

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

May 15, 2017

Blend Price: The average price paid to New Brunswick producers who shipped milk in **April 2017: \$78.92/hl or \$18.95/kg of BF** for milk containing BF **4.1645** kg/hl, Protein **3.3062** kg/hl and LOS **5.7125** kg/hl.

Quota Exchange Deadline:

Thursday, June 1, 2017
4:00 pm

Credit Exchange Deadline:

Friday, May 19, 2017
4:00 pm

DFNB encourages all producers to submit credit bids/offers on the DFNB Portal at www.nbmilk.org

Incentive Days 2017

May 2017—1 day
June 2017—1 day
July 2017—1 day
August 2017—2 days
September 2017—3 days
October 2017—3 days
November 2017—2 days

Email: Please provide an email to keep up-to-date on important dairy industry news. Should you wish to stop receiving your producer statement, newsletter, forms, etc. by mail, please advise the Board office at nbmilk@nbmilk.org

DFNB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Peter Kaye Director-At-Large	546-3914
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Robert Woods Sussex	832-5888

Spring Meetings

Spring meetings were held across the province April 24-27, 2017, with discussions on: Markets, Production, Quota Issuance; COP, Returns; Class 7 Price Adjustment; NB Statistics; Quality and proAction; DFNB Board Order Changes and Actions on 2016 DFNB AGM Resolutions.

Copies of DFC's book "Dairy Farmers, Deeply Rooted for a Strong Future" which was created in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Canada, were distributed to producers who attended the spring meetings. If you would like a copy, please stop by the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick office or contact us to have a copy sent to you or you may also download a pdf:

[Download PDF](#)



P5 Quota Committee

On April 20, 2017, the P5 Quota Committee met to look at market demand and production and circulated the following recommendation which was approved by all 5 boards.

The P5 Boards have approved that one incentive day be issued per month on a non-cumulative basis to conventional producers for the months of May, June and July 2017.

This decision is intended to ensure P5 milk production continues to fill all current demand, as butter stocks have surpassed their target level of 30,000 tonnes. Demand for dairy products continues to be strong while P5 processing capacity continues to be closely monitored.

proAction® Producer Training Workshop Wrap-up

Producer training on the proAction® requirements of Animal Care and Livestock Traceability wrapped-up this week in NB. Since September of 2015 there have been 58 workshops held across Atlantic Canada and 20 of those workshops were held in NB. All but 12 farms in NB came out to hear the message and learn how to make the requirements fit their farm. Farms who chose to not attend or who were unable to attend a workshop will receive all the training materials in the mail in the coming weeks. The Animal Care and Livestock Traceability requirements will become a part of the current Food Safety (CQM) validations starting on September 1, 2017.

The next proAction® module to be launched will be Biosecurity. Producers can expect to hear more about those requirements starting in 2018. The Biosecurity requirements will become a part of the validation process beginning in September 2019.

If you have any questions regarding the proAction® program please contact Ashley Baskin. Phone: 506-432-4330 ext 105 or Email: ashley@nbmilk.org.

Transportation 2017

2017 spring road weight restrictions will be lifted effective May 21, 2017 and transporters will be transitioning back to the regular route structure with volumes on routes increasing to maximize truckload volumes. Please note that pickup times and days may change for some producers. If you have concerns about your pickups, you can contact:

