

# MILK MATTERS

Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick  
Producteurs laitiers du Nouveau-Brunswick

P.O. Box 5034, Sussex, NB E4E 5L2 Tel: (506) 432-4330 Fax: (506) 432-4333 E-mail: nbmilk@nbmilk.org

A monthly publication for New Brunswick milk producers

## February 15, 2018

**Blend Price:** The average price paid to New Brunswick producers who shipped milk in **January 2018: \$76.74/hl or \$18.04/kg of BF** for milk containing: BF **4.2527** kg/hl, Protein **3.3892** kg/hl and LOS **5.7487** kg/hl.

### Quota Exchange Deadline:

Thursday, March 1, 2018  
4:00 pm

Please email bids to  
[quota@nbmilk.org](mailto:quota@nbmilk.org)

### Credit Exchange Deadline:

Thursday, February 22, 2018  
4:00 pm

Please submit credit bids/offers on the DFNB Portal at [www.nbmilk.org](http://www.nbmilk.org)

### Incentive Days 2018

February 2018—1 day

March 2018—1 day

August 2018—2 days

September 2018—3 days

October 2018—3 days

November 2018—2 days

**Email:** Please provide an email at [nbmilk@nbmilk.org](mailto:nbmilk@nbmilk.org) to keep up-to-date on important dairy industry news.

### DFNB Annual Report:

Available online at [www.nbmilk.org](http://www.nbmilk.org) or you may obtain a printed copy by calling the office.

### DFNB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Paul Gaunce</b> Chairman	<b>832-4756</b>
<b>Richard vanOord</b> Vice-Chairman	<b>461-8281</b>
<b>Denis Cyr</b> North-West	<b>445-3103</b>
<b>Fons De Jong</b> Woodstock	<b>375-4049</b>
<b>Nick Duivenvoorden</b> Director-At-Large	<b>237-2087</b>
<b>Reint-Jan Dykstra</b> Moncton	<b>372-4685</b>
<b>Peter Kaye</b> Director-At-Large	<b>546-3914</b>
<b>Gerald Daley</b> North East	<b>546-5969</b>
<b>Robert Woods</b> Sussex	<b>832-5888</b>

## Dairy Farmers of Canada Annual Policy Conference

Jerry Bos and Karlee Duivenvoorden, NB's young dairy leadership candidates, attended the January 31—February 1, 2018 DFNB Board meeting as well as the DFC Policy Conference February 6, 7, and 8, 2018, in Ottawa along with DFNB directors. DFNB hopes that efforts like these will encourage more young dairy farmers to get involved in shaping the future of Canada's dairy industry. While in Ottawa, directors and young leaders took part in lobby day activities, where they took the opportunity to meet with a number of NB MPs and Senators to make them aware of the need to have their continued support of Canada's dairy supply management. Dairy farmers asked that Canada not give up any additional dairy market access in a renegotiated NAFTA because Canada has already increased its access from 5% to 10% through CETA and CPTPP. Participants also questioned Health Canada's proposed Healthy Eating Strategy and Front of Pack Warning Labels that downgrades dairy's nutritional value to consumers.



Paul Gaunce, Jerry Bos, Senator David Richards, Karlee Duivenvoorden and Nick Duivenvoorden



MP Matthew DeCoursey, Peter Kaye, Richard vanOord, Fons deJong, Andrew Leslie (Parl Sec Foreign Affairs) and Matthew Smith (Global Affairs)

## Effective September 1, 2018 all proAction® Self Declarations will be replaced with Full Validations

September 1, 2017 saw the proAction® Animal Care and Livestock Traceability modules added to your Food Safety Validation (formerly CQM). As previously communicated, **regardless of the date of your next validation, all producers were required to have the new requirements implemented on September 1, 2017.** All records should be up to date and ready for validation on any given day.

