valacta

Adopting innovation

THE EVOLUTION OF VALACTA ATLANTIC DAIRY PRODUCTION

2011

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Valacta Board Director,
Dannie MacKinnon
Dairy Producer

Valacta Board Observer,
Paul Gaunce
Dairy Producer

Dairy Production Centre of Expertise
555 Anciens-Combattants Boulevard
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec
Canada H9X 3R4

Customer Service: 1-800-266-5248
Sylvia Lafontaine, Regional Manager, Atlantic
Toll free: 1-800-266-5248 ext. 7827

www.valacta.com

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ALPHONSE PITTET

Your Acting President

Adopting Innovation

The Valacta mission ends with these words: "stimulate the development of knowledge and its adoption by dairy farmers." Here we are at the heart of the daily challenge of our center of expertise. The theme this year is stated in two simple words "Adopting innovation".

Innovation is found everywhere in the lifestyle of our contemporary society. But Valacta is a company that thrives on innovation. Valacta offers services rather than selling consumables. Our center of expertise is dedicated to improving the industry. Consequently, it wants to help more and more dairy farmers. The clients must adhere to a project or a service which will cause them to think about the way they do things, to question themselves, to plan the implementation of new working methods, and to analyze the results. At first, we lose balance, there is a lack of self-assurance, the results come slowly, we hesitate, we sometimes stumble, and suddenly, there it is! The efforts are paying off! It's working! And eventually, we do not even remember how we did before we made the changes. To me, that's adopting innovation.

Allow me, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to thank all of those who worked to bring you the Evolution of the Valacta Atlantic Dairy Production and all the businesses who faithfully support the publication. I also thank those who adopt innovations intended to improve our dairy industry.

I wish you pleasant reading.

Alphonse Pittet

Alphonse Pittet, *Dairy Producer*

PIERRE LAMPRON

Your New President

Adopting Innovation: Made easier with Dairy Knowledge at Your Fingertips!

It gives me great pleasure to become the Chairman of the board of Valacta. Sitting on the board, we get a close up view of how things are done in a company. As a member of the board once again (I sat on the PATLQ board from 2001 to 2003), I can see that the company has chosen a promising road and is offering our dairy producers innovative solutions for their future.

As for me, my wife and I have 3 children, 15, 17 and 19 years old. I run a 120 cow dairy farm with two of my brothers and we farm 350 ha in organic crop production. You can imagine that meeting my objectives is one of my daily concerns.

I have always believed that in order to progress, one must be open to innovation. Seeking out the best management tools and keeping well informed is imperative. Valacta belongs to producers. The mandate we have given our center of expertise is to be at the forefront of innovation and to bring us the best solutions, nothing less. We also ask that they work in synergy with our industry partners because it is more profitable for us.

As president of Valacta, but also as a dairy producer, I am aware of the challenges that face us, both in the short and long term. We will be hearing more and more about technology, our carbon footprint, and as always, the quality of our milk. If our society doesn't begin to make better choices soon, the survival of agriculture itself may become a challenge. Yet, we have everything we need to make the right choices so let's stay positive and ensure that we pass on a strong dairy industry to our children. To accomplish this, we will need to make rational choices: lucky for us, Valacta is there to help us make them! That's exactly what Dairy Knowledge at Your Fingertips is about! Take advantage of it!

I invite you to put your finger on the pulse of the evolution of dairy production in the Atlantic Provinces by reading the wealth of information found in this annual review.

I am glad to be back. We'll talk soon!

Pierre Lampron

Pierre Lampron, *Dairy Producer*

DANIEL LEFEBVRE

Your General Manager

Innovative ways to help you reach your goals

Since its creation in 2006, Valacta hasn't stop growing and evolving to build a leading place in the dairy production expertise business. We firmly believe that finding innovative ways to help you reach your goals is the best way to go. The record of attendance to the course Focus on 400K, be ready for 2012 shows that we are doing something right! We have worked with partners dedicated to your success. Our Atlantic administrator, Mr. Dannie Mackinnon, talks about partnership and success on the next page. We thank him and Mr Paul Gaunce for their good work representing you on our Board of Directors.

We think that all dairy farms can benefit from improved management of their data. Properly handled, your farm data is a treasure! A treasure that belongs to you! Let a Valacta technician help you with the paperwork: you will come up the winner. See all they can do for you on page 6. We make it our duty to meet our clients' needs with a personalized approach.

We are known for our milk recording activity but Valacta has many domains of expertise with a renowned expert for each one. They seek to find the latest information, they write technical articles for you and for the industry, they build the content of our courses. We also link with universities and colleges in Quebec and Atlantic. Reading Dr Greg Keefe and Don Anderson on page 12 will convince you that the courses we offer are worth your while. Thanks to all our experts and partners.

We build with high standards on firm and innovative grounds, this is why many industry partners count on us to deliver challenging projects. We have analyzed over 15000 samples for iodine, one sample for every Canadian herd, on behalf of the Milk Producers of Canada. We have also offered solid technical support to implement the CQM Program. In short, we are there for you.

Our wish for 2012 is that you discover all the benefits of our services.

Daniel Lefebvre, *Ph.D., agr.*

SYLVIA LAFONTAINE

Your Regional Manager

When you think about it, doubling the average milk production over the past 30 years was no small feat. What's not surprising is that our dairy producers were up to the challenge. Every time our industry has been faced with a challenge, you are confronted with the same question: do I change or should I keep doing what I'm doing? Dairying has become even more complex, production levels increase, legislative demands increase or change: Valacta is your center of expertise and our raison d'être is at the heart of your needs: we have been created to help you decide on what's best for you to meet your goals.

At first glance these challenges seem to be the same for all the producers but the truth is the implications are different for every farm. For example, the change to the SCC level from 500 to 400 – the rule is the same for everyone. What you have to do to comply can be very different. This is where you need us. Our staff is dedicated to evaluating your results and helping you evaluate what can be done for your particular situation. I invite you to be present when they are at the farm. Take the time to review your results with them; it is an investment of your time that you will not regret. Need other specialists? No problem: as demonstrated with the udder health course we fully support an integrated approach at your farm and will gladly work with your vet or any other consultant involved. We have a wealth of data and reports, we have experience, we have a R&D team and we are close to you. That's why you have better results when you use our services than when you don't.

More than 300 of you attended the Focus on 400K course. Producers who came to the course on udder health are seeing a difference. We have been monitoring the SCC level for these herds and we have seen an improvement over the past few months! What are we going to improve together next?

Next fall, our course is *What To Do Before Two*. Raising heifers implies great expense, and we will provide you with what you need to maximize benefits, I can't wait to see you all there.

S. Lafontaine

Sylvia Lafontaine, *agr.*

DANNIE MACKINNON

Your Board Member

It has been a pleasure to represent Atlantic Canada at the Board table of Valacta, along with Paul Gaunce as observer. The focus of Valacta for 2011 was Synergy. I felt that Valacta had a great year of Synergy in Atlantic Canada. The Valacta organization teamed up with the Atlantic Vet College, the four Dairy Farmer's Groups as well as Don Anderson, Udder Health Specialist, to present the Focus on 400K somatic cell course. These training sessions were well attended and showed what can be accomplished when everyone is working as a team. We are also looking forward to offering a new course, *What To Do Before Two*, in the fall of 2012.

The Valacta Atlantic Advisory Committee had a very productive meeting in October, 2011, with lots of suggestions on how Valacta can better serve the Atlantic Canada dairy industry.

The team at Valacta Atlantic would like to offer congratulations to the people at Eastside Lewisdale for their success with Eastside Lewisdale Gold Missy in the show ring during 2011. It is great to see cows bred in Atlantic Canada make it to the top of the Canadian scene. Congratulations also goes out to Weeksdale of P.E.I. and Cobequid of N.S. for receiving their Master Breeders Shield from Holstein Canada. Valacta is proud to work with producers who use all the breed improvement tools available to them, to rise to the top in the industry and be recognized. Congratulations.

The Valacta Advisory Committee has recommended to the Shareholders of Valacta that Paul Gaunce and I continue to represent Atlantic Canada at the Board of Valacta for 2012. The Advisory Committee has also recommended that nominations be called in the fall of 2012 for people who would be interested in representing Atlantic Canada at the Board of Valacta for 2013. I would encourage anyone who would like to take on this role to nominate. Producers will be notified when the call goes out.

Dannie A. MacKinnon

Dannie Mackinnon, *Dairy Producer*
Phone: 902-838-3206
Cell: 902-969-9810
dan.chris.mackinnon@pei.sympatico.ca

WHAT CAN A DAIRY PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN DO FOR YOU?

Dairy production technicians receiving training and follow-up guidance

Your Valacta technician is a special collaborator who will work alongside of you to observe your animals in their environment, take note of preliminary findings and refer you to the proper resources to help you reach your objectives.

Our team of technicians works in close collaboration with all of the other Valacta professionals and, where necessary, the other industry partners with whom you do business.

Our wide range of technical services can make life easier for dairy producers

Simplify herd management by allowing your Valacta technician to:

- Enter the production and management data used to manage your herd;
- Enter your health and functional trait data for genetic evaluation;
- Complete your animal registrations electronically;
- Permanent identification for livestock traceability;
- Take measurements such as heifer body condition, weight and height;
- Take samples for forage analysis;
- Milking supervision and assistance;
- Transfer the data from your automated milking system using the Trans-D software;
- Print and provide initial interpretation of the Valacta reports.

With the help of your technician, you can also contribute to genetic evaluation and help producers to become more competitive in genetics both in Atlantic Canada and Canada.

Ask your technician for more information about how you can benefit from using our Technical Solution services.

Débora Santschi
Ph.D., agr., Dairy Production Expert – Nutrition and Management, R&D, Valacta

To get the most out of the short dry period, you have to manage it properly. Here are ten rules to help you make it work!

