

NEWSLETTER

Informing Nova Scotia dairy producers on matters affecting their industry.

Vol. 10, No. 8 – March 2010

Policy Statement Changes

At the AGM in January, members suggested a number of changes to the DFNS Policy Statement. The Board reviewed these suggestions and directed staff to make them. As a result, the revised Policy Statement is now on the website under "Forms & Publications".

One notable change was direction to end the ten-year period for quota assignments between producers and lenders. In May 2007, DFNS implemented a ten-year horizon on all new quota assignments. The Board approved ending this policy. This change will not take effect until the related regulation changes are approved by government.

Spring Regional Meetings

DFNS is holding our Spring Regional Meetings across the province the fourth week in April. The Board will present information on P5 harmonization and other important matters facing the dairy industry.

Milk Committee elections will also be held for those members whose three-year term has expired. Be sure to mark your calendars and come out and ask questions about all issues affecting our industry.

Regional Meeting Dates

April 26th 1:00 – 3:00 Inverary Inn, Baddeck
7:30 – 9:30 Claymore Inn, Antigonish

April 27th 1:00 – 3:00 Nova Forest Office, Wentworth
7:30 – 9:30 St. Bridget's Hall, Shubenacadie

April 29th 1:00 – 3:00 Fire Hall, Lawrencetown
7:30 – 9:30 Kingsway Garden Inn, Windsor

UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES:

April 2, 2010.....Good Friday – Office Closed
April 5, 2010.....Easter Monday – Office Closed
April 16, 2010.....Quota Exchange Deadline
April 17, 2010.....Pine Haven Farm Open Barn Day
April 26, 2010.....Quota Lease Deadline

Joint Research

At this year's AGM, members suggested that DFNS pursue joint production research with the other Maritime Boards. The concept is to combine resources to get more bang for the buck. In fact, this is already happening in a few areas.

All three Maritime Boards, along with several other provinces, support the Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network. This network has been operating for four years, and their results can be found on their website, published monthly in this newsletter, and with the newspaper insert in this month's newsletter.

DFNS also cooperates with the other Maritime Boards by participating in the Advisory Committee for Maritime Quality Milk. The MQM-directed research is designed to improve milk quality across the region. One way producers will see this is when they access to milk quality and composition results through the MQM website.

A third example of the cooperative approach is a jointly-funded project looking at selenium levels in regional dairy herds. By having two or more Boards cooperate on a project, researchers can often obtain increased matching dollars to extend the investment by producers.

DFNS will continue to look for ways to join forces to jointly support research with the other Maritime boards. Ultimately, DFNS will only support projects they feel will benefit NS producers.

CQM Follow-Up:

Please send your self-declarations or corrections to Gloria by email at gmartin@dfns.ca or fax 897-9768

Results of the March 2010 Quota Exchange
This exchange was subsequently prorated 30.62% for buyers

Kilograms		Producers	
		Buying Quota	20
Purchased (<i>actual</i>)	64.3	Offering to Buy	21
Offered to Purchase	214.48	Selling Quota	3
Offered to Sell	64.3	Offering to Sell	3

Price	Offers to Sell (kgs)	Cumulative Sales	Difference	Cumulative Buys	Offers to Buy (kgs)
\$26,500.00	1	1	-213.48	214.48	0
\$28,100.00	0	1	-213.48	214.48	4.5
\$28,800.00	32.29	33.29	-176.69	209.98	0
\$28,875.00	31	64.29	-145.69	209.98	0
\$28,889.00	0	64.29	-145.69	209.98	209.98

Dairy Services Lab Results
February 2010

Loop Plate Count (LPC)		
Count	Samples	Percent
<25,000	223	91.39
25-50,000	9	3.69
>50,000	12	4.92
TOTAL	244	100.00
<i>95.08 % meet provincial standard Avg. LPC - 19,205</i>		
Somatic Cell Count (SCC)		
<i>Average SCC - 231,466</i>		
Lab Pasteurized (LP)		
Count	Samples	Percent
<750	2	40.00
>750	3	60.00
<i>40% meet provincial standard</i>		
Adulteration (added water and/or antibiotics)		
Water (Farm Tanks)	0	
Antibiotics (Tankers)	0	

The deadline for the next quota exchange is April 16, 2010, at 4:30 p.m.
Results will be available on April 19, 2010.

P5 QUOTA EXCHANGE RESULTS

	Clearing Price
PEI	\$28,750
New Brunswick.....	\$27,500
Ontario	\$25,000
Quebec.....	\$25,000



Happy Easter!