Between September 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 Atlantic Canada completed 125 proAction validations. Validation reports have been coming in with 2-4 pages of corrective actions, indicating that producers have not fully implemented the program. Most validation reports include CAR's in the following areas:

1. Incomplete Animal Care SOP's and CAP, therefore cannot be verified against on farm practices.
2. Missing or incomplete Livestock traceability records.
3. Issues with animals housing including lack of adequate bedding, dirty animals, lack of water access.
4. Numerous reoccurring and incomplete Food Safety requirements.

Looking forward and considering the other program modules that will be added to the validation process, there is a need to continue producer education and implementation assistance while ensuring current requirements are met. Therefore, effective September 1, 2018, the Atlantic Canadian Boards have approved that all producers will complete annual full on-farm validations, meaning self-declarations will not be used in the foreseeable future.

Producers who undergo annual full validations are more likely to maintain proAction requirements and achieve a greater understanding of current modules and new ones as they are added. Producers who have gone through a validation since September 2017 will have another validation before the implementation of the biosecurity module in 2019. This will ensure they are maintaining current requirements before adding more. Producers who have done a self-declaration since September will only have one full validation before adding the biosecurity requirements, but will have two full validations before the addition of the environment module. After all the modules have been fully implemented the reintegration of self-declarations will be evaluated by the Atlantic Boards.

Although this is the approach for Atlantic Canada, it is important to note that Newfoundland has only used full validations since the inception of the Canadian Quality Milk Program. Outside of Atlantic Canada, Manitoba implemented annual full validations in 2014 and other provinces are considering this approach for similar reasons as Atlantic Canada.

**Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick**

**Quota Exchange for February, 2018**

Price in Dollars	# of Sellers	Kgs Offered By Sellers	Total Cum. kgs	Difference Between Sellers/Buyers	Total Cum. kgs	Kgs Wanted By Buyers	# of Buyers
\$6,000.00		.0	.0	101.7	101.7	5.0	
\$15,651.00		.0	.0	96.7	96.7	2.5	
\$16,100.00		.0	.0	94.2	94.2	1.0	
\$17,000.00		1.0	1.0	92.2	93.2	.0	
\$17,100.00		.0	1.0	92.2	93.2	1.0	
\$17,500.00		2.0	3.0	89.2	92.2	.0	
\$17,561.00		.0	3.0	89.2	92.2	7.5	
\$18,000.00		.0	3.0	81.7	84.7	6.0	
\$18,107.00		.0	3.0	75.7	78.7	7.5	
\$18,502.00		.0	3.0	68.2	71.2	5.0	
\$18,981.00		.0	3.0	63.2	66.2	2.5	
\$19,000.00		1.0	4.0	59.7	63.7	.0	
\$19,500.00		1.0	5.0	58.7	63.7	.0	
\$19,503.00		.0	5.0	58.7	63.7	5.0	
\$19,900.00		2.0	7.0	51.7	58.7	.0	
QESP \$20,000.00		99.9	106.9	-48.2	58.7	.0	
\$20,050.00		.0	106.9	-48.2	58.7	6.0	
\$20,351.00		.0	106.9	-54.2	52.7	10.0	
\$20,777.00		.0	106.9	-64.2	42.7	10.0	
\$21,000.00		1.0	107.9	-75.2	32.7	7.6	
\$21,500.00		2.5	110.4	-85.3	25.1	.0	
\$21,501.00		.0	110.4	-85.3	25.1	10.0	
\$22,000.00		8.0	118.4	-103.3	15.1	.1	
\$22,502.00		.0	118.4	-103.4	15.0	10.0	
\$23,000.00		1.0	119.4	-114.4	5.0	.0	
\$23,333.00		.0	119.4	-114.4	5.0	5.0	
\$24,000.00		88.0	207.4	-207.4	.0	.0	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>207.4</b>				<b>101.7</b>	<b>21</b>

QESP = Quota Exchange Selling Price

QESP = Le prix de vente de quota

58.7 of 106.9 kgs offered at or below the Quota Exchange Selling Price of \$20,000.00 were sold. There was a total of 207.4 kgs offered for sale and total bids to purchase of 101.7 kgs.