Eagle Transportation – 506-432-9128 Ext 287 - (Cell) 506-433-0421

R.F. Mason Ltd. – 506-433-2049 - (Cell) 506-434-4486

Veronica McEwen – (DFNB Office) 506-432-4330 Ext. 102 - (Cell) 506-432-0092

Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick

Quota Exchange for May, 2017

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
\$14,500.00		.0	.0	130.0	130.0	2.0	
\$18,000.00		.0	.0	128.0	128.0	8.0	
\$18,500.00		1.0	1.0	119.0	120.0	.0	
\$19,500.00		1.0	2.0	118.0	120.0	.0	
\$20,000.00		.5	2.5	117.5	120.0	.0	
\$20,010.00		.0	2.5	117.5	120.0	.2	
\$20,050.00		1.0	3.5	116.3	119.8	.0	
\$20,051.00		.0	3.5	116.3	119.8	10.0	
\$20,250.00		6.0	9.5	100.3	109.8	.0	
\$20,500.00		8.5	18.0	91.8	109.8	6.0	
\$20,750.00		4.9	22.9	80.9	103.8	.0	
\$21,000.00		9.0	31.9	71.9	103.8	13.5	
\$21,501.00		.0	31.9	58.4	90.3	5.0	
\$21,505.00		.0	31.9	53.4	85.3	25.0	
\$22,000.00		.0	31.9	28.4	60.3	10.0	
\$22,510.00		.0	31.9	18.4	50.3	.1	
\$23,000.00		2.0	33.9	16.3	50.2	1.0	
QESP \$23,202.00		.0	33.9	15.3	49.2	14.0	
\$24,000.00		41.9	75.8	-40.6	35.2	35.2	
TOTALS	16	75.8			130.0	23	

Forms for the Credit Exchange and Quota Exchange will only be mailed if requested. Forms are available on the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick website: <https://www.nbmilk.org/en/producer-info/forms-to-download>

QESP = Quota Exchange Selling Price

QESP = Le prix de vente de quota

33.9 of 49.2 kgs wanted at or above the Quota Exchange Selling Price of \$23,202.00 were purchased.

33.9 des 49.2 kilos demandé au prix de vente de \$23,202.00 ou au dessus ont été acheté.

There was a total of 75.8 kgs offered for sale and total bids to purchase of 130.0 kgs.

Il y avait un total de 75.8 kgs proposés à la vente

Next Exchange closes at 4:00 p.m., Thursday June 1, 2017

Results are available Tuesday June 6, 2017

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

Month	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	6 month avg.
Clearing Price	\$23,202	\$20,500	\$20,989	\$21,408	\$21,500	\$21,007	\$21,434
Kgs on Exchange	33.9	39.3	41.4	38.4	38.1	22.1	35.5
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
April 2017	517,347	532,516	102.93%	\$10.7695	\$7.5948	\$1.5569	\$78.92	\$6,079.14
Dairy Year	4,616,586	4,587,675	99.37%	\$10.4571	\$7.6635	\$1.5729	\$78.00	\$157,507.74
Marginal Market								
April 2017		133		\$.0000	\$.0000	\$.0000	\$0.00	
Dairy Year		3,040		\$.0000	\$.0000	\$.0000	\$0.00	
Deductions & SNF Ratios	Transport	Promotion	Admin	Lab Fee	Total Ded		SNF Ratios	Target Ratio
	Per HL	Per Kg of Total Solids			Per HL			
April 2017	\$2.80	\$.1139	\$.0605	\$.0011	\$5.12	Current Month	2.1693	2.2937
Dairy Year	\$2.59	\$.1139	\$.0605	\$.0017	\$4.91	Past 12 Mo's	2.1907	
Components & Quality	Somatic Cell Count	Standard Plate Count	Lab Past. Count	Butter Fat	Protein	Lactose & O.S.	Total solids	Rejected Loads
April 2017	194,718	5,898	280	4.1645	3.3062	5.7277	13.1985	0
Dairy Year	191,488	9,550	486	4.1558	3.3218	5.7125	13.1901	1

April 2017 Credit Exchange \$5.10/kg

18868 kgs of the 18894 kgs wanted at or above the Credit Exchange Selling Price were purchased.

A box on the producer statement shows how many credit days a Producer can buy or sell without exceeding 150 days.

DFNB will no longer be mailing the critical credit letters (red letters) advising of your credit position. Please review statement for position.

DFNB encourages all producers to submit credit bids/offers on the Portal at www.nbmilk.org - click on LOGIN link.

The portal offers: Estimate of production for current period based on pickups processed to date; ability to perform a custom production estimate based on your expected shipment volume or butterfat test for the current period; option to submit and manage credit offers while the credit exchange is open; production data by month since August 2004.