Emergency Management Plan Update

by Merridy Rankin, AgraPoint

The development of the Atlantic Dairy Farmers Emergency Management Plan (EMP) is almost complete. The Committee is in the process of editing the various sections to ensure that all sections combine to produce a cohesive document, and the DFNS Board is moving toward implementation of the EMP. The Board has identified the Core Emergency Management Team (EMT) and the alternate team members who will be the lead in the event of an emergency or potential emergency. The Core EMT Members are Havey Whidden and Dwane Mellish, with alternate members Gerrit Damsteegt and Brian Cameron. The Core EMT will request support as necessary from various provincial and federal departments and agencies, practicing veterinarians, processors, transporters, and others knowledgeable about the dairy industry.

The Committee is also working on opportunities to disseminate the EMP information across the dairy industry. We have teamed up with Dairy Focus to provide biosecurity signs for the farm tours, which remind tour participants of the need for basic biosecurity measures when visiting farms. As well, we have produced a Fact Sheet on biosecurity guidelines for dairy industry stakeholders who visit farms. Committee Members plan to distribute the Fact Sheet and talk with Dairy Focus Trade Show participants to engage them in conversation about their role in a dairy industry emergency.

A successful emergency plan for any industry or business must have a clear and concise communication plan which includes up-to-date contact information. DFNS will soon be sending a form to all registered producers asking for current phone, fax, and email addresses so their database can be updated. Please contact Kara Irving, Bernie MacDougall, or Dwane Mellish through the Board office for more information on the Atlantic Dairy Farmers EMP.

Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) Program... Ready for your VALIDATION?

by Gloria Martin, Quality Milk Program Coordinator

Many of you will be validated again this year. Are you ready?

Here's a "to-do" list for you:

- ✓ Review and update your **standard operating procedures** (SOPs) (Records 1-7).
- ✓ Have your **veterinary prescriptions** expired? Update with vet if necessary.
- ✓ Review and update your **list of medicines & chemicals used on livestock** (Record 9).
- ✓ Ensure you have a **compliant water test** and **annual wash system evaluation** (Record 14B, done by equipment dealer). These 2 items must have been done within 12 months of this year's validation date and you must have a copy of them on farm.
- ✓ Review and update your **corrective action plans** (Record 16).
- ✓ Make sure the rest of your records are complete and up-to-date.

You will be contacted with your validation date. The validation will be within 30 days on either side of your CQM anniversary (registration date). Upon being validated, you should have your corrective actions completed and verified before the *target date ("deadline") that is written on your validation report.

***If you are unable to meet the target date** listed on the validation report, you may request an extension from DFNS. The request should be made before the due date. You may call the CQM Coordinator, Gloria Martin, to make this request, at (902) 890-7266.

Continuous Quota Positions

Provincial positions at the end of January, expressed in percent of total annual quota, are shown below. No provinces were over-quota. The upper limit is now 0.5%. A lower limit of -2.0% comes into place in August 2010.

BC	+ 0.70%	Ont.	- 0.89%
Alta.	- 1.80%	Que.	- 2.18%
Sask.	- 0.67%	NB	+ 0.21
Man.	+ 0.24%	NS	- 1.04%
NL	- 10.19%	PEI	- 0.11%

Clean Bedding for a Healthy Udder

Bedding contributes to the cleanliness of both the animals and the barn. However, it can also be a source of major microbial problems, especially for udder health and milk quality. Bedding can become an important reservoir for microorganisms, since it is a source of nutrients (organic matter, manure, milk, etc.) and also because its temperature, humidity, and pH all promote bacterial growth.

Did you know that *Escherichia coli*, a species of coliform found in manure, can double its population every 20 minutes? Once excreted by the cow, the bacteria can survive for several days depending on where it ends up: on your hands: 45 minutes; in dust: 4 to 27 days; and in manure or in the ground: up to 84 days! Quick! It's time to clean up the stalls!

For more practical information and resources about udder health, visit www.mastitisnetwork.org and register right away to receive the *Mastitis-Flash* electronic bulletin.



Réseau canadien de recherche
sur la mammite bovine
Canadian Bovine Mastitis
Research Network

Atlantic Johne's Disease Initiative

Maritime Quality Milk, in conjunction with regional dairy boards, is developing a comprehensive strategy for the prevention and control of Johne's Disease. With Atlantic Canada's only USDA accredited Johne's lab, MQM's proposed program will run for four years and will include herd risk assessment; herd testing; cow testing; and high shedder removal. DFNS has approved participation in this important program. Please see the enclosed pamphlet on this important work, or you may visit www.milkquality.ca for more information.

Open Barn Day at Pine Haven Farm

Saturday, April 17, 2010

11:00 am to 3:30 pm

Pine Haven Farm, Oxford

(as part of the Jersey Atlantic AGM)

Contact Dave Cole at 902-384-2403

for more information.