58.7 des 106.9 kilos offert au prix de vente de \$20,000.00 ou au dessous ont été vendus. Il y avait un total de 207.4 kgs proposés à la vente et le total des offres pour l'achat de 101.7kg.

Next Exchange closes at 4:00 p.m., Thursday March 1, 2018

Results are available Tuesday March 6, 2018

Tel. : (506) 432-4330 Fax: (506) 432-4333 Quota: (506) 432-4330

Month	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sept	6 month avg.
Clearing Price	\$20,000	\$19,900	\$17,097	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$19,399
Kgs on Exchange	58.7	8.0	9.5	.0	21.5	49.5	29.4
Kgs by Transfer	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0

NB Domestic Milk Pool								
Domestic Market	Butterfat Quota	Butterfat Shipped	Fill Rate	Butterfat	Protein	Lactose	HL	Under SNF Incentive
January 2018	567,139	581,278	102.49%	\$10.6577	\$6.7887	\$1.4633	\$76.74	\$5,755.78
Dairy Year	3,351,588	3,257,372	97.19%	\$10.5110	\$7.1740	\$1.5022	\$76.21	\$73,793.47
Marginal Market								
January 2018		744		\$ .0000	\$ .0000	\$ .0000	\$0.00	
Dairy Year		1,779		\$ .0000	\$ .0000	\$ .0000	\$0.00	
Deductions & SNF Ratios	Transport Per HL	Promotion Per Kg of Total Solids	Admin	Lab Fee	Total Ded Per HL		SNF Ratios	Target Ratio
January 2018	\$2.65	\$ .1139	\$ .0605	\$ .0011	\$5.00	Current Month	2.1487	2.2937
Dairy Year	\$2.59	\$ .1139	\$ .0605	\$ .0011	\$4.90	Past 12 Mo's	2.1805	
Components & Quality	Somatic Cell Count	Standard Plate Count	Lab Past. Count	Butter Fat	Protein	Lactose & O.S.	Total solids	Rejected Loads
January 2018	206,062	7,040	163	4.2527	3.3892	5.7487	13.3906	1
Dairy Year	196,805	8,609	2,666	4.1579	3.3301	5.7030	13.1911	4

**January 2018 Credit Exchange \$2.50/kg**

8319 kgs of the 8655 kgs offered at or below the Credit Exchange Selling Price were sold.

Producers above -10 days of credits are eligible to buy credits. Producers below -10 days of credits are eligible to sell credits.

Please review your statement to determine kgs eligible to sell / buy on the February 2018 Exchange.

\*\*DFNB encourages all producers to submit credit bids/offers on the Portal at [www.nbmilk.org](http://www.nbmilk.org) - click on LOGIN link. \*\*

Forms are available on the DFNB website: <https://www.nbmilk.org/en/producer-info/forms-to-download>

Email to submit forms for bids/offers on the Quota Exchange: [quota@nbmilk.org](mailto:quota@nbmilk.org)

### Quota Exchange Procedures

Bids/Offers must be submitted on forms provided prior to **4:00 p.m. on 1st working day of month.**

**All bids must be accompanied by confirmation of funds from your lending institution if bid is greater than prior month's "Due Producer". Producers will not be allowed to combine their "Due Producer" amount with their confirmation of funds from a financial institution to bid for quota equal to the combined amounts. Bids or offers above \$24,000 will not be accepted.** Producers selling all of their quota on an exchange will be subject to a security deposit of \$1000/kg that will be returned 30 days after effective date of the transfer.

### Credit Exchange Procedures

Bids/Offers must be submitted on forms provided prior to **4:00 p.m. on the 4th working day after the 15th of the month.** Results are available on the morning of 25th. Producers exiting industry may purchase/sell credits one month following effective date of sale. *If you do not receive your statement in time to review your credit position, please call the office and we will fax /email your statement to you.*

### Milk Penalty Funding

**Re-active funding:** Producers subject to milk quality penalty may access \$100 from Milk Penalty Fund to offset, **once per year**, cost of visit from a milk quality technician.