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 12/01/16

The Co-operators, Group insurance:

Monthly Single Coverage: \$116.00
Monthly Family : \$321.00

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
or: Serge LeBlanc at 506-227-9628

Weekend/After Hour Quality Milk

Problems: Should a producer require alternate transportation due to **quality related concerns.** Agropur (Eagle Transport Ltd.) will now be the first contact (**433-0421**). *If no answer, please leave a message.* Agropur (Eagle) 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.



What Managing Production Means, April 27th, 2017

By: Isabelle Bouchard, Dairy Farmers of Canada

<https://www.dairyfarmers.ca/farmers-voice/farm-policy/what-managing-production-means>

Much has been written over the past year about the ongoing global dairy crisis – a sustained glut of supply on the world market leading to world milk prices that are below the costs of production for most farmers – we thought it would be the perfect time to write about what managing production means here in Canada.

While other countries comb the already saturated export market to find homes for their milk, Canada, under our system of supply management, has instead chosen to focus chiefly on serving our domestic market. Under supply management, Canadian dairy farmers act collectively to negotiate prices and adjust milk production to meet customer and consumer demand. By balancing our supply of milk based on the forecasted domestic demand for our products, we strive to produce only as much as is required so that farm milk always has a home here in Canada. Furthermore, by choosing to focus on our domestic market rather than the saturated and volatile global export market, Canadian farm-gate prices remain relatively stable and our farmers are in a better position to weather the global storm, cover their costs of production and plan for the future.

The unfortunate events in Wisconsin earlier this month leading to 75 farms losing their milk contracts, which we addressed in a previous blog, are a direct result of an oversupply of milk in the United States – and worldwide. This is not just rhetoric, this is reality. Rather than collectively manage their supply, the approach the United States has taken to this problem is to offer a risk management safety net in the form of billions in generous subsidies, available through the U.S Farm Bill. Meanwhile, in Canada, no such subsidies are required, we simply manage our production and focus on serving our own back yard.

This blog is not about a right, or a wrong, approach. We firmly believe that every single country in the world has the right to food sovereignty, and to determine their own domestic policies; we would never begrudge another country for the approach they have chosen. However, if U.S Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue had a suggestion box – we might just see fit to drop him a line about supply management as a potential solution to his problems. It is a Canadian policy – and it works!

Managing production is not just about weathering (and also not contributing to) economic storms, it also has many other benefits. Because Canadian dairy farmers can count on relatively stable price it allows them to continually make investments into increasing productivity and innovation, and improving best practices on the farm. Farmers also invest, with farm groups and government, into research and development, which has informed the continuous improvement of farm standards over the years. The end result is more comfortable, healthy, productive animals producing higher quality milk in a way that respects the environment.

The collective nature of supply management has also allowed Canadian dairy farmers to voluntarily impose a mandatory customer assurance and sustainability program. The aim of our sustainability program is to demonstrate and ensure that Canadian dairy farmers adhere to the highest practice standards, which goes above and beyond regulations in place at the provincial and federal levels. We have leveraged our supply management system to make the program mandatory and show that all Canadian milk follows strict, but evolving standards for milk quality and safety, animal health and care. We invite you to watch a short video we produced to explain our sustainability story.

Dairy farmers are one of only two Canada agricultural sectors to achieve full official government recognition – at the federal, provincial and territorial levels – for our auditable on-farm food safety assurance program, and we are building on that success for the other aspects of sustainability: animal health and care, traceability and environmental stewardship. Each of these investments (time and financial) are a reflection of Canadian dairy farmers' ongoing commitment to their fellow Canadians; sustainability is important to us all. After all, some Canadian dairy farms have been operating in Canada on the same land for 150 years, this would not be possible without sustainable practices!

Finally, managing production doesn't just work for Canadian dairy farmers, an independent poll conducted by Abacus Data, published April 25 2017, shows that supply management works for Canadians too - 92% of Canadians stated they are happy with the range and quality of dairy products available in Canada, while 77% stated that they are happy with Canada's dairy policies as they are.

Whether you agree with our domestic system or not, the bottom line is this: it is an inarguable truth that if the entire world matched supply with demand, and managed production as we do here in Canada, the global dairy crisis would not be happening, rural communities would be in a better position to thrive, and farmers around the world would not be struggling to make ends meet, searching for homes for their milk.

