the monthly production (1) and the total monthly quota (2)
- (4) The Lower Flexibility Limit is -1.5% of Rolling 12 Month Total Quota (9)
- (5) The Upper Flexibility Limit is 1.0% of Rolling 12 Month Total Quota (9)
- (6) Previous Month Cumulative Over or (Under) Production + Current Monthly Over or (Under) Production (capped at lower or upper limit if applicable)
- (7) Equal to Column (6) expressed as a percentage basis within the flexibility limits
- (8) Over Quota or (Lost production opportunity) outside of flexibility limits
- (9) Total Monthly CDC Quota Allocation for the previous 12 months

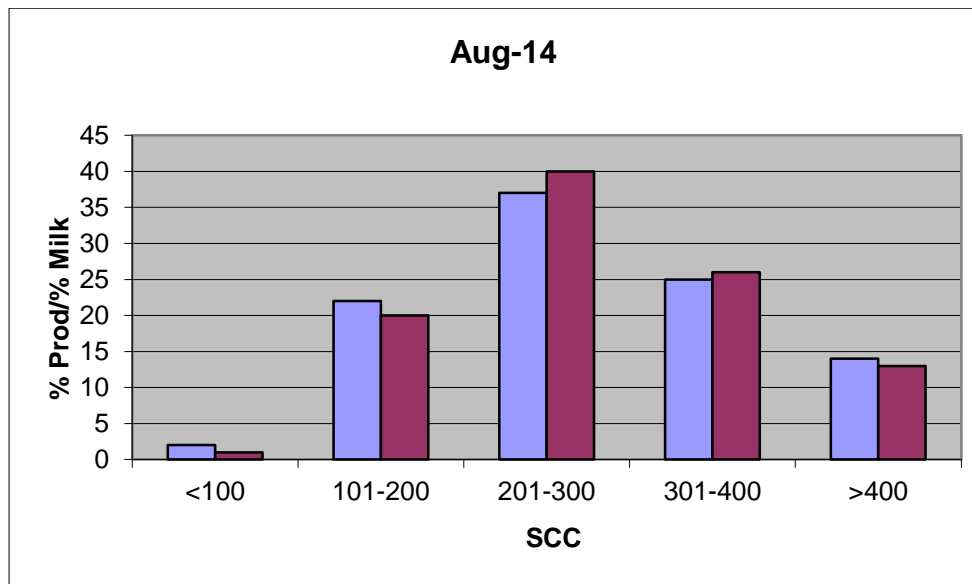
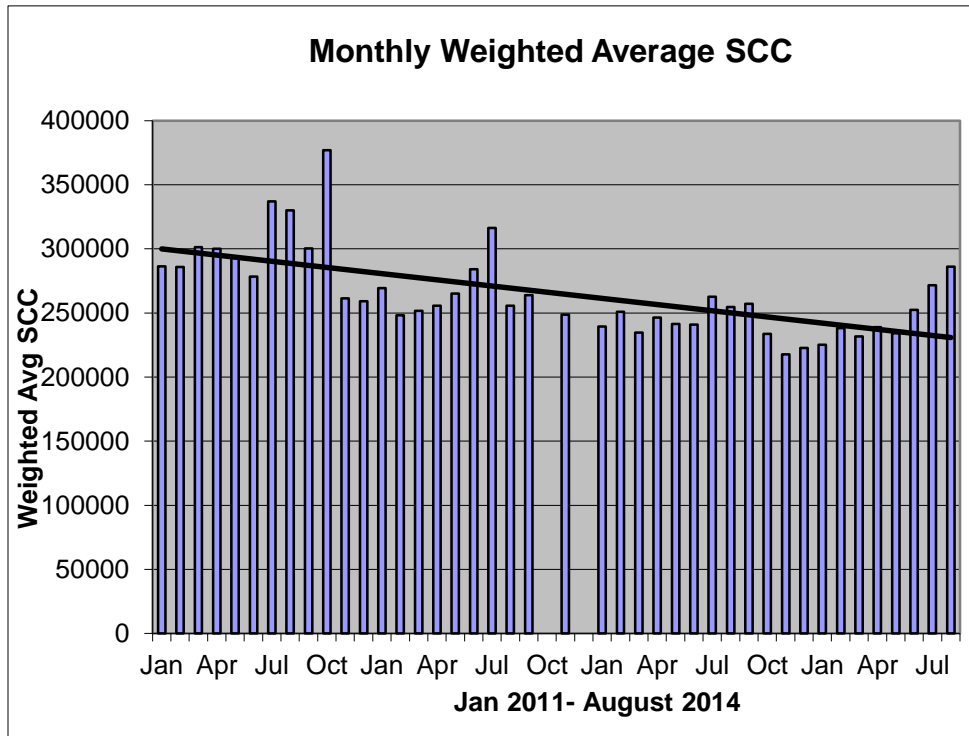