#1 RULE: A single ration for the entire dry period

In managing the short dry period, it is absolutely essential that cows receive only the pre-calving ration during the entire dry period. Don't even think about feeding the far-off ration for two weeks and then the pre-calving ration for the next three! The reason is simple: the rumen can't adapt to all those ration changes in only 35 days. So cows should receive the late lactation diet until dry-off (i.e., 35 days before calving) and then be fed the pre-calving ration during the 35-day dry period, as illustrated in Figure 1.

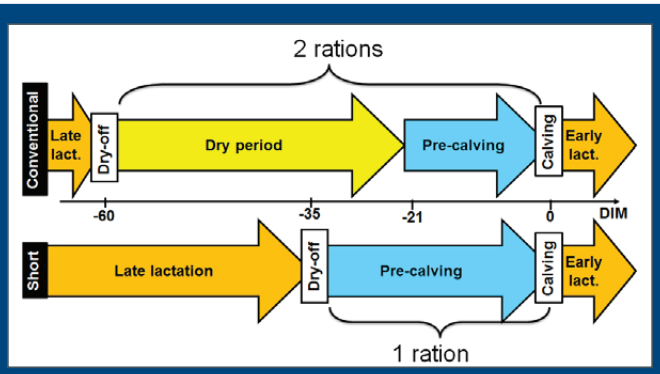


Figure 1.
Feeding program for a conventional (60 days) or short (35 days) dry period

#2 RULE: Switch directly from the late lactation ration to the pre-calving ration

To help dry off your cows, you usually give them dry hay for a few days. Since the first rule of the short dry period dictates switching directly from the late lactation ration to the pre-calving ration, is it possible to continue doing that? The answer is "yes, but…" Yes, you can feed them dry hay, but there are two conditions.

First, it is important not to exceed three or four days of dry hay. Beyond that, the rumen will have already begun to adapt to the hay. That means the cow will be subjected to unnecessary stress just before you change her diet again with the pre-calving ration.

Second, feeding dry hay should be used as a strategy to reduce milk production. The dry hay days therefore need to PRECEDE the dry-off date, as shown in Figure 2. That way the cows receive the pre-calving ration throughout the entire 35-day dry period, as recommended.

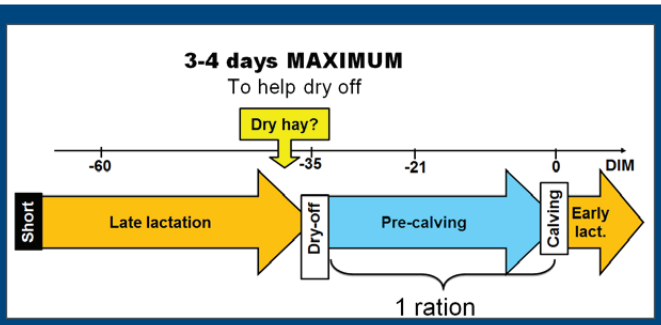


Figure 2.
Conditions for incorporating a few days of dry hay in the feeding program

#3 RULE: Perfectly balanced rations

Have your technician check the ration you feed your dry cows on a regular basis. The ration should meet all the needs of close-up cows while avoiding any excess. You also need to verify the cows' actual feed intake regularly. The ration worked out on paper has to be in keeping with the amount of feed that is actually consumed by your cows.

#4 RULE: Really aim for 35 days

Our latest analyses clearly reveal the risks associated with a dry period that is too long or too short, even in the case of a short dry period strategy. Based on our observations, the ideal length for the dry period is between 30 and 41 days (Figure 3). At 29 days or less, milk yield is affected. There is also an increased risk of antibiotic residues in early lactation, premature culling and mortality.

Conversely, cows that are dry for 42 days or more are often overfed, since the pre-calving ration exceeds their needs. These cows are therefore at greater risk of developing insulin resistance and suffering from metabolic disorders, not to mention the adverse effect on their reproductive performance.

Aiming for a 35-day dry period means that the dry period is sure to fall within the optimum range, with enough leeway to allow for early or late calvings.

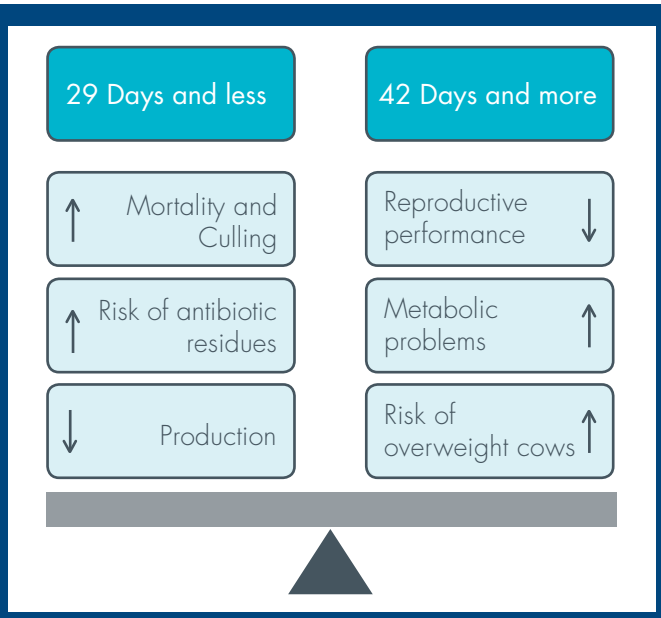


Figure 3.
Effects observed when the duration of the dry period is 29 days or less or 42 days or more

#5 RULE: For cows that are unable to produce milk until 35 days prior to calving, stick to 60 days

As the explanation of Rule #4 indicates, dry periods of 42 days or more are to be avoided. The short dry period should only be used for cows that are able to produce milk until 35 days prior to calving. Otherwise, it's better to adopt a strategy based on a 60-day dry period, with a conventional diet (dry-off and pre-calving rations). That way, you steer clear of undesirable situations in which, for example, the cows would still be receiving a pre-calving ration at 48 days into the dry period.

#6 RULE: Target cows that are still producing milk 60 days prior to calving

A good way to identify candidates for a short dry period is to look at milk production around 60 days before the expected calving date. If a cow is already producing less than 10 kg/d at that time, she's unlikely to continue producing milk for another 25 days.

On the other hand, a cow that is still producing 20 kg/d or more 60 days before calving is an excellent candidate for a short dry period. It will be a lot easier for this cow to produce milk for the next 25 days and reduce production gradually rather than be pressured to dry off more quickly. In addition to getting 25 extra days in milk, you reduce stress during the transition period – already a critical time for the cow.

#7 RULE: Don't exclude cows ending their first lactation

Rumour has it that it's best to avoid a short dry period for cows ending their first lactation because it may reduce milk production in the next lactation. In fact, young cows will produce a little less milk in their second lactation – about 1.4 kg/d less, according to our study – but component levels will be higher: more fat (3.92 vs 3.86 per cent) and especially more protein (3.40 vs 3.31 per cent). All things considered, energy-corrected milk yield (taking into account components) is equivalent whether the cow has had a short dry period or a conventional one.

But cows designated for short dry period management produce milk for an extra 25 days. For first-lactation cows, that represents about 544 kg of milk. Moreover, that milk is also very rich in components – 4.4 per cent fat and 3.8 per cent protein on average, according to our study.

If we compare the cows' total production from 60 days before calving to the end of the following lactation, the short dry period is still a sound option for any cow producing enough milk in late lactation, regardless of the cow's age.

#8 RULE: Keep an accurate record of conception dates

Keeping close track of conception dates is essential if you want to reduce the risks of surprise calvings. In those cases, the dry period is too short and the cows are not adequately prepared for calving. This rule is essential if you want to optimize the transition from one lactation to the next, and it applies to the short dry period as much as to the conventional one.

For example, a cow pregnant after the previous service could calve 21 days earlier than expected. If you were aiming for a 35-day dry period, that period would then only be 14 days long. And that is far too short a time when at least 25 days are needed for the mammary gland to renew itself. In a conventional dry period management system, this cow wouldn't have had time to adapt to the pre-calving ration and so wouldn't be ready to receive the early lactation diet.

#9 RULE: Identify cows pregnant with twins

Using a short dry period strategy for a cow pregnant with twins isn't a problem. However, given the high likelihood that calving will be premature, it's best to dry the cow off at day -42 to ensure a 35-day dry period even if she calves a week early (Figure 4).

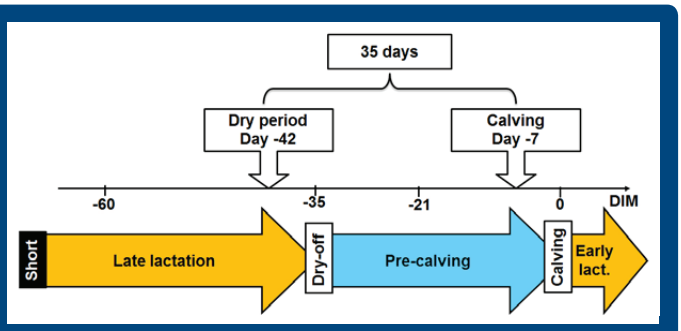


Figure 4.
Feeding program for a cow pregnant with twins

Even when it isn't possible to determine the number of offspring before birth, a short dry period can still be used without any problem. If a cow calves seven days early because of a multiple pregnancy, she will still have had a 28-day dry period. The mammary gland will have had enough time to renew itself. Depending on the antibiotic treatment used at dry-off, however, it is important to check the withdrawal period carefully.

#10 RULE: Don't hesitate to ask questions!

To take no chances, the ultimate commandment for the short dry period is to get all the information you need and make sure you have a good understanding of all the aspects of this new management strategy. Your Valacta technicians have all the necessary information to help you and will be able to direct you to the appropriate resource people as required. So don't hesitate to discuss the matter with them.