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, promotional backdrop, 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

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

Wanted:

- 1000 gallon bulk tank; 3-6 ton grain bin. Please call: Matthew Cassidy 654-2913

For Sale:

- Boumatic 1500 gallon tank; Fresh Cows. Please text Jesse at : 506-432-0548
- Used Beatty Barn cleaner transmissions and chain. DeLaval water bowls. 1000 Gal milk tank and cooler. Round Bale Feeders. Call 506-387-8733 or email dhowe@nbnet.nb.ca
- 1000 Gal. Surge milk tank with 5 HP compressor and wash system; Heat Exchanger, milk guard -TTR.
All bought new and are in excellent working condition.
Please call 506-328-3897 or email- lvblack@xplornet.com

SERVICES

Maritime Quality Milk: www.milkquality.ca

Quality Milk Management: Don Anderson 432-5598 or udder1@nb.aibn.com

Antibiotic Testing: Dairytown Processing Ltd. 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

Livestock Feed Specialist: David Dykstra phone: 434-5755
david.dykstra@gnb.ca; @NbForage

AgExpert Analyst Certified Advisers:

David Christie 466-4305; Kim Waalderbos 260-3004

Hoof Trimming: E. Duivenvoorden 433-1864;
Peter Jones 866-0531; Dwayne Black 328-1866

Relief Milking and Farm Sitting—Daily & Hourly rates
Jens van der Heide 851-1793; 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

Sussex Co-op Livestock Auction:

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

Bob Calve Prices : <http://bovin.gc.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:
<http://www.dfns.ca/formsindex.htm>

Milk Producer magazine

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

Canadian Dairy Commission Market Bulletins:
<http://www.cdc-ccl.gc.ca/CDC/index-eng.php?id=3830>

The Dairyland Initiative, affiliated with the University of Wisconsin.

Website contains excellent information on many dairy topics such as Calf Ventilation, Stall Sizing and Replacement Housing; .

<https://thedairylandinitiative.vetmed.wisc.edu>

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:

DFNB has amended its Bulk Milk Pickup order by adding a second level of everyday 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. The amendment will create a second level where producers may 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.

Upcoming Events

DFNB BOARD MEETING: May 30-31, 2017

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

All documentation **must** be received by **June 9, 2017**.

[AgWeather Atlantic](#)

Being a farmer in New Brunswick, weather likely has a large impact on how you manage your operation. You likely search sites such as ACCU weather and the weather network to try and figure out your next move throughout the growing season. How about trying a weather website that may be more in tune with your agriculture needs, have a look at AgWeather Atlantic by AAFC, site below:

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

Once you get there, you will be at their home page, you can select your region in the upper right, i.e. NB. If you need a weather station that is quality controlled near to you, look at the right hand side of the black bar for the change station option. Click on that and you get a map of NB with station locations and a drop down list in alphabetical order. This will get you the seven day forecast for that station.

We can get more crop specific by clicking onto one of the sites webinars to walk you through some of the sites features. But try clicking on the “AgWeather” tab on top of this introductory page and you may find some tools that are of more value to you as a producer. You can find crop specific information by further clicking onto the crop of interest, such as “Forages”. Although the time of this article is beyond the current season, you may want to use some of these tools next spring to determine when to do your first hay cut. Another tool is available on the same page for the last time to take an alfalfa cut in the fall. Drying conditions are also available to help you make decisions between first and last cut.

Maybe you are growing silage or grain corn. Corn heat units may be of concern for these crops as different hybrids mature at different times. If you go back to the “AgWeather” tab and click on “Field crops”, you can look at corn heat units in two ways as a “Meteogram” or “Summary”. The meteogram provides a graphic display of accumulated Corn Heat Units (CHU) for the current season as well as the 1981-2010 averages for the station of your choice, you can use a seeding date as your start date. The summary enables you to display and print a table of accumulated CHU’s for a period of time from a station of your choice.

The point is, AgWeather Atlantic is available for producers and their consultants to use as a tool to improve production. This tool can help make better decisions with regards to your management from a weather point of view. The more you get familiar with this site, the more you can gain some utility out of it for the benefit of your farming operation.