**Pro-active funding:** Producers advised of second or subsequent milk quality infraction, prior to a penalty assessed, is allowed to offset, **once per year**, cost of a visit from milk quality technician to a **maximum of \$500.** Producers may apply for funding by forwarding paid invoices to DFNB office.

### Minimum Quota Holdings Policy

**The Board will cease picking milk up when the farm's total daily quota falls below ten (10) kilograms.**

### Group Insurance Rates

The Co-operators, Group insurance:  
**Monthly Single Coverage: \$119.33**  
**Monthly Family : \$329.75**  
Questions regarding claims, rates or enrolment? Please call:

**Emily Murphy of Alodium Financial :**  
**1-800-994-5155 or 506-850-1643**  
**Email: emilymurphy@rogers.com**

### Weekend/After Hour Quality Milk

**Problems:** Should a producer require alternate transportation due to **quality related concerns**, Agropur will now be the first contact (**432-0476**). *If no answer, please leave a message.* Agropur personnel will advise of DFNB's policy with respect to extra transportation costs.

### Weekend/After-Hour Service:

Please call **432-4330**. The Answering Service will contact DFNB staff.

## Agropur Agriculture and Food Science Scholarship

Open to all New Brunswick students, attending a post-secondary institution, the coming scholastic year (2018/2019), in a field relating to Agriculture or Food Science. Available are 2 one-time scholarships of \$2,500. Monies will be paid after the first semester. Submission must include the following: name, current institution of study (if applicable), institution you are attending in the fall, program of study, 2 completed essays (approximately 250 words each), official transcript and two letters of reference.

**Essay 1** - How will your field of study contribute to your immediate long-term career plans?

**Essay 2** - Please write a short autobiography including information about your family, work experience, community involvement, hobbies, spare time activities, and what you hope to do in the future. Submission deadline is March 30, 2018. Everything can be emailed to: [scholarships@dairytown.com](mailto:scholarships@dairytown.com), or mailed to Agropur, Scholarship Committee, PO Box 5124, Sussex, NB E4E 5L2. Please be sure to include your contact information with the submission. Recipients will be notified at high school graduation or receive notice by mail/email.

## DFNB SCHOLARSHIPS

Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick is offering **three (\$1000) Scholarships** in the hope that the young men and women who benefit from these scholarships will become tomorrow's contributors to agriculture in this province.

(1) **Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick Scholarship**

(2) **G.B. Whalen Memorial Scholarship**

(3) **Dairy Farmers of N.B. Memorial Scholarship**

**Application Forms** may be obtained from the DFNB office at 432-4330; on the DFNB website: <https://www.nbmilk.org> or email: [nbmilk@nbmilk.org](mailto:nbmilk@nbmilk.org)

All documentation **must** be received by **May 25, 2018.**

## NB Dairy Hall of Fame

The New Brunswick Dairy Hall of Fame was established in 1984 as a means of honouring individuals for their outstanding contributions made to the New Brunswick dairy industry. To qualify for induction, those nominating **must provide** a summary of the nominee's significant contributions to the improvement of the New Brunswick dairy industry through local, provincial, national or international efforts in the fields of marketing, organization, production, breeding, research, policy, communication or education.