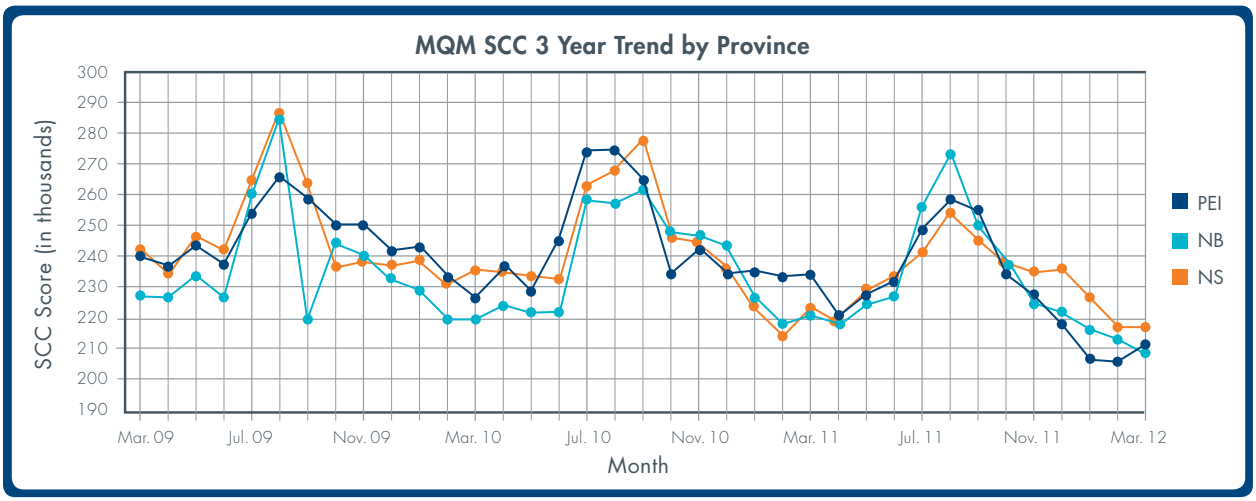
Congratulations to more than 1600 dairy producers who took part in our training session!

A good DRY-OFF for a better START-OFF!

BULK TANK SCC: RIGHT TREND BUT STILL ROOM TO IMPROVE!

Dr. Greg Keefe and Dr. Don Anderson

As we move to a new 400,000 bulk tank somatic cell count (SCC) limit across Atlantic Canada this summer, it is a good time to review where the industry stands. The figure below shows the trends in bulk tank SCC in our region over the last 3 years. The trends are towards improved udder health, but a substantial number of herds have higher than acceptable target SCC, particularly in late summer and early fall. These herds are at increased risk of breaching 400,000.



An achievable goal for SCC is to be less than 150,000. In recent months, approximately 40% of PEI herds and 30% of NB and NS herds have achieved this target. If 220 herds in the region can be in this club, you should be asking yourself and your udder health team "How do I join?" Conversely, between 30% (winter) and 45% (summer) of herds are greater than 250,000, with 10-15% above 400,000. Peaks in these numbers occur in the hot summer months when heat and humidity levels that stress cows and promote bacteria growth can lead to environmental mastitis. Bedding management and ventilation are critical at these times. Herds with SCC greater than 250,000 during the remainder of the year are very likely to be dealing with significant contagious mastitis problems.

As outlined at the Valacta sponsored "Focus on 400K" education sessions in November and December 2011, these herds with SCC above 250,000 are losing considerable income to contagious mastitis. As the name suggests, contagious bugs are spread from cow-to-cow.

The first step is to identify infected cows and monthly SCC from Valacta is the best method. Control measures for contagious mastitis focus on reducing the number of chronic carriers (infection reservoirs) in the herd by culling cases with a low chance of cure and appropriate treatment (particularly at dry off) for those that have a reasonable chance of success. The other focus is protecting uninfected cows. For our own health, we are constantly reminded we can reduce flu and other disease risk by sanitation measures like frequent hand washing and sneezing into your sleeve to avoid exposing others. Similarly, the most effective control measures for contagious mastitis concentrate on hygiene, particularly during milking time. Proper udder prep, including teat disinfection and stimulation, promotes quick and stress free milk out. Insuring that equipment is functioning properly, so that milk harvest is done under appropriate vacuum levels to minimize risk of teat damage and impacts where milk is injected back into the gland. Use an approved, licensed, effective post-milking teat-dip (applied by dip rather than spray). This remains the single most important procedure to control contagious mastitis!

Help is out there if you are struggling to meet your udder health goals. Now is the time to review your status with your udder health team (veterinarian, udder health specialist, Valacta). The Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network has resources, including the "TACTIC mastitis control toolkit" available to technicians around the region and web-based tools (www.mastitisnetwork.org), available to everyone.

High quality bulk tank milk is critical for our industry to remain competitive. Working with your udder health team to improve contagious mastitis control will achieve predictable improvement in milk quality.

Greg Keefe is a veterinarian and professor at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown PE.

Don Anderson is an udder health specialist with Quality Milk Management in Sussex NB.

STEVE ADAM

Steve Adam, *agr.*
Dairy Production Expert –
Comfort, Behaviour and Well-Being, Valacta R&D

It's generally safe to say that any effort made toward improving animal comfort and well-being will be rewarded with an increase in productivity or longevity.

Animal welfare is very much a topical issue worldwide. Whether in the United States, where California has adopted the Animal Welfare Act, or in Europe, where governments have passed legislation in the poultry and swine sectors, the issue has caused a lot of ink to flow, and producers are concerned as a result.

According to the Farm Animal Welfare Council (1993), animal welfare is defined in terms of the following "five freedoms":

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour
5. Freedom from fear and distress

Recommendations for the comfort and well-being of dairy herds pertain primarily to housing, transportation, feeding, and health management. Producers sometimes implement these recommendations instinctively; in other cases, changes in farm practices or additional investments may be required. What if the improvements were to result in benefits in terms of dairy cow productivity and longevity? Well, that would be even better!

Sufficient space: less stress and greater productivity

Whether for replacement animals or lactating cows, the dimensions of the pen or stall are paramount when it comes to comfort and well-being. For example, calves must be able to get up and down, turn around, and adopt natural resting positions with ease; they also need to have visual contact with other calves. A study conducted by the University of British Columbia's Dairy Centre found that calves raised in pairs from birth had higher weight gains during and after weaning and seemed to experience less stress when they were subsequently transferred to a group pen, probably because they already had experience living with a sibling. Individually raised calves may reduce their feed intake significantly in response to the stress caused by the change in housing and the need to adapt to competitive life.

Lactating cows need to have a warm, dry, skid-resistant resting area that provides them comfort and tranquility. A bare concrete floor is not an acceptable surface for a resting area. It is generally acknowledged that a cow requires 12 hours of resting time per day. It's often said that the cow makes milk when she's lying down – and now we have the data to prove it. For every additional hour of rest over 10 hours, we can hope to gain 1.7 kg of milk per day, on average, over the entire lactation (Grant, 1998-2004). For a 55-cow herd, that's an extra 289 hectolitres per year.

A cow that is able to get up and down with ease will spend more time lying down and move around more frequently, which translates into an increase in feed intake when the cow feels hungry. A comfortable resting area is free of obstructions that restrict the cow's forward lunge and bob motion as she rises. The surface should be soft enough (covered with bedding or flooring) to cushion the impact when the animal lies down. Bedding is also one of the best ways to absorb moisture in a stall.

For better feed intake

It's equally important to provide enough linear feed bunk space to meet the animals' nutritional requirements. In a free-stall barn, animals give full expression to their competitive behaviour. If the barn is too small or poorly designed, the hierarchy between dominant and subordinate cows generally results in a loss of productivity in subordinate animals. Cows are social animals and often go about their business as a group, such as when eating. Sufficient space at the feed bunk allows subordinate cows to edge their way in without being too bothered by the dominant cows. As shown in Figure 1, p.16, 24 inches (0.61 m) of bunk space per cow would be the minimum required to reduce the effect of competition.

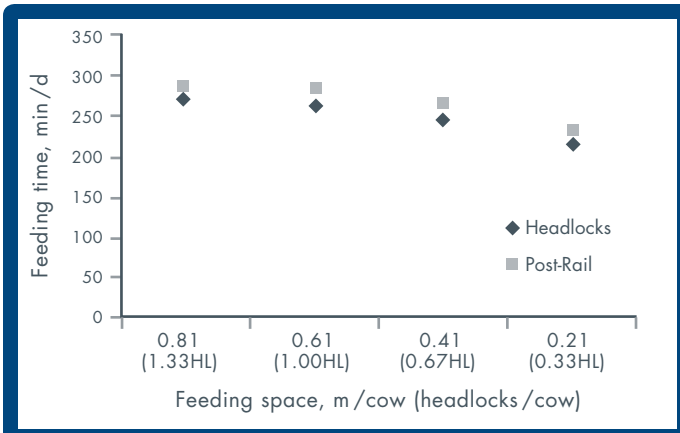


Figure 1.
Feeding time in relation to feed bunk access (Huzzey 2006)

Even when feed and water access is ideal, however, we know that cows go through periods where their feeding habits are disrupted. Periods of intense heat are always critical in that respect. Likewise, calving is usually associated with weight loss, the scale and duration of which will depend on the effectiveness of dry-off and transition management.

Body condition: an indicator of well-being

Producers should take corrective action for any animal with a body condition score of 2 or less. As can be seen in Figure 2, the weeks following calving are the most challenging time for maintaining adequate body condition. Dry-off management and preparation prior to calving have a major impact on the cow's appetite after calving. In addition to proper feeding, housing and environmental conditions also influence the efficiency of your feeding program.