Pat Toner, Soil Management Specialist (NBDAAF)

[Credit Exchange Order \(2017-03\)](#)

The Board approved a change to the DFNB Credit Exchange effective August 1, 2017 by replacing the credit trading limit of 150 times Daily Quota over 24 months with a monthly credit trading limit based on the Daily Quota and Credit Position associated to the Producer’s milk statement in the month prior to the Credit Exchange.

Buyers will be those with credits between -10 and +10

Sellers will be those with credits between -10 and -30.

Monthly trade limit will be the lesser of :

- ⇒ 8 times Daily Quota (month prior to credit exchange), or
- ⇒ Credit kgs needed to adjust credit position (month prior to credit exchange) to -10 times their Daily Quota (month prior to credit exchange).

DFNB Mission

*To represent the interests of New Brunswick dairy farmers
in their pursuit of operating sustainable dairy farms
that produce high quality milk within a supply management system.*

NB Research & Productivity Council (RPC)

As of April 20, 2017, anyone requiring the services previously offered by the N.B. Dairy Lab, please note that it will now be located at the following address:

**RPC Building, 921 College Hill Rd,
Fredericton NB E3B 6Z9**

The main line at RPC is 506-452-1212.

Composition testing inquiries, contact

Jill Hay—Email: Jill.Hay@rpc.ca

Microbiology testing inquiries, contact

Corrie Maston—Email: Corrie.Maston@rpc.ca

Please check your “Junk Mail” folder if you are not receiving your test result emails from RPC and add RPC to your “Safe Sender” list.

Maritime Quality Milk website

The Maritime Quality Milk website is up and running again in table form.

Producers may go to www.milkquality.ca and log in to get their results.

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,

Fred Vanderkloet fsvanderkloet@gov.pe.ca or

Brian MacDonald brian.macdonald@gnb.ca



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THE FIDDLEHEAD TEAM

 Reg McElroy Realtor® Cell: 506.325.8631 reg.mcelroy@century21.ca	 Linda Currie Owner/Broker Cell: 506.325.8654 linda.currie@century21.ca
Office: 506.325.2500 www.century21allseasonsrealty.ca	

 213 Church St. Sackville 370 acre farm with milk quota	 2653 Rt. 390, St. Almo 457 Acre dairy farm on the Tobique River with quota
 47260 Homestead Road, Steeves Mountain 350 acre dairy farm with quota & equipment	

General principles of biosecurity and disease prevention 3:

Emerging and foreign animal diseases

By Dr. Murray Gillies

Hello Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick!

Along with the common diseases affecting dairy cattle in this region, there are always threats of serious diseases from other areas of Canada, from the US, and even from foreign countries. This article discusses diseases that have the potential to affect your herd. It will enable you, as farmers, to recognize the signs and avoid introduction of these diseases into your herd and help ensure your farm's biosecurity protocols are up to date.

Most producers are aware of Johne's disease, a contagious and fatal bacterial infection. Cows can be infected but show no signs until much later on. It is not a common disease agent in New Brunswick, but it does exist and is very frustrating to manage. Symptoms include bad scours (diarrhea) and consistent weight loss despite a good appetite. The cow appears very thin and weak, and often has fluid under her jaw in the shape of a bottle ("bottle jaw"). There is no treatment for Johne's so it is imperative that herds that are free of Johne's remain that way.

Johne's is most commonly spread through contaminated manure when new infected cattle are introduced. It is highly recommended that Johne's negative herds remain closed. If you have Johne's in your herd there are testing and management options available to reduce production losses and even eliminate it. Your veterinarian will gladly provide advice regarding your herd and Johne's disease.

Strawberry foot rot, also known as hairy heel wart, is a big red looking strawberry-like lesion or a large wart-like structure that forms on the back of the hoof between the claws and heel bulbs. Arguably the worst disease currently affecting Canadian dairy operations, since control and treatment options are limited, this bacterial pathogen is extremely frustrating and costly to manage. Strawberry foot rot is painful and afflicted cows become extremely lame. This has a negative impact on their welfare and greatly inhibits their ability to grow and make milk.