**Please forward nominations for Inductees for the Dairy Hall of Fame to your Local Milk Committee prior to April 20, 2018.**

<b>Northeast</b>	Ellen Gammon—546-6036	<a href="mailto:gammon.ellen@gmail.com">gammon.ellen@gmail.com</a>
<b>Moncton</b>	Debbie Mullin—852-3108	<a href="mailto:glenvistafarm@gmail.com">glenvistafarm@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fredericton</b>	Karen Versloot—363-8902	<a href="mailto:tkversloot@gmail.com">tkversloot@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sussex</b>	Charles Anderson—433-5410	<a href="mailto:cranderhill@gmail.com">cranderhill@gmail.com</a>
<b>Northwest</b>	Carol Cyr—445-2321	<a href="mailto:rejean.cyr@explornet.ca">rejean.cyr@explornet.ca</a>
<b>Woodstock</b>	John Eric Somerville—246-5583	<a href="mailto:johnericsomerville@gmail.com">johnericsomerville@gmail.com</a>

**Bulk Milk Tanks:** All bulk milk tanks needing calibrated will be coordinated by DFNB staff using the calibration services of both Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) and International Dairy Calibrations Atlantic Ltd. (Eric Hope-Rapp). If you are planning to install a new tank or have installed one recently, please call **432-4330** so your farm can be added to the schedule.

**Before replacing your bulk milk tank remember:**

New tanks of 1000 US gallons (3780 liters) must have a minimum outlet of 3 inches with a butterfly valve; New tanks less than 1000 must have a minimum tank outlet of 2 inches with a butterfly valve; **Used tanks of any size must have a minimum tank outlet of 2 inches with a butterfly valve.**

**Additional Pickups:** Currently producers can request (if bulk milk transporters have the equipment/capacity) up to 45 pickups over 24 months at an extra charge of \$2.00 per hl over monthly transportation rate. Producers may now request between 46 and 90 everyday pickups over 24 months at an extra charge of \$4.00 per hl over monthly transportation rate. The \$2.00 and \$4.00 per hl will be the minimum charge. In the event that additional equipment has to be dispatched, then the charge will be equivalent to the actual transportation costs.

The Bulk Milk Pickup Order was revised for producers who produce an amount of milk in a 48 hour period that exceeds the legal holding capacity of a tri axle truck tanker to permit the transporter to pick up their milk on a daily basis without additional charges or limits to the producer.

**Winter 2018:** Please check your tank capacity for the winter months whereas a snow storm could mean losses that may be avoidable. The milk pickup requirements are that each farm has the capacity to store their fifth milking in the cooler. If there is a storm advisory for your area, it may be wise to ask if we could pick your milk up a day early on a truck passing close by. This will help you and the drivers to have a bit of space if the roads are not passable. Producers are reminded that the portion of the driveway and yard that the milk truck travels must be cleared of snow, and ice surfaces must be salted and sanded. (*Farm Pick-Up Standard Operating Procedures*).

## Dairy Farmers of Canada

Are you passionate about the dairy industry? Do you participate in various local events or offer farm tours? Do you enjoy teaching people about how milk gets from the farm to the table? If so, Dairy Farmers of Canada can help by providing you with various promotional items, resources as well as material (i.e. outdoor tent, table top game, table cover, etc.). Note that all requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis and should be put-in at **least 6 weeks** prior to your event. To learn more about what we can offer, just contact Dairy Farmers of Canada's Regional Project Manager, Michelle Arseneau Leger, at 1-800-465-2697 (ext. 3) or [michelle.arseneaulleger@dfc-plc.ca](mailto:michelle.arseneaulleger@dfc-plc.ca).

**Advertising Rates:** Active producers may submit dairy related word ads at no charge. *Producer ads will be advertised for two months only, unless otherwise notified.* For other parties interested in advertising, the monthly rates will be \$400 (full page), \$225 (½ page), \$120 (¼ page) and \$65 (1/8 page). All ads must be received by 8th of month.