Feet and leg problems: it's important to keep your eyes open

Lameness is a problem that affects between 15 and 30 per cent of cows in Canada (Rushen 2006). According to this same source, only one in four cases of lameness is detected. Moreover, yield can drop by more than 1 kg of milk per cow per day before the first signs of lameness appear (Bicalho 2008). Recognizing the signs of lameness is thus an essential skill for a dairy producer. When walking, a healthy cow places her hind feet in the hoof prints left by her fore feet. When a cow has a hoof problem, her hind hooves tend to fall slightly behind her fore prints. Her hind legs also tend to swing in and out. Pronounced arching of the back during locomotion (and even when standing still, in very severe cases), constant head bobbing and hoof stamping are also signs of lameness.

Your veterinarian is an excellent resource to help you address lameness issues. An educational CD-ROM is also available, for $20, from the following address: http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet11477.

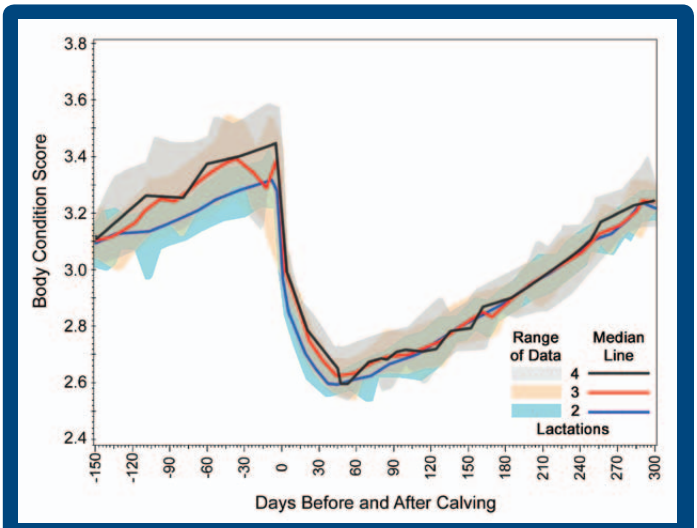


Figure 2.
Average body condition scores during the transition phase of the lactations 2, 3 and 4.

(Valacta, in Quebec Farmer's Advocate, October 2008)

Always evaluate physical condition prior to transport

Before being transported, an animal must be steady on its legs and able to stand and move without assistance. Animal transport is regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). In addition to the Agency's regulations, a new code of practice for transportation should soon be available for all Canadian producers.

Euthanasia: a sometimes necessary evil

Sooner or later, every producer will be confronted with an animal that no longer responds to treatment. More specifically, animals that have untreatable conditions, are not responding to treatment or are unfit for transport should be euthanized promptly on the farm. There are acceptable methods of euthanasia that ensure a quick death, with a minimum of pain and distress. Your veterinary practitioner is the best person to advise you on the subject.

Supporting your efforts

In 2009, the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) and Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) revised the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle*. This voluntarily applied code provides recommendations and guidelines to improve animal comfort and well-being. All producers are strongly encouraged to adopt these practices, not only for the well-being of their cows, but also for the benefit of their bank accounts. In fact, it has been clearly demonstrated that animals increase their productivity in return for good care. And that's certainly encouraging news: at the end of the day, good practices pay off.

The code is available on the Internet at: www.nfacc.ca.

There are some excellent reference works available that focus on the comfort, well-being and behaviour of dairy cattle. We'll come back to the subject in the future.

A FOUR-STEP EVALUATION OF YOUR BREEDING REQUIREMENTS

By René Roy, *agr.*, and
Julie Baillargeon, *M.Sc., agr., R&D, Valacta*

At New Generation Farm, the young calves get a lot of love. The owners' children give each of the heifers a name and are sometimes entrusted with the job of bottle feeding. While the parents are certainly proud of their offspring, they sometimes wonder if they might not have too many… calves, of course!

Without a doubt, raising heifers is an expensive endeavour. On the other hand, not having enough cows to meet your quota for want of replacement animals means a significant loss of income. Is it feasible to limit the number of animals you raise without having to worry about coming up short?

The New Generation Farm decided to get to the bottom of the matter. Here is what they learned.

To each his own strategy

At conferences or in specialized articles, we are often told that the optimum replacement rate in a herd is about 25 per cent. But farms vary widely in terms of their genetics and management practices. Some may be better off raising all their heifers while others might do better to improve their husbandry practices or buy their replacement animals from other breeders. In other words, there is no universal formula. Producers must establish their own breeding strategies based on personal goals, the market and herd replacement needs.

TABLE 1: Overall picture and objectives for the coming year for New Generation Farm Inc.

	Unit	Current situation	One-year objective
Quota held (including margins)	kg / day	55	55
Average annual production	kg / cow	8750	8750
Fat test	Percent	4.0	4.0
Calving Interval	Days	428	400
Age of heifers at calving	Months	28	25
Average number of cows	Head	60	60

A few definitions

REPLACEMENT RATE:

$$\frac{\text{(Sold for production + culled + death losses)} \times 100}{\text{average number of cows in the herd}}$$

Example: 22 cows removed from a 60-cow herd = a 37% replacement rate

HEIFER RAISING RATE:

$$\frac{\text{heifers being raised} \times 100}{\text{average number of cows in the herd}}$$

Example: 45 heifers for a 60-cow herd = a 75% heifer raising rate

CULLING RATE:

$$\frac{\text{(culled cows + death losses)} \times 100}{\text{average number of cows in the herd}}$$

Example: 18 cows culled and 2 dead in a 60-cow herd = a 33% culling rate.

Four-step approach

#1 Requirements:

- How many new cows are needed each year to replace the ones that are removed? This is an excellent opportunity to review the reasons for the culling in the herd over the past year.
- Might it be worthwhile to invest in cow comfort if the improvements result in a 5 to 10 per cent decrease in the culling rate?
- Should you allow some extra animals to sell for production, to expand your herd, or simply to afford yourself a safety margin? How many animals?

What do the needs of the New Generation Farm look like? At first glance (Table 2), the involuntary culling rate is much too high. The reason for that will need to be identified before thinking about reducing the number of heifers raised.

#2 Input: you can't produce milk without calving!

- How many animals will calve during the coming year?
- What proportion of the calves born will be female?
- How many will die or be removed during the rearing period? How many will be left at the end?

TABLE 2: Breakdown of breeding requirements for New Generation Farm Inc.

	Current situation		One-year objective	
Cows to replace	Head	%	Head	%
Cow mortality	3	5	2	3
Involuntary culling	17	25	10	17
Voluntary culling	2	3	2	3
Total for herd replacement	22	37	14	23
Other needs				
Safety margin	2	3	2	3
Requirements for herd expansion		0		0
Animals raised for sale or replacement cows sold		0		0
Total annual requirements in springing heifers	24	40	16	27

TABLE 3: Herd input summary for New Generation Farm Inc.

	Unit	Current situation	One-year objective
Heifers calving during the year	Head	24	16
Cows calving during the year	Head	35	43
Total number of calvings	Head	59	59
Number of calvings / average number of cows		98%	98%
Heifers that come through	Head	27	27
Calving heifers (including 13% loss and removal)	Head	23	23

An input analysis (Table 3) shows our friends at New Generation Farm that a shorter calving interval will have a minor impact on the number of calvings during the year. They also note that the farm only raises an average of 23 heifers to calving.

#3 Balancing requirements and input:

Are there any surplus heifers or do you need to buy more to meet your needs?

Looking at the objective column in Table 4, the owners of New Generation Farm can see that by working to reduce the involuntary culling and mortality rates of their herd, they could end up with a surplus of ready-to-calve heifers instead of having to buy in to meet their needs.

TABLE 4: Balancing requirements and input at New Generation Farm Inc.

	Unit	Current situation	One-year objective
Requirements	Head	24	16
Input sources			
Animals from the herd	Head	23	23
Surplus (saleable)	Head		7
Shortfall	Head	1	
Heifers calving during the year	Head	23	23
Average size of the replacement herd	Head	58	52
Heifer raising rate		97%	97%

#4 Establishing a reproductive strategy: the aim is to achieve a balance between requirements and input in the most efficient way possible.

- Is it a good idea to raise all your heifers thinking that it will be possible to sell the surplus at a price equivalent to the cost of production?
- Or rather, should you identify the cows and heifers that will provide the animals required for the replacement herd? You could then inseminate the other cows and heifers with low-cost bulls since their calves would be sold at birth regardless of their gender.
- Could you consider using sexed semen with a few of the cows or heifers whose daughters you are planning to raise?
- Can you buy in better quality replacements than those from your herd for a price lower than the cost of producing them on the farm?
- Should you sell a large number of the female calves at birth and buy heifers that are ready to calve?

The owners of New Generation Farm don't think they've reached a level of genetics sufficient to consider selling animals from their inferior cows for production. Hence they opt to sell the calves from these cows within a few days of birth. With this approach, they will be able to decrease the size of their replacement herd: their objective thus becomes 36 head, with a 60 per cent heifer rearing rate. Moreover, to reduce the risk of a "bull year", they plan to consult a technician specializing in reproduction to seriously examine the option of using sexed semen.

Conclusion

Reducing the herd's heifer rearing rate without acting on the reasons for culling at the same time would likely make the farm's financial situation worse rather than better. The investment required to keep cows healthy for one or two additional lactations is often much smaller than the cost of raising surplus heifers to offset premature departures. The people at New Generation Farm now understand this and have set themselves a goal for the coming year. It may not be the much-vaunted 25 per cent, but it's already much better than what they've been doing until now. And since they're raising only the most promising heifers, they may as well take the opportunity to improve their practices. The owners have already asked their technician to sign them up for Valacta's next training session on heifer raising: *What To Do Before Two*.

AN INNOVATIVE TEAM APPROACH AT THE FARM

The Poplarline Farm is a dairy farm located in Glenwood just outside of O'Leary, Prince Edward Island. Kim Boulter, his wife Beverley, their son Adam and his wife Rhonda manage a herd of 66 cows, registered with Holstein Canada since 1920.

They have a free stall barn with a double four herringbone parlor, electronic meters and feeding stations for concentrates. Forages are stored in three upright silos. The family grows alfalfa, corn and barley on 300 acres of land.