## SCC LIMIT NOW 400,000

Effective January 1, 2013, the SCC limit has changed to 400,000. Penalties and violations will be applied based on the new limit.

The following graphs provide producers with an overview of the Provincial Somatic Cell Count weighted average on a monthly basis as well as a breakdown of the % of producers in each SCC level for the month of August 2014.

If you have any questions or comments you can contact: Deb Haupstein at 306-721-9486.



## INHIBITOR TEST STATIONS

SaskMilk has established a number of inhibitor test stations around the province. Producers needing to check their bulk tanks for inhibitors can take a sample to the test station closest to their location.

Charm test strips are available to test for:

**Beta-Lactams**- the Charm 3 SL3 Beta Lactam test strip tests for amoxicillin, ampicillin, ceftiofur, cephalosporin, cloxacillin, and penicillin G

**Tetracyclines**- the Charm Tetracycline test strip tests for chlortetracycline, oxytetracycline and tetracycline.

**Sulfas**- the Charm Sulfa test strip tests for sulfacetamide, sulfachlorpyridazine, sulfadiazine, sulfadimethoxine, sulfadoxine, sulfaethoxypridazine, sulfamerazine, sulfamethazine, sulfamethizole, sulfamethoxazole, sulfamethoxypridazine, sulfapyridine, sulfaquinoxaline, sulfathiazole, and sulfisoxazole.

Test stations are located at the following locations:

1. Swift Current, SK - Agrifoods truck bay - 675 Cheadle Street West  
Office 306-773-1097 or Rodger Ruf 306-741-3261
2. Harris, SK - Cairns Farm – Wes Cairns 306-665-4807
3. Star City, SK - Star City Colony - Reuben Tschetter 306-921-9381
4. Grenfell, SK - Jim Ross 306-697-2232
5. Yorkton, SK - Ford Dairy Farms Inc. - Bud and Margaret Ford 306-782-7240
6. Saskatoon, SK – Agrifoods Truck Bay - east of the Saputo plant receiving bay  
lead hand - Jim or Clint 306-664-0202 after hours: 306-668-8135

Charm tests strips and Charm testers are now available for purchase through SaskMilk. Agrifoods is now carrying SNAP test kits for tetracyclines as well as beta lactams.