**Office Space For Lease:** 29 Milk Board Road, Roachville, 1100 sq feet divided in 4 Offices, Boardroom, and Storage Room. Please call: 432-4330 or email: [nbmilk@nbmilk.org](mailto:nbmilk@nbmilk.org)

## SERVICES

**Maritime Quality Milk:** [www.milkquality.ca](http://www.milkquality.ca)

**NB Research & Productivity Council (RPC) 452-1212**

RPC Building, 921 College Hill Rd, Fredericton NB

**Composition testing, contact:** [Jill.Hav@rpc.ca](mailto:Jill.Hav@rpc.ca)

**Microbiology testing, contact** [Corrie.Maston@rpc.ca](mailto:Corrie.Maston@rpc.ca)

**Quality Milk Management:** Don Anderson 432-5598 or [udder1@nb.aibn.com](mailto:udder1@nb.aibn.com)

**Antibiotic Testing:** Agropur Cooperative. 432-1950, Ext 245. Sample bottle must include Name, Producer#, Email, Phone #, Cow#, Drug Used.

**Dairy Specialist:** Brian MacDonald Cell: 433-0509

Email: [brian.macdonald@gnb.ca](mailto:brian.macdonald@gnb.ca)

**Livestock Feed Specialist:** David Dykstra phone: 434-5755

[david.dykstra@gnb.ca](mailto:david.dykstra@gnb.ca); @NbForage

**AgExpert Analyst Certified Adviser:**

Kim Waalderbos 260-3004

**Hoof Trimming:** E. Duivenvoorden 433-1864;

Peter Jones 866-0531

**Relief Milking and Farm Sitting**—Daily & Hourly rates

Jens vanderHeide 851-1793; [jvan\\_der\\_heide@hotmail.com](mailto:jvan_der_heide@hotmail.com)

**Custom Manure Spreading:**

1-800-833-9899 or 433-0867; 756-3645 or 756-2957

**NB Environmental Farm Plan**

John Russell 452-8101 or 381-2887 [john@fermeNBfarm.ca](mailto:john@fermeNBfarm.ca)

**Sussex Co-op Livestock Auction:**

Sales every other Wednesday at 11:30 am Call: 432-1841

**Bob Calve Prices :** <http://bovin.qc.ca/en/price-info/cull-cattle-and-bob-calves/daily/>

**Wood Ash for Growers:** Call Gerben at 506-235-0652

**NB Beef Cattle Research Council:** Free webinars:

<http://www.beefresearch.ca/resources/webinars.cfm>

**Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia newsletter:**

<https://www.dfns.ca/resources-links/newsletters/>

**Milk Producer magazine**

<http://www.milk.org/Corporate/Content.aspx?id=1941>

**Canadian Dairy Commission :** <http://www.cdc-ccl.gc.ca/>

**AgWeather Atlantic:**

<http://atl.agrometeo.org/index.php/weather/local>

## Dairy Farmers of Canada News Centre:

<https://www.dairyfarmers.ca/news-centre/document-library>

## Atlantic Dairy Industry Central Event Calendar

<http://www.valacta.com/EN/Atlantic/Pages/Atlantic-infos.aspx>

If you have events to add, email :

Jeff Gunn at [jgunn@valacta.com](mailto:jgunn@valacta.com) ;

Fred Vanderkloet [fsvanderkloet@gov.pe.ca](mailto:fsvanderkloet@gov.pe.ca) or

Brian MacDonald [brian.macdonald@gnb.ca](mailto:brian.macdonald@gnb.ca)

## Upcoming Events

**DFNB BOARD MEETING:** February 27-28, 2018

## MILK 2020 DAIRY GENOMICS MEETING

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Petitcodiac Legion

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Nackawic Lions Club

10 AM – 3 PM – Lunch Provided

Since 2014, **MILK 2020** has been conducting the NB Dairy Genomics, Calf Weighing and Passive Immune Transfer project. Early results were reported to New Brunswick Dairy Producers in March of 2016. Final results for the project will be presented at these meetings with presentations by Dr. Michael Maloney, Project Coordinator, and Brian Van Doormaal, Canadian Dairy Network. Fred Waddy will be presenting a progress report on the Hoof Health software App that MILK 2020 is developing.