Kim is very proud to say that last year's TPI was 98% according to the December 2010 report.

From left to right:
Dr. Wade Sweet, Kim Boulter and technician Michael Trowsdale.

Michael Trowsdale, a Valacta Dairy Production Technician, has been collecting health data in this herd since 2007. The data revealed a high mortality rate in the herd. The reason for this, was that many transition cows had retained placenta, milk fever and clinical or sub-clinical ketosis. Michael met with Dr. Wade Sweet, a local veterinarian, to introduce him to the reports and to the Valacta services. After discussing with Dr. Sweet and with Kim, Michael suggested that Dr. Sweet be granted access to the producer's reports. The sick cows were isolated from those in transition. Milk Urea Nitrogen Analysis (MUN) indicated the presence of a sub-clinical ketosis problem in the herd. NEFA and BHBA tests were conducted on dry cows ten days prior to calving and ten days after calving in order to ascertain at what stage the transition cows were becoming ill.

The use of the Valacta Transition Cow Index and SSC reports was essential to monitor the results. Changes were made by Dr. Sweet and Kim in the management of the dry cows. They then kept a close eye on any suspect cows. "Valacta reports help us identify problematic cows and monitor the changes made to improve the health of the herd. They are essential tools in the proper management of the farm", explains Dr. Wade Sweet.

Kim has attended every Valacta training course offered in the Atlantic region. He leaves the session with an increased knowledge on the subject at hand and tools that help him change at least one aspect of his management. After attending the SCC course, Kim decided to change from using hydrated lime in his cow stalls to gypsum. He finds that gypsum does not cover as many stalls per ton but is easier on the teat ends and udders of his cows. The Poplarline Farm describe themselves as a satisfied client that takes advantage of the Valacta expertise. Dr. Sweet adds that the data available in the reports generated by Valacta are an essential tool for any management team looking to improve the productivity of a given herd.

Milk/Cow/Year 9756 Kg

4.08% Fat

3.35% Protein

12 month average SCC of 201

2011 TPI 79

Congratulations

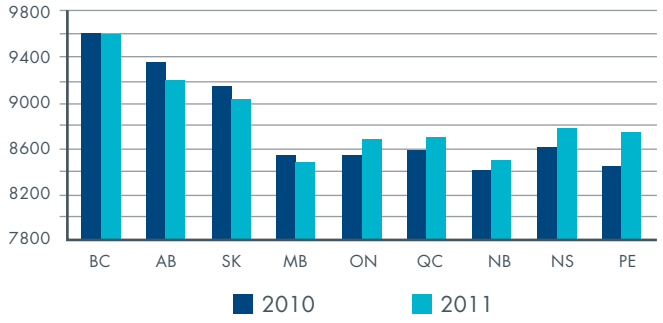
TO OUR TPI 99 OF 2011!

- Top Of The Morning Farm Ltd., Holmesville, NB
- Lawrence'S Dairy Farm Ltd., Burtts Corner, NB
- Doubleoord Farm, Springfield, NB

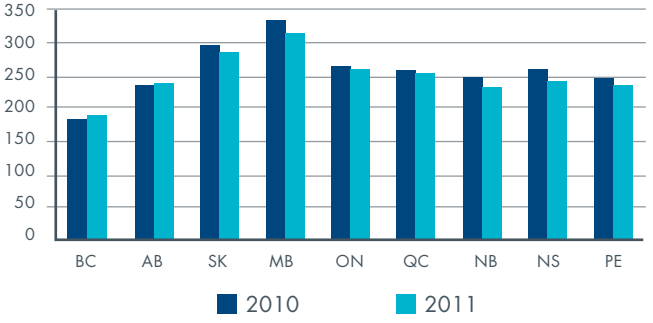
DAIRY HERD STATISTICS BY PROVINCE

Province	Recorded Herds		Recorded Cows		Average herd size		% herds >100 cows	% recorded herds
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011		
Newfoundland	5	5	798	773	159.6	154.6	80.0	13.2
PEI	127	121	9 338	9 045	73.5	74.8	17.4	60.8
Nova Scotia	155	149	12 958	12 550	83.6	84.2	24.8	62.1
New Brunswick	157	150	12 235	12 076	77.9	80.5	22.0	69.1
Quebec	5 086	5 035	290 241	294 154	57.1	58.4	8.2	78.9
Ontario	3 141	3 129	233 466	238 586	74.3	76.2	18.5	76.5
Manitoba	209	206	26 149	27 959	125.1	135.7	41.7	61.2
Saskatchewan	116	111	17 845	17 700	153.8	159.5	65.8	62.0
Alberta	457	459	58 780	62 209	128.6	135.5	60.8	77.4
British Columbia	314	307	44 219	45 458	140.8	148.1	59.0	58.6
CANADA	9 767	9 672	706 029	720 510	72.3	74.5	17.7	76.2

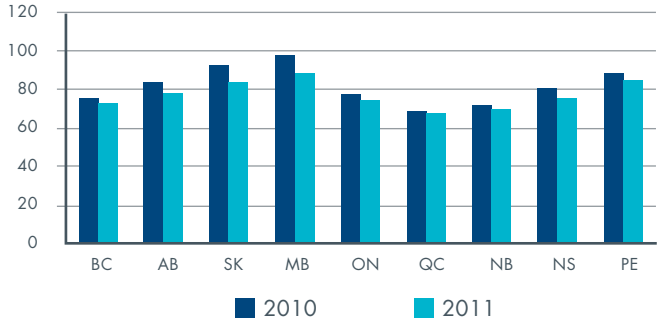
MILK PRODUCTION (KG) PER COW PER PROVINCE



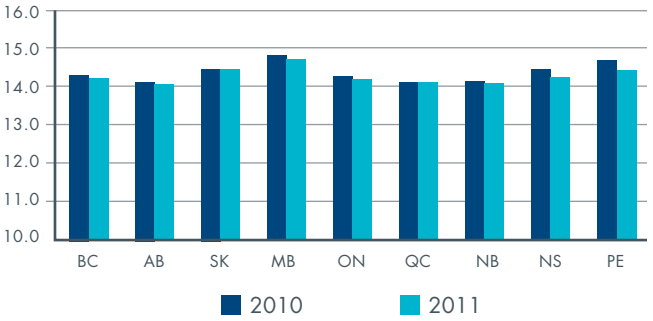
SOMATIC CELL COUNT AVERAGE BY PROVINCE



AVERAGE DRY PERIOD (DAYS)



CALVING INTERVAL (MONTHS)



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

VALACTA-ATLANTIC PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT AVERAGES

Breed	Average	Percentile 10	Percentile 90
Milk Production (kg)			
Holstein	8 854	7 187	10 394
Ayrshire	7 001	6 476	8 055
Jersey	5 880	3 121	7 557
All Breeds	8 711	6 887	10 345
Age at First Calving (yy-mm)			
Holstein	2-4	2-7	2-1
Ayrshire	2-6	2-8	2-3
Jersey	2-3	2-5	2-1
All Breeds	2-4	2-7	2-1
Weight at First Calving (kg)			
Holstein	601	561	635
Ayrshire	538	504	568
Jersey	465	394	534
All Breeds	595	551	634
Longevity (% 3rd Lactation plus)			
Holstein	40.1	28.1	52.2
Ayrshire	45.9	40.7	54.3
Jersey	42.3	33.7	51.1
All Breeds	40.3	28.2	52.8
SCC ('000 s.c./ml)			
Holstein	236	358	132
Ayrshire	180	244	106
Jersey	294	544	162
All Breeds	236	358	130

Breed	Average	Percentile 10	Percentile 90
Fat, kg (%)			
Holstein	337 (3.81)	268 (3.58)	402 (4.06)
Ayrshire	289 (4.13)	245 (3.97)	333 (4.28)
Jersey	273 (4.85)	124 (4.48)	363 (5.28)
All Breeds	334 (3.85)	265 (3.59)	400 (4.13)
Protein, kg (%)			
Holstein	282 (3.18)	227 (3.06)	328 (3.32)
Ayrshire	233 (3.33)	213 (3.23)	265 (3.45)
Jersey	207 (3.69)	102 (3.60)	257 (3.76)
All Breeds	278 (3.20)	222 (3.07)	328 (3.34)
Average Herd Weight including Cow-Heifers (kg)			
Holstein	637	595	682
Ayrshire	568	524	614
Jersey	515	454	582
All Breeds	631	580	681
Margin Over Feed Cost ($/cow/year) *			
Holstein	4 520	3 475	5 411
Ayrshire	3 615	3 005	4 071
Jersey	-	N/A**	-
All Breeds	4 478	3 356	5 355
Other Parameters (All Breeds)			
Cows in milk (%)	85	80	90
Replacement Rate (%)	36.1	49.2	22.4
Dry Period (days)	76	106	54
Calving Interval (days)	434	477	399
Linear Score	2.7	3.3	2.2

* Milk Value Minus Feed Cost

** a minimum of 5 herds is required to calculate an average this minimum not met

You will find the complete list of publishable herds on our website at **www.valacta.com**

PROVINCIAL 305 DAY PRODUCTION AVERAGE

Province & Service Level	Herds	Milk kg	Fat kg	Protein kg	BCA M	BCA F	BCA P	Avg BCA
New Brunswick								
Publishable	109	9 088	344	290	206	203	203	204.0
All	157	8 761	331	279	197	194	195	195.4
Nova Scotia								
Publishable	121	9 393	355	298	206	208	205	206.3
All	156	9 218	347	292	202	203	201	202.1
Prince Edward Island								
Publishable	94	9 453	361	296	206	211	203	206.9
All	125	9 159	352	287	199	205	196	199.8
Newfoundland								
Publishable **								
All	5	9 393	355	300	202	206	203	203.8