For further information you can contact: Deb Haupstein 306-721-9486



### If You Can't Ship It - Test It!

**BSE surveillance is still important and every animal tested makes a difference.**

**Support your cattle industry by having your 4-D (dead, diseased, dying or downer) cattle tested for BSE.**

**For more information, call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-877-727-5273.**

# Code of Practice

## 1.8 Milking Systems

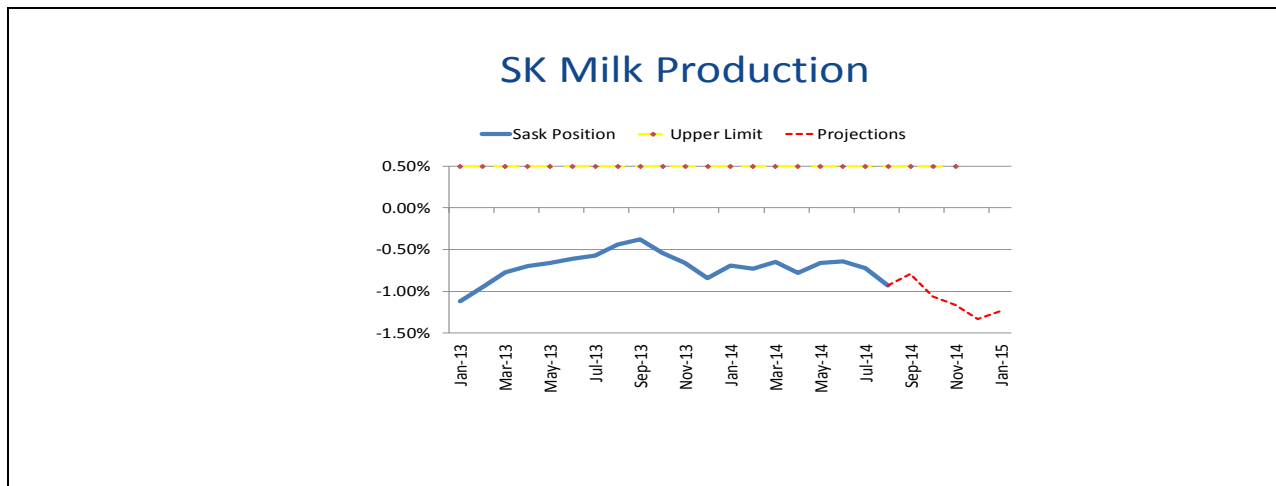
There are three main types of milking systems: pipeline, parlors and robotics. All systems require attention to maintaining the equipment in good working condition. Minimizing stress on cows in the milking facility is very important. As there is a correlation between the amount of time standing on hard surfaces and lameness, minimizing the time cows spend away from feed and water and a comfortable stall is desirable.

### REQUIREMENTS

***Equipment must be inspected by a qualified person a minimum of every twelve months.***

### RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES

- a. ensure the milking system is comfortable for cows
- b. ensure the interior of the milking parlor is free of protrusions or other hazards and that gates and restraining devices of individual holding units operate safely
- c. ensure the facility is constructed to minimize the time cows spend away from feed and water and a comfortable stall
- d. ensure only milking equipment with an appropriate vacuum level, pulsation rate, and pulsation ratio is used
- e. ensure all milking equipment is maintained in good working condition
- f. ensure access routes are safe, illuminated and clean
- g. ensure the floor has good traction and is kept clean
- h. do not use electrified crowd gates.



# Saskatchewan Dairy Pasteurizer Program

## Growing Forward 2

Growing Forward 2 (GF2) is a federal-provincial-territorial policy framework of agricultural programs.

As a part of this biosecurity awareness and education of best practices in the industry the **Saskatchewan Dairy Pasteurizer Program** has been developed.

### SASKATCHEWAN DAIRY PASTEURIZER PROGRAM

This program will reimburse producers for 50% of the cost of purchasing a pasteurizer to a maximum of \$5,000 per producer.

To be eligible for program funding, producers must have:

- Purchased a colostrum pasteurizer between December 1, 2013 and November 30, 2014;
- Submitted a copy of the paid receipt to SaskMilk along with their signed application form.

To date, 31 pasteurizers have been purchased. Depending on the price, there is funding available for approximately 2-3 more pasteurizers.

For further information please contact: Deb Hauptstein 306-721-9486

**PLEASE NOTE: FUNDING FOR THIS PROGRAM EXPIRES  
November 30, 2014.**



## QUOTA LISTING or CLASSIFIED AD SERVICE

SaskMilk offers a free quota listing service as part of its Newsletter. Anyone wishing to sell or purchase quota and/or cows or miscellaneous dairy equipment is welcome to contact the SaskMilk office at (306) 949-6999. All prices and negotiations will be independent of SaskMilk. **Please note that ads will be posted in two issues and will then be removed unless SaskMilk is notified otherwise.**

### Classifieds

#### **Equipment for sale at Kingsford Farms.**

8-4' Tunnel Ventilation fans (Better Air), 8-24" basket fans, 60- stall dividers and posts for 16' head to head stalls (with neck rails brisket boards), Houle pit mixer and manure pit piston pump, Reel Augie 3250 batch mixer, Houle 60' lagoon agitator, 3000 gal liquid manure wagon. **More equipment available.** Contact Dan 306-421-2704 or Darren 306-421-3808

Looking for a used DeLaval FloMaster pro milk meter. **\*preferably only the load cells** Contact: Jonathan Hofer Simmie Colony 306-774-9821

Prairie Diamond Farm – Complete dispersal: 150 head selling and Quota for sale. Contact Jennifer Strudwick 306-771-2940 or 306-520-8407

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