Milk Production and Pricing

by Esben Arnfast, Finance and Systems Administrator

February's milk production continued the normal winter trend, increasing from January's milk production of 18,456 kgs of butterfat to 18,856 kgs/day. February was the high point last year, topping out at just over 19,000 kgs of butterfat per day, with the low point of slightly more than 17,000 kgs per day in August 2009. Milk composition remains slightly above last year's level at 3.95 kg/hl, versus 3.94 kgs/hl last February. After recording January's production, Nova Scotia's continuous quota position climbed from minus 1.35% to minus 1.04%.

With higher production in February being pooled, we could expect a larger change next month, and last year the change was plus 0.42%. Four provinces (PEI, NB, Manitoba, and BC) are drawing nearer to +0.5% and will likely be over-quota within the next month or two. The February NS transportation rate has increased to \$2.57/hl from \$2.48/hl in January, as a result of increases both at the provincial level and the pool level. The February 1st quarterly fuel adjustment resulted in an increased amount paid to NS transporters of approximately \$0.04 per hl, and the remainder of the increase resulted from increased January transportation costs pooled by other P5 provinces.

The average in-quota milk price for February jumped to \$81.91/hl, from January's price of \$73.70/hl. As with the previous month, the pooling adjustment increase for December accounted for just over \$1.00/hl of the change. The remaining improvement can be attributed to a change in utilization.

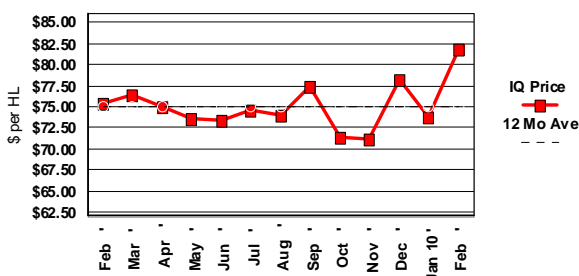
More butterfat was used in the high-valued fluid and ice-cream classes, with less milk utilized in cheese and butter production. Also, there was no skim milk powder declared in the low-value class for animal feed. Special class usage was minimal; however, there was some skim milk powder sold in the export category. The February farm-gate price adjustment of \$0.30/hl affecting only fluid products as discussed in last month's column was implemented. March's price is likely to be negatively impacted by a large pooling adjustment stemming from February's high milk value utilization by processors. Also, it is unlikely that the high-valued utilization observed in February will be maintained. Both of these factors are likely to combine to bring the March average in-quota price well below the 12-month average of \$75.05/hl.

Milk Marketing Report February 2010

PRODUCTION	2010	2009		
Average Litres/Day	477,066	484,086		
Average kg Butterfat/Day	18,856	19,070		
Average Composition, kg/hl				
Butterfat	3.9525	3.9395		
Protein	3.3190	3.3223		
Other Solids	5.7020	5.6912		
Bulk Haulage (\$/hl)	2.57	2.51		
PRODUCER PRICES	Butterfat (\$ per kg)	Protein (\$ per kg)	LOS (\$ per kg)	Avg. per HL
February In-Quota	11.9132	7.3944	1.8037	81.91
February Over-Quota	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
March Over-Quota	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
PROCESSOR PRICES	Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids	Per HL SNF
Class 1 (a) Homo, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, Skim, Flavoured milks	7.3661			66.3200
Class 1 (b) Fluid Creams	7.3661			53.9100
Class 2 Ice Cream, yogurt, sour cream	7.5523	5.7672	5.7672	
Class 3 (a) Fresh cheeses, specialty cheese	7.5523	13.4394	0.8441	
Class 3 (b) Cheddar Cheese	7.5523	12.9851	0.8441	
Class 4 (a) Butter and powders	7.5523	5.2108	5.2108	
Class 4 (b) Condensed & Evaporated milk for retail	7.5523	5.3194	5.3194	
Class 4 (c) New products	6.4195	4.4292	4.4292	
Class 4(d) Inventory, shrinkage	7.5523	5.2108	5.2108	
Class 4(m) Marginal milk products	0.1074	0.1074	0.1074	
Class 5 (a) Cheese for further processing	3.5874	6.3157	0.4142	
Class 5 (b) Non-cheese products for further processing	3.5874	2.5728	2.5728	
Class 5 (c) Confectionery products	3.9963	2.1680	2.1680	
Class 5 (d) Planned exports (contract by contract basis)	-	3.0056	3.0056	

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE PRODUCERS: 250

**NS Average In-Quota Producer Price
Per HL basis**



Fluid Utilization Percentage