*** A minimum of 5 herds is required to publish an average - this minimum is not met*

ANNUAL PROVINCIAL HERD DEMOGRAPHIC - ALL HERDS

Herd Size (Cows)	% Herds	% Animals	Annual Average Herd Size	Annual Milk Production	Annual Fat Production (kg)	Annual Fat Production (%)	Annual Protein Production (kg)	Annual Protein Production (%)	Annual Average SCC ('000/ml)
New Brunswick									
1-39	19.3	7.2	29	7 448	302	4.13	247	3.36	249
40-79	45.3	32.6	56	8 590	325	3.78	275	3.21	222
80-119	20.0	23.7	93	8 676	328	3.79	279	3.23	265
120+	15.3	36.5	186	9 336	360	3.88	296	3.19	212
Nova Scotia									
1-39	11.3	4.4	32	8 268	324	3.93	267	3.23	266
40-79	49.3	33.2	56	8 551	325	3.80	275	3.22	244
80-119	23.3	26.5	94	8 651	331	3.80	277	3.20	249
120+	16.0	35.9	186	9 769	369	3.78	307	3.15	232
Prince Edward Island									
1-39	19.0	8.0	31	8 235	326	3.98	260	3.16	230
40-79	54.5	43.3	59	8 726	339	3.89	277	3.18	241
80-119	15.7	20.2	95	9 073	352	3.89	286	3.16	224
120+	10.7	28.5	196	9 201	351	3.81	290	3.16	251

MANAGEMENT CENTER BENCHMARKS

Measure	New Brunswick Percentile				Nova Scotia Percentile				Prince Edward Island Percentile			
	25th	50th	75th	90th	25th	50th	75th	90th	25th	50th	75th	90th
Annual Milk Value ($)	5 497	6 176	6 909	7 450	5 440	6 079	6 582	6 961	5 638	6 233	6 869	7 330
Somatic Cell Count (000/ml)	352	280	223	163	360	296	229	169	377	284	211	172
Udder Health (SCC Linear Score)	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.5	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.4	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.4
Age at 1st calving (Year-Month)	2-7	2-5	2-3	2-2	2-7	2-5	2-3	2-2	2-8	2-5	2-3	2-2
Calving Interval (days)	464	440	421	407	475	458	430	406	480	454	433	417
Longevity (% of herd in 3+lactation)	36.4	41.2	46.6	51.8	34.2	38.9	46.1	51.7	33.4	39.0	47.1	53.7
Herd Efficiency (% of herd in milk)	85.3	87.2	89.2	90.5	83.0	86.0	87.5	89.0	81.4	84.6	88	89.6
Herd Turnover (% of herd removed)	44.3	39.0	32.8	26.8	48.3	41.2	34.6	27.3	50.2	44.9	37.2	30.9
Number of Cows	43.4	61.6	91.1	136.4	47.0	63.7	96.0	136.3	43.3	60.4	81.5	119.1
Management Milk (kgs)*	26.7	30.3	33.8	35.9	28.7	31.4	33.9	36.1	28.6	31.9	34.4	36.3
Days Dry	90	75	64	57	104	86	71	61	117	99	81	65
Days to 1st Breeding	110	97	88	78	122	103	92	81	114	102	90	77

**Management Milk Measure: Brings age, stage of lactation and energy-corrected milk to a standard number for comparison purposes*

TOP PUBLISHABLE COW RECORDS BY BREED BY PROVINCE

Breed	Cow	Sire	Age	Avg BCA	BCA M	BCA F	BCA P	Milk	Fat	Protein
New Brunswick										
Holstein	Ardross Lady Ann Paul Walker, Walkerville Farms, Wards Creek	Braedale Goldwyn	3/2	357.3	347	396	329	15534	654	474
Jersey	Cyrror Blueprint Inka Rejean Cyr, Ferme Cyrror, Siegas	Wilderness Blueprint	2/4	334.7	388	277	339	10834	415	359
Ayrshire	Republique Ulala 2 Mario Lavoie, Ferme Republique, St. Basile	Des Chamois Poker -Et	2/1	319.7	315	320	324	8942	381	305
Shorthorn	Merrittview Poseidon Martha Ronald Hornbrook, Landslide Ayrshires, Mount Middleton	Oceanbrae pepper's Poseidon	2/8	279.3	301	259	278	7874	277	236
Guernsey	Guernsey View Susan's Utah Frank Gordon, Cedar Ridge Farms Ltd., Keswick Ridge	Spring Walk Stone Et	2/2	268.0	307	251	246	9273	379	266
Brown Swiss	New View Z Barbie Et Philip F. Christie, Christie Farms Ltd., Lynnfield	Red Brae Prelude Zeus	3/9	239.7	254	229	236	10330	371	335
Nova Scotia										
Holstein	Expo Bradley Ursul John Macgregor, Macgregor Dairy Farm Ltd., Eureka	Rockalli Bradley	3/9	400.3	396	433	372	18325	745	558
Jersey	Pine Haven Glen Wanda Eric Thompson, Pine Haven Farms Ltd., Oxford	Forest Glen Hallmark Kevin-P-E	1/10	355.0	357	357	351	8868	475	330
Ayrshire	Phinneyval Wallander Allie Danny Phinney, Phinneyval Farms, Bridgetown	Kildare Wallander	2/2	320.3	311	319	331	8927	377	311
Brown Swiss	Fynhaven Wurl Tara-Lynn Danny Phinney, Phinneyval Farms, Bridgetown	Hänny Swiss Gordon Wurl Et	4/4	256.7	243	271	256	9741	437	358
Shorthorn	Eloc Kourt Crackle Sandy & Dean Cole, Eloc Farm, Middle Musquodoboit	Gold Mine Frost Kourt	4/0	207.0	204	211	206	6048	253	199

Animals highlighted in orange represent top breed for all provinces.

TOP PUBLISHABLE COW RECORDS BY BREED BY PROVINCE

Breed	Cow	Sire	Age	Avg BCA	BCA M	BCA F	BCA P	Milk	Fat	Protein
Prince Edward Island										
Shorthorn	Oceanbrae Jurist Pepsi Et Fred Barrett, Oceanbrae Farms, Miscouche	B Jurist	1/11	388.7	413	350	403	9061	315	290
Holstein	Eastside Lewisdale Gold Mabel Gene & Jody Smallman, Lexis Holsteins, Kensington	Braedale Goldwyn	4/4	381.0	345	461	337	16507	820	515
Ayrshire	Ayr Bay M M Stargaze Robert Rossitter, Ayr Bay Farms, St. Peters Bay	Blackaddar Isle Milkman	13/5	326.0	312	359	307	11207	510	362
Jersey	Kimstep Saber Whisper Fred Barrett, Oceanbrae Farms, Miscouche	O.F. Montana Saber-Et	1/10	314.7	328	304	312	8364	413	303
Newfoundland										
Holstein	Almalee Dynasty Aboutme Lee Noel, N And N Farm Ltd., Cormack	De Crob Dynasty	5/8	341.0	330	355	338	17744	703	565
Ayrshire	Larch Grove Pardon Me Ian Richardson, Larch Grove Farms, Cormack	Woodland View Pardner Et	7/8	161.0	156	167	160	6519	281	221

Animals highlighted in orange represent top breed for all provinces.

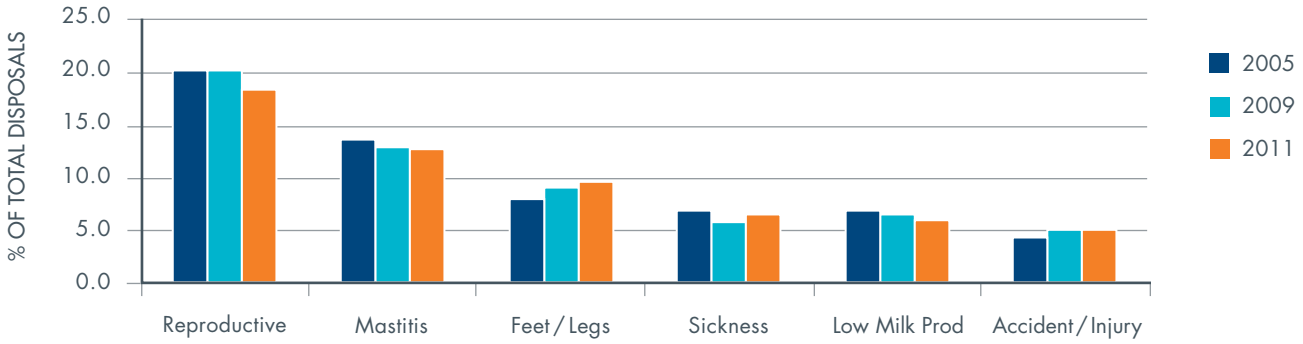
TOP PUBLISHABLE HERDS BY HERD SIZE - ALL PROVINCES

Herd Size	Farm Name	Location	Records	Breed	Avg BCA	BCA M	BCA F	BCA P	Milk kgs
Small Herds (5-39 records)	Oceanbrae Farms	Miscouche, PEI	32	MS	301.3	315	279	310	8 529
	Oceanbrae Farms	Miscouche, PEI	13	JE	271.3	287	252	275	8 467
	Pine Haven Farms Ltd.	Oxford, NS	34	JE	262.3	269	252	266	7 962
Medium Herds (40-79 records)	Reeves Farm Inc.	Freetown, PEI	48	HO	258.7	253	278	245	11 765
	Curry Knoll Farms Limited	Wolfville, NS	42	HO	253.3	253	261	246	11 328
	Lindenright Holsteins	Antigonish, NS	74	HO	252.7	250	256	252	11 354
Large Herds (80-119 records)	Tiny Acres Holsteins	Miscouche, PEI	86	HO	261.7	263	269	253	11 997
	Howardvale Holsteins	Breadalbane, PEI	102	HO	252.7	246	262	250	11 319
	Winterbay Farm Inc.	Mt. Stewart, PEI	83	HO	237	231	249	231	10 818
Very Large Herds (120+ records)	Sunny Point Farms Ltd.	Hants County, NS	208	HO	275.3	279	288	259	12 409
	Macgregor Dairy Farm Ltd.	Eureka, NS	245	HO	266.0	270	266	262	12 302
	N And N Farm Ltd.	Cormack, NFLD	161	HO	259.7	260	260	259	11 955