The project involved genetically testing over 3,000 animals on 27 farms and weighing 450 calves on 8 New Brunswick farms. I would encourage you to attend these meetings to learn if genomic testing improved animal performance predictability on New Brunswick farms. A sincere thank you is extended to the owners and operators of the farms that participated in this study for their time and support.

If you are planning to attend one of these meetings, please respond to [brian.macdonald@gnb.ca](mailto:brian.macdonald@gnb.ca) (433-0509) or [david.walker@gnb.ca](mailto:david.walker@gnb.ca) (453-3467) indicating which meeting you plan to attend and if you will be staying for lunch. *Jim Walker, Chairman, MILK 2020*

### SPEAKERS

**Dr Michael Maloney, Project Co-Ordinator**

*“Overview and Results of Genomics Calf Weighing and Passive Immune Transfer Project”*

**Brian Van Doormaal, General Manager, Canadian Dairy Network**

*“New Brunswick Genomics Project – Final Results” & “Farm Management Decisions in the Era of Genomics”*

**Fred Waddy, Director MILK 2020**

*Update on MILK 2020 Hoof Health Software Program*

**NFU-NB AGM:** Sunday, March 18, 2018, 9:30 to 4, at the Millstream Recreation Centre, 904 Route 880, Berwick, NB E5P 3H6. **Cost:** \$25 (includes coffee break and home-cooked lunch). Keynote speaker: NFU National President, Coral Sproule. Also a presentation by a farm tax specialist on recent tax changes, silent auction and farm tour of Legacy Lane Fibre Mill. NFU meetings are open to the public. All are welcome. See [nfunb.org](http://nfunb.org) or call 246-5583 for more information.

**Dairy Focus Atlantic:** March 20-22, 2018

Halifax Mariott Harbour Front

Registration Information: [www.dairyfocus.org](http://www.dairyfocus.org)

Combining and replacing Nova Scotia's Dairy Focus Conference and new Brunswick's Milk2020 to become Atlantic Canada's leading dairy conference with close to 300 participants, an expert speaker program, complimentary farm tours, over 50 exhibitors and a hospitality experience that will make it worth leaving the farm.

**2018 National Holstein Convention:** April 10-14, 2018

Quebec City

<https://www.holstein.ca/Public/en/News-Events/>

[National Holstein Convention](http://NationalHolsteinConvention.com)



Combining and replacing Nova Scotia's Dairy Focus Conference and New Brunswick's Milk 2020 to become Atlantic Canada's leading dairy conference with close to 300 participants, an expert speaker program, complimentary farm tours, over 50 exhibitors, and a hospitality experience that will make it **worth leaving the farm!**

HALIFAX MARIOTT HARBOURFRONT REGISTER TODAY! MARCH 20-22, 2018

[www.dairyfocus.org](http://www.dairyfocus.org)



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Lobby Day 2018: Paul Gaunce, Jennifer vanOord, Senator Carolyn Stewart-Olsen, Jerry Bos and Robert Speer



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Hello Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick!

We had a break from our articles over the last couple months but we are back at it in this New Year. I hope 2018 finds you and your farm progressive and successful.

For the first article of the New Year I want to write about calf health management. Calf health is a vulnerable aspect of the dairy industry. Managing milking cows is busy enough and to manage calves' health on top of that can be difficult and frustrating.

The success of a dairy operation is defined by how well the young stock is managed. Calves not only represent the future of your farm, but they also have the highest genetic (or genomic) potential for your operation, for those following a herd improvement breeding program. For these reasons it is imperative that calves get the best start possible so they can grow and survive!

Although it may seem complicated, calf health can be quite simple depending on your set-up. Once calf health management protocol has been put in place and followed, it becomes easy to do and can produce excellent results. There are various farms right here in New Brunswick that maintain a calf mortality rate of less than 1%, and you can too. Farmers should discuss with each other and their veterinarians about calf management protocols in general. The basics of calf health will be outlined in this article and can be broken down into the **ABC's** of calf care.

