



Notice of Changes Coming in September New Workbook and Reference Manual

Announcement: Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) will be issuing a new Workbook and Reference Manual for proAction®. The documents are targeted to be published by September 2021, and will be available on the proAction website (www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction). The new Workbook and Reference Manual will replace the July 2019 versions and the Environment Reference Manual, November 2020.

This Notice of Change provides farmers with advance notice of the changes that will be coming into effect on September 1, 2021. The changes are listed below by category: Reminders, Revised Requirements, and Clarifications or Revisions.

Effective Date: The effective date of the changes is September 1, 2021.

Reminders:

a) Environment: all Environment (EN) requirements and records are mandatory as of September 1, 2021. This encompasses the questions EN1 to EN5, which include a valid Environmental Farm Plan, completed Environmental Questionnaire, milking centre wastewater management, manure storage, and manure management. The EN requirements are the same as published in the Environment Reference Manual, November 2020, so refer to that document for the detailed requirements until the new Workbook and Reference Manual are available.

Location in new Reference Manual will be: Chapter 10.

b) Animal Care (AC): Cattle assessments (AC14): DFC issued a Notice of Change for improvements to the cattle assessment requirement in September 2020. The changes included new peer report zones, a corrective action plan template, increased emphasis on cattle scoring Monitor for gait score, and continuous improvement expectations and timelines, with a transition period to provide time for farmers and industry to adjust.

The changes were implemented in April 2021.

The changes are now incorporated in the new Reference Manual (Chapter 4, section 4.1 and Appendix II) and Workbook.

c) **Traceability:** DFC issued a Notice of Change for improvements to the Traceability module in September 2020. The changes included:

- Approval for farmers to use an approved dairy tag (single white button tag) or approved beef tag (single yellow button tag) for calves born on farm and destined for purposes other than dairy production.
- LT4, LT6, and LT8: reporting animal births, animal move-ins and tag retirements to the national traceability database is mandatory September 1, 2021.
- Lactanet Canada is now the national administrator responsible for dairy cattle traceability, and the DairyTrace database has replaced the Canadian Livestock Tracking System database for dairy.

Agri-traçabilité Québec changed its name to Attestra.

The changes are now incorporated in the new Reference Manual (Chapters 3 and 9) and Workbook.

Revised Requirements:

a) **AC11: Dehorning:** the use of high-tension rubber bands for routine dehorning is not permitted. They can only be used under special permission of a veterinarian for an individual animal, if the veterinarian has deemed it medically necessary for the individual animal.

Farms that use high-tension rubber bands for routine dehorning need to use a different method and need to update Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 9 to reflect their new practices.

Rationale: research indicates that dehorning with high-tension rubber bands is not an effective alternative to mechanical dehorning and banded calves show greater signs of

discomfort than those dehorned with other methods.

Location in new Reference Manual will be: Chapter 4, Section 4.1.

Clarifications or Revisions:

a) **AC8 (SOP 8): Unweaned calf feeding:** farmers are already required to feed calves a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigour. The expectation provided has been feeding calves milk at least 2 times per day or free choice, with a total daily intake equal to 20% of the calves' body weight for the first month (about 8L per day for a Holstein calf). Clarification has been added that the 20% volume is a requirement. Farmers may need to update their practices and SOP 8 to reflect any changes.

b) **AC11 (SOP 9): Supernumerary teat removals:** previously, farmers were only allowed to remove supernumerary teats with surgical scissors or a scalpel blade. Clarification has been added that removal with high-tension rubber bands is not acceptable.

Location in new Reference Manual will be: Chapter 4, Section 4.1.

c) **AC13 (SOP 11): Euthanasia:** farmers are already required to use an approved method of euthanasia for each class of animal, and clarification has been added that farmers must state in their SOPs which euthanasia methods they are using. Previously, farmers would not have been able to meet the intent of the SOP without doing this, but the revision clarifies the intent.

Location in new Reference Manual will be: Chapter 4, Section 4.1.

d) **AC14: Cattle Assessment Terminology:** to better describe the positive goals of dairy farmers, the cattle assessment terminology has been revised. See Table 1.

The Reference Manual and Workbook and supporting documents have been revised according to these rules: the new terminology will be used when referring to the scoring methods; and, lameness and injury terms will be used when referring to the disease or condition.

Location in new Reference Manual will be: Chapter 4, Section 4.1 and Appendix II.

- e) **Biosecurity (BIO) 7:** the question was revised to clearly state that “biosecurity” signage is required to be posted at the main access point of the farm.
- f) **Record 11B: Letter of Guarantee:** added Premises Identification Numbers for the seller and buyer to provide an easy link for traceability records and reports.

g) **Overall:** edits were made throughout the Workbook and Reference Manual to make corrections, streamline information, add clarity or provide more information. Some examples of more information are:

- Approved teat sanitizers have a Drug Identification Number.
- Guidance on maximum volumes of drugs that should be injected at one site.
- Note that some drugs have additional expiry dates after opening or mixing them.
- Pesticides can only legally be used according to label instructions.

Table 1: Revised Cattle Assessment Terminology

Old Terminology	New Terminology
Body Condition Score	Body Condition Score
Hock injuries	Hock Score
Knee injuries	Knee Score
Neck injuries	Neck Score
Lameness: gait scoring	Mobility: gait score
Lameness: stall scoring	Mobility: in-stall score
Mobility on its own	Mobility score