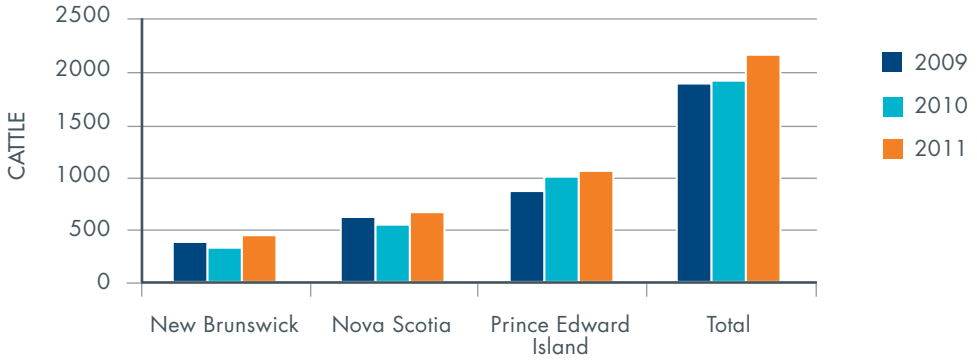
TOP PUBLISHABLE HERDS BY BREED - ALL PROVINCES

Breed	Farm Name	Location	Records	Avg BCA	BCA M	BCA F	BCA P	Milk kgs	Fat kgs	%	Protein kgs	%
Ayrshire	Ferme Republique	St. Basile, NB	51	240.3	240	239	242	8,255	338	4.09	273	3.31
Brown Swiss	Phinneyval Farms	Bridgetown, NS	9	207.3	202	211	209	7,938	335	4.22	288	3.63
Guernsey	Beaverwood Farms Inc.	Dundas, NB	65	213.3	226	193	221	7,515	321	4.27	261	3.47
Holstein	Sunny Point Farms Ltd.	Hants County, NS	208	275.3	279	288	259	12,409	474	3.82	366	2.95
Jersey	Oceanbrae Farms	Miscouche, PEI	13	271.3	287	252	275	8,467	404	4.77	307	3.63
Shorthorn	Oceanbrae Farms	Miscouche, PEI	32	301.3	315	279	310	8,529	306	3.59	274	3.21

TOP DISPOSAL REASONS



LIVE CATTLE MOVEMENT



NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLISHABLE HERDS

	Herd Owner / Address	Records Started	Publishable Records	Avg BCA	BCA M	BCA F	BCA P	M kg	F kg	P kg	Breed	Herd #
1	Roy Chambers 241 Waterford Road, Dutch Valley, E4E 3N4	25	20	256.0	248	266	254	11418	455	372	HO	97159
2	Tobique Holsteins 2653 Route 390, St Almo, E7G 3R5	74	58	247.7	255	237	251	11611	398	364	HO	97649
3	Lawrence's Dairy Farm Ltd. 216 Mc Lean Settlement Rd., Burtts Corner, E6L 2W1	150	124	247.0	242	255	244	10898	427	350	HO	97554
4	Walkerville Farms 25 Bald Hill Road, Wards Creek, E4E 4M3	272	203	245.3	252	246	238	11362	413	342	HO	97516
5	Ferme Cyrror 29 Ch. Siegas #1, Siegas, E7E 1T5	43	35	245.0	258	227	250	7866	376	290	JE	97664
6	Waldow Farms Ltd. 3084 Route 890, Cornhill, E4Z 1M5	271	165	242.7	250	246	232	10858	397	322	HO	97208
7	Ferme Republique 628 Ch. Des Lavoie, St. Basile, E7C 2A3	66	51	240.3	240	239	242	8255	338	273	AY	97366
8	Schenkels Farms Inc. Route 992 Hwy 425, Whitney, E1V 4K4	158	131	239.0	235	252	230	10754	428	334	HO	97375
9	Bonnielm Farm Ltd. 2979 Rt 470, Ford Bank, E4W 3R5	84	60	238.3	231	239	245	10294	394	347	HO	97576
10	Doubleoord Farm 1450 Route 615, Springfield, E6E 1T9	65	43	237.7	239	234	240	10789	393	346	HO	97679
11	Habold Farms Inc. 269 Woodlawn Road, Belleville, E7M 5V1	81	71	234.7	239	223	242	10984	380	353	HO	97520
12	Prime Valley Holsteins 3441 Route 121, Apohaqui, E5P 1B2	114	86	233.7	240	228	233	11034	388	340	HO	97206
13	Northtay Farms Ltd. 444 North Tay Road, North Tay, E6B 1R5	132	117	232.3	223	241	233	10199	409	339	HO	97328
14	Ravenwood Holsteins Ltd. 753 Scotch Settlement Rd., Irishtown, E1H 1Y5	80	65	232.0	233	233	230	10720	398	336	HO	97509
15	Ferme Cyrror 29 Ch. Siegas #1, Siegas, E7E 1T5	58	41	230.3	226	235	230	10568	406	341	HO	97363
16	Lonsview Farms Ltd. 6762 Route 111, New Line, E4E 4S6	137	113	228.7	225	230	231	9983	379	327	HO	97611
17	Ferme Oscar Daigle Fils Ltd. 3369 Rue Principale, Baker Brook, E7A 1Z6	132	109	228.3	231	228	226	10323	379	323	HO	97357
18	Ferme Deschenes & Labrie Inc. 280 Ch Rang 9 & 10 N, St Quentin, E8A 2G8	44	42	228.0	222	238	224	9992	398	321	HO	97621
19	Overlake Holsteins 65 Davidson Lake Road, Dumfries, E6G 1S2	38	35	227.0	228	230	223	11001	411	340	HO	97081
20	Presstein Holsteins 333 Main Street, Sackville, E4L 3H2	108	85	225.3	226	231	219	10527	399	325	HO	97295
21	Salisdairy Farm 2800 Route 106, Boundary Creek, E1G 4N1	159	123	225.3	222	229	225	10027	384	323	HO	97292
22	Redbridge Holsteins Ltd. 130 Bell Road, Belleville, E7M 5T4	72	64	225.0	227	224	224	10614	390	332	HO	97035
23	Bevo Farms Ltd. 2121 Route 121, Norton, E5T 1E8	41	32	224.0	227	221	224	10397	376	327	HO	97220
24	Langelaans Holsteins Ltd. 3754 Route 112, Second North River, E4J 3X5	104	75	223.3	217	229	224	9689	381	319	HO	97505
25	Landslide Ayrshires 100 Hornbrook Road, Mount Middleton, E4G 1G5	10	8	222.7	237	202	229	6800	231	213	MS	97525

** The complete list of publishable herds and the unsupervised herd list can be found at www.valacta.com.*

NOVA SCOTIA PUBLISHABLE HERDS

	Herd Owner / Address	Records Started	Publishable Records	Avg BCA	BCA M	BCA F	BCA P	M kg	F kg	P kg	Breed	Herd #
1	Sunny Point Farms Ltd. 398 Point Road - East Noel, Hants County, B0N 1J0	248	208	275.3	279	288	259	12409	474	366	HO	98206
2	Macgregor Dairy Farm Ltd. R R #1, Eureka, B0K 1B0	327	245	266.0	270	266	262	12302	449	378	HO	98073
3	Pine Haven Farms Ltd. Cumberland Co., Oxford, B0M 1P0	49	34	262.3	269	252	266	7962	406	298	JE	98611
4	Rupelen Farms Ltd. 1040 Back Road, Springhill, B0M 1X0	20	9	261.3	264	258	262	6658	353	250	JE	98603
5	Curry Knoll Farms Limited 124 Wharf Rd, Wolfville, B4P 2R3	58	42	253.3	253	261	246	11328	431	350	HO	98187
6	Lindenright Holsteins R R #2, Antigonish, B2G 2K9	92	74	252.7	250	256	252	11354	431	364	HO	98741
7	Rupelen Farms Ltd. 1040 Back Road, Springhill, B0M 1X0	116	56	245.7	248	244	245	11096	407	350	HO	98603
8	Kingsmeadow 5239 Chester Road, Windsor, B0N 2T0	54	43	244.7	238	257	239	10931	437	349	HO	98729
9	Betula Farms 516 North Salam Road, Shubenacadie, B0N 2H0	45	36	238.0	231	247	236	10954	433	355	HO	98019
10	Rivervale Holsteins Ltd. 25 Willowdale Lane, Antigonish, B2G 2J1	47	33	236.7	239	223	248	10547	365	348	HO	98803
11	Bayview Dairy Farm Ltd. P.O. Box 168, Mabou, B0E 1X0	69	58	236.0	232	232	244	10553	392	354	HO	98647
12	Scothorn Farms Ltd. 8727 Hwy. 14, Hardwood Lands, B0N 1Y0	471	344	236.0	237	237	234	10689	396	335	HO	98752
13	Cornwallis Farms Ltd. 1258 Belcher Street, Port Williams, B0P 1T0	74	64	233.0	237	230	232	10706	385	333	HO	98728
14	Springauff Farm 1720 Rte 332, Lunenburg, B0J 2C0	42	35	233.0	238	219	242	11633	394	374	HO	98198
15	Pineriver Farms Ltd. R.R.# 2, Inverness County, B0E 1X0	66	54	232.0	231	230	235	10740	397	347	HO	98698
16	West River Holsteins R.R.#4, Antigonish, B2G 2L2	172	121	230.7	234	232	226	10798	399	331	HO	98999
17	Lone Willow Farm 2377 Clarence Road, Bridgetown, B0S 1C0	59	46	230.0	226	239	225	9785	384	312	HO	98017
18	Bekkers Farm Incorporated R.R. # 4, Antigonish, B2G 2L2	155	117	229.7	231	234	224	10431	392	321	HO	98694
19	Black Avon Farms Ltd. 2362 Guysborough Road, Heatherton, B0H 1R0	70	60	229.7	229	227	233	10710	394	345	HO	98693
20	Musqie Valley Farms R R # 5, Middle Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0	10	9	229.7	238	208	243	7042	332	272	JE	98719
21	Kennvale Farms 551 Gaspereau River Rd, Wolfville, B4P 2R3	52	38	228.7	226	223	237	10306	378	343	HO	98638
22	A & J Bent Farms Ltd. R.R.#3, Lawrencetown, B0S 1M0	123	102	227.7	227	233	223	10612	403	330	HO	98195
23	Riverjohn Holsteins R R #1, Riverjohn, B0K 1N0	52	42	227.3	228	228	226	10169	378	321	HO	98337
24	Bishop Farms Ltd. R.R.#1, Annapolis Royal, B0S 1A0	146	131	226.7	221	240	219	10401	418	325	HO	98126
25	Scotchill Farm R. R. # 1, Antigonish, B2G 2K8	32	29	226.3	228	226	225	10210	375	320	HO	98045