Like Johne's disease, there is currently no vaccine option available. The bacteria enter the herd on the feet of cattle that have been in a contaminated environment. As always, it is recommended to keep a closed herd and provide good foot bath protocol for your animals. Treatment options are available for strawberry foot rot but this disease is still devastating to a herd and can drastically drop overall production.

Salmonella, particularly *Salmonella dublin*, is another emerging disease along the Eastern coast of the United States and up into Ontario. *S. dublin* symptoms are similar to those in an animal with pneumonia and the disease results in high rates of calf mortality. Farmers who have *Salmonella dublin* in their herd may walk out to a pen of calves to find the whole pen lying dead. Salmonella bacteria are also zoonotic, meaning they can spread from animals to humans, causing scours in both. This particular pathogen can have some pretty major implications for our industry.

Although treatment options do exist for animals with Salmonella it is best to manage this disease by testing animals and culling chronic shedders, as with Johne's positive animals. It is imperative that on-farm personnel are clean and disinfected each and every time they go from older animals to younger animals and after having been in contact with animals or manure from other locations. Any time a calf or a group of calves is suddenly found dead a veterinarian must do a post mortem with samples sent to a lab to rule out Salmonella. As with other pathogens spread via manure, Salmonella enters a herd through newly acquired animals, from those returning after being raised off farm, and by contaminated footwear, vehicles or clothing.

Leptospirosis is another disease affecting the dairy industry in other countries, especially in heavy dairy areas like New Zealand. Small animal veterinarians around the Maritimes are finding the disease in dogs so it is here, and could potentially infect your cattle. Leptospirosis is zoonotic and can make people very sick. It is most often present in the urine or fetal fluid of cattle. Anyone who milks cows knows how easy it is for urine to splash onto your face and hands. A symptom of Leptospirosis is rise in abortions. If this occurs in your herd, contact your veterinarian to run tests which will include checking for this disease. Any time a farm worker becomes seriously ill with flu-like symptoms, make sure the doctor is aware of their close work with farm animals so all zoonotic pathogens, including leptospirosis, can be considered in a diagnosis.

Anaplasmosis is a disease spread by ticks. It is very common in the southern parts of the United States and is being seen more and more in the northern regions with incursions into Canada. This disease is not yet seen here in the Maritimes, but ticks continue to move upward along the east coast. Symptoms of this disease are fever, general ill thrift, anemia and stiff joints or poly-arthritis. The diagnosis of Anaplasmosis can be made by examining a stained blood smear. As part of your biosecurity programs, all farmers should watch for the presence of ticks and maintain a good parasite control program especially during the active tick season.

General principles of biosecurity and disease prevention 3: Emerging and foreign animal diseases

By Dr. Murray Gillies *Continued*

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Foot-and-mouth disease is likely the most well-known foreign animal disease and one that poses the greatest threat for Canada's international livestock market and trade, but others are out there as well. With any luck these diseases will never come to Canada, however with an ever-increasing amount of travel, especially to farms in foreign and remote countries, the potential to inadvertently bring back a foreign animal disease exists. Farmers and veterinarians need to be diligent. Customs declaration forms include questions about farm visits and food products and are designed to help prevent bringing back animal diseases that we want to keep out of Canada.

Some of the most high risk diseases are vesicle-forming or blister-forming diseases, like foot-and-mouth disease, so anytime you have an animal with blisters or ulcers around her mouth, tongue or feet, or if she is acting really out of character for a cow, contact your veterinarian immediately. Remember that mad cow (BSE) is still a major concern for Canadian cattle and surveillance to monitor this disease is still ongoing.

If you are finding cows dying suddenly with blood coming from the nose, mouth and anus, this could be typical of a serious disease known as Anthrax which is present in Western Canada.

Finally Tuberculosis, which has been eradicated from Canada's cattle population, is still present in wild bovines and could work its way back into your herds if we are not careful. Any atypical pneumonia case or strange looking abscess should be investigated by your veterinarian.

As always, it really pays to involve your veterinarian when you have questions, to protect your herd, to protect you, to protect the industry and to protect the public.

Thanks for reading!

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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