**A = Air:** Pneumonia is one of the biggest killers of young calves. Calves' lungs are underdeveloped when they are born so they are very susceptible to respiratory viruses which lead to bacterial lung infections and often stunt growth or cause death losses. There is quite a challenge here in Canada with balancing good air quality with warmer barn temperatures but it can be done. Calf areas should be warm but well ventilated with lots of fresh air. This air also should not come from an area that houses older animals, especially adult cattle that can harbour respiratory viruses. While those adults may be immune to a virus, the calves may not be. A suitable calf environment is a room temperature between 10-25 degrees Celsius. Also, by smelling down low by the floor you can sense any ammonia, methane or gas buildup. The take-home message for air is simply that the environment should be warm with lots of fresh air!

**B = Bedding (Buddy):** I have travelled to a lot of farms around New Brunswick and I do not often see enough bedding in calf pens or areas. Calves need lots of clean, dry and comfortable bedding. The gold standard in bedding for calves is straw. We can get some pretty cold days here in Atlantic Canada and young calves are not able to generate a lot of their own heat, so they have to preserve what heat they have by "nesting". Calves nest really well in straw, but have a much harder time nesting in more dense bedding materials like sawdust or sand. You can easily assess your calves nesting ability by applying a nesting score to your pens. A score of 1 represents no coverage of the body. A score of 2 means around 50% of the legs are covered and a score of 3 means all the legs are covered. A score of 4 means that more than 50% of the whole calf is covered. Young calves **need** to be in the 3-4 range for nesting score. This will not only be required by proAction and recommended by the Canadian Code of Animal Care, but it will simply lead to much better and thriftier calves which will greatly benefit the future of your farm. If this is not possible in your current set-up then I would recommend discussing how you can alter your environment to accomplish this. I know bedding can be expensive and may be hard to come by, but this **will** pay off in the long run. As for providing a buddy, this is definitely starting to become a well recommended practice not only from an animal welfare standpoint but from a production standpoint as well. Not only does another calf provide more heat, but studies from the University of British Columbia have found that when housed in pairs or groups, calves grow up to be cows that better understand and adapt to our modern production systems. This means that they are more likely to use automatic feeders, to approach robotic milking units and to adapt to any changes a farmer might make. The take home message for bedding is simply give your calves lots of it and let them have a buddy!

**C = Colostrum (Calories):** The single, most important thing for a calf is colostrum, colostrum, colostrum! Calves need an adequate volume of good, clean, high quality colostrum soon after birth. The Dairy Code of Practice requires that calves receive at least 4 liters of colostrum within 12 hours of birth. Most of you know this and have heard a lot about colostrum so I will not go into much more detail here; the take home message is simple, get the colostrum into your calves! If you are looking for an easy way to assess colostrum quality you can purchase a reusable Brix refractometer from Amazon for about \$25-\$40 to measure colostrum quality (you want a Brix reading of greater than 22%). You can discuss what is feasible for your production system with your veterinarian but the general recommendation is the same. You **have** to get that colostrum into your calves. As for calories, it is important that you are feeding your calves to grow, not just to live. Modern dairy calves have a much greater need for calories and nutrients than they did years ago. The Dairy Code of Practice recommends that Holstein calves up to 28 days of age are provided a minimum of 8 liters of milk or replacer per day, and you should aim to have your calves **double their birthweight** by about 56 days of age. Again, the take home message here is simple, feed your calves to their potential!

If you can accomplish all of these simple goals you will find a decrease in calf morbidity and mortality, a decrease in your use of antibiotics, an increase in calf growth and thriftiness, a decrease in farmer headaches, and much more productive animals in their first and second lactations. Care for your calves and they will care for you!

**Thanks for reading!**

*Some information for this article was graciously provided by Dr. Melodie Chan from Zoetis Animal Health.*

*If you have a specific topic you would like to see in this feature, feel free to email me or one of your local DAAF Veterinarians your suggestions.*

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