** The complete list of publishable herds and the unsupervised herd list can be found at www.valacta.com.*

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PUBLISHABLE HERDS

	Herd Owner / Address	Records Started	Publishable Records	Avg BCA	BCA M	BCA F	BCA P	M kg	F kg	P kg	Breed	Herd #
1	Oceanbrae Farms R R #1, Miscouche, C0B 1T0	46	32	301.3	315	279	310	8529	306	274	MS	99513
2	Oceanbrae Farms R R #1, Miscouche, C0B 1T0	16	13	271.3	287	252	275	8467	404	307	JE	99513
3	Tiny Acres Holsteins 621 Belmont Road, Miscouche, C0B 1T0	107	86	261.7	263	269	253	11997	456	367	HO	99676
4	Reeves Farm Inc. R R 1, Freetown, C0B 1L0	62	48	258.7	253	278	245	11765	480	363	HO	99652
5	Howardvale Holsteins Veterans Hwy 22537, Breadalbane, C0A 1E0	134	102	252.7	246	262	250	11319	449	366	HO	99490
6	Abelaine Farms Inc. 309 Rte.258, New Glasgow, Hunter River, C0A 1N0	28	25	250.3	245	258	248	11259	439	361	HO	99523
7	Lexis Holsteins 18 Rosewood Drive, Kensington, C0B 1M0	31	28	250.0	243	260	247	10969	435	353	HO	99459
8	Pondsedge Holsteins Little Pond, Souris, C0A 2B0	182	138	241.7	248	247	230	11220	415	331	HO	99092
9	Sudview Holsteins 594 Irishtown Road Route 101, Kensington, C0B 1M0	41	38	238.0	229	246	239	10703	425	353	HO	99598
10	Winterbay Farm Inc. Bedford, Mt. Stewart, C0A 1T0	96	83	237.0	231	249	231	10818	430	343	HO	99100
11	Golden Bay Dairy St. Peters, St. Peters Bay, C0A 2A0	88	72	236.7	245	236	229	11201	398	334	HO	99009
12	Birkentree Holsteins 7021 Route 6, Hunter River, C0A 1N0	89	70	234.7	231	243	230	10496	408	331	HO	99035
13	Cassialane Holsteins Ltd. R R 2, Freetown, C0B 1L0	73	52	234.7	244	235	225	10779	387	316	HO	99547
14	Poplarline Farms 2525 Rte 140, Boulter Rd, Oleary, C0B 1V0	71	54	234.0	226	237	239	10120	393	339	HO	99274
15	Thames Farms St.Mary'S Rd., Montague, C0A 1R0	52	45	233.7	233	237	231	10795	407	340	HO	99381
16	East River Farm 14557, Saint Peters Road, Charlottetown, C1A 7J7	100	31	232.0	222	243	231	9797	395	323	HO	99511
17	Newgreen Farms R R 1, Breadalbane, C0A 1E0	55	43	231.3	235	225	234	10838	385	343	HO	99491
18	Weekstown Holsteins Fredericton, Hunter River., C0A 1N0	67	54	229.3	227	227	234	10543	391	345	HO	99467
19	Red Oak Farm 1463 Rr #10, Charlottetown, C1E 1Z4	49	41	228.3	228	229	228	10408	389	330	HO	99540
20	Nordale Farm 691 Sunnyside Rd, Route 131, Richmond, C0B 1Y0	86	70	227.0	225	229	227	10266	388	330	HO	99366
21	Blue Diamond Farm R R #1, Kinkora, C0B 1N0	96	82	225.7	225	227	225	10192	382	323	HO	99667
22	John Dennis 160 Green Park Road, Tyne Valley, C0B 2C0	45	36	225.7	226	220	231	10488	380	340	HO	99214
23	Ayr Bay Farms Greenwich Rd., St. Peters Bay, C0A 2A0	38	30	224.7	224	231	219	8367	353	269	AY	99017
24	Frizzells V. Farm Inc. 632 Junction Road, Hunter River, C0A 1N0	319	255	224.3	228	225	220	10608	388	325	HO	99567
25	Jewelldale Farms 294 Meadow Bank, Cornwall, C0A 1H0	106	83	223.7	222	230	219	10383	398	324	HO	99393

** The complete list of publishable herds and the unsupervised herd list can be found at www.valacta.com.*

NEWFOUNDLAND PUBLISHABLE HERDS

	Herd Owner / Address	Records Started	Publishable Records	Avg BCA	BCA M	BCA F	BCA P	M kg	F kg	P kg	Breed	Herd #
1	N And N Farm Ltd. 410A Veterans Drive, Cormack, A8A 2R6	244	161	259.7	260	260	259	11955	444	379	HO	99905
2	Pure Holsteins Limited P.O. Box 2158, R.R.#1, Corner Brook, A2H	153	49	215.7	208	226	213	10191	414	329	HO	99984
3	Cornerstone Farm 14A Veterans Drive, Cormack, A8A 2P8	105	24	209.7	212	201	216	9848	343	318	HO	99903
4	Larch Grove Farms 405 Vetrans Drive, Cormack, A8A 2R7	115	77	208.0	203	210	211	9214	354	304	HO	98992

** The complete list of publishable herds and the unsupervised herd list can be found at www.valacta.com.*

Dairy Production Technicians

Jennifer Dillman
Meagher's Grant, NS
Cell: 902-209-0316
jdillman@valacta.com

Susan Fitch
Old Barns, NS
Cell: 902-899-1116
sfitch@valacta.com

Yvonne MacIsaac
Mabou, NS
902-945-2113
ymacisaac@valacta.com

Amy Rose
Yarmouth, NS
Maternity leave,
returns in May 2012

Nicolas Roy
Port Williams, NS
902-691-2220
nroy@valacta.com

Kristin Thibodeau
Merigomish, NS
Cell: 902-331-1425
kthibodeau@valacta.com

Clayton Brooks
Sackville, NB
506-540-0155
cbrooks@valacta.com

Robyn Buttimer
Salmon Beach, NB
506-546-3987
rbuttimer@valacta.com

Audrey Abbruzese
St-Louis-du-Ha-Ha, QC
418-714-1662
aabbruzese@valacta.com

Emily Dalling
Fredericton, NB
Cell: 506-434-1126
edalling@valacta.com

Nadine Othberg
Summerfield, NB
Cell: 506-512-0428
nothberg@valacta.com

Philip Thorne
Glenvale, NB
506-756-0766
pthorne@valacta.com

Byron Andrews
Hunter River, PE
Cell: 902-393-5882
bandrews@valacta.com

John Meerburg
Montague, PE
Cell: 902-969-8304
jmeerburg@valacta.com

Jessica Roberts
Kensington, PE
Cell: 902-316-1053
jroberts@valacta.com

Michael Trowsdale
Tyne Valley, PE
Cell: 902-432-0242
mtrowsdale@valacta.com

Vicky O'Leary
Cormack, NL
709-635-8245
voleary@valacta.com

Sylvia Lafontaine
Regional Manager
1-800-266-5248 ext. 7827
Cell: 514-941-1478
slafontaine@valacta.com

Ed Frazee
Coach and Information
Systems Specialist
Sussex Corner, NB
1-800-266-5248 ext. 8906
Cell: 506-863-9131
efrazee@valacta.com

Dannie McKinnon
Valacta Board Member
Montague, PE
Cell: 902-969-9810
Home: 902-838-3206
dan.chris.mackinnon@
pei.sympatico.ca

Paul Gaunce
Valacta Board - Observer
Passekeag, NB
506-832-4756
sugarhil@nb.sympatico.ca

Paul Gaunce, observer on the Board with two Valacta technicians: Emily Dalling and Philip Thorne

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Thorne, Pascal Tougas, Étienne Tremblay, Gratien Tremblay, Hélène Tremblay, Isabelle Tremblay, Yvon Tremblay, Audrey Trottier, Michael Trowsdale, Joanny Turcotte, Line Turcotte, Joanie Vallée, Marie-Claude Veilleux, Claudia Vermette, Éric Vézina, Karen Villarmino, Émilie Villemaire, Frédéric Vincent, Cherilyn Westman, Gwen Wulfraat, Evgeniy Yanakiev, Marilène Beauchesne, Laurie Bégin, Anne-Marie Bélanger, Patrice Bellavance, Julie Caron, Jolyanne Caumartin-Grégoire, Catherine Cross, Audrey Doyon, Francis Drouin, Cynthia Fillion, Caroline Fortin, Guy Gagnon, Maryse Leclerc, François Lefebvre, Raymond Métayer, Mélanie Nadeau, Amy Rose, Claudine Roy, Karine Simard, Marie-Élaine Smith, Isabelle St-Laurent, Kristin Thibodeau, Nicole Van Hyfte.

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