

2014

ONTARIO PROGRESS REPORT

A photograph of three black and white cows standing in a grassy field, partially obscured by a green diagonal overlay on the left side of the page.

CanWest DHI



Western Herd Improvement Report

2014

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Genomics continues to provide the Canadian dairy industry with a significant increase in the rate of genetic gain since its introduction. This advancement has led to animals with more production potential and a greater challenge to our dairy producers to allow each animal to reach their potential using available management tools like DHI. As in the past, we take this opportunity to recognize the individuals who have outperformed the average and share their success with the industry in this edition of the Western Herd Improvement Report.

Inside you will find listings of the top herds in each of the four provinces, recognizing the outstanding herd managers for 2014. As well, you will find individual profiles of some of the top herd managers in the industry. In addition to the top BCA herds, we also include a list of the top Management Scores recognizing the outstanding dairy herd managers. The high western herd this year is Rueben Entz of Roseglen Farming Company Ltd. located in Hilda, Alberta. Rueben scored a leading 969 points out of a possible 1,000. Leading the other provinces were Robert Tschetter of Quill Lake Colony in Quill Lake, Saskatchewan with a score of 947; Frank and Debbie Les of Milk Way Dairy in Chilliwack, British Columbia, with a score of 928 points and Mark Donahoe of Malarky Holsteins in Minnedosa, Manitoba with a score of 899. Special mention to Brando Holsteins Inc. of Lacombe, Alberta and Nifera Holsteins of Nobleford, Alberta who also scored more than 950 points in 2014.

This is our fourth year to include a list of herds with the lowest SCC results in the provinces, recognizing those with outstanding udder health management. Congratulations to Tom DeGroot in Rosedale, British Columbia who led the west with an average SCC of 47,000 cells/ml based on 104 records. Leaders in the other provinces included Bram, Bindert and Hedzer DeJong of Earnewald Holsteins-DeJong Brothers Ltd. in Lacombe, Alberta, Doug Daum of Daum Farms in Dalmeny, Saskatchewan and Russ Holme of Holmestead Dairy in Anola, Manitoba. Special effort and attention to detail is necessary to attain low SCC scores and reach the top position – congratulations to each of the provincial leaders.

Inside you will also find five articles written by industry specialists providing comments and insight into different areas ranging from CDN's new Pro\$ Index for ranking animal performance, to the end of quotas in Europe Union, as well as, highlights of the University of Saskatchewan Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility, future milk analysis opportunities, and feed efficiency – one of the fastest growing areas of interest in the industry.

For those looking to compare their performance against the rest of the industry, we have a number of different statistical summaries and benchmark tables to provide various comparisons. This information includes listings of the top Management herds (including all DHI herds) and the top Publishable herds (only those on breed approved programs) in the provinces.

Thank you to our sponsors for their financial contribution to this annual publication. Their advertisements appear throughout this edition and I encourage you to view their messages.

Neil Petreny
General Manager
CanWest DHI

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Milk secrets hold the key to improved global productivity

Richard Mills, FOSS Instruments, Denmark



The level of information we can find in a sample of raw milk is growing all the time as scientists exploit the potential of existing equipment.

According to 2012 survey figures from the International Committee on Animal Recording, productivity per cow varies widely around the globe. Canada, USA, Denmark and Japan are all achieving over 8 tons of milk per cow/year while others such as Russia at 3.5 tons are far behind. While this varied picture is no-doubt due to a number of reasons, it is no accident that high performing countries also have a well developed milk-testing system.

As both dairy farmers and processors grapple with trends such as larger dairy farms and continuing volatility in milk prices, the more insight we can gain from a milk sample, the better equipped we all are to improve dairy herd health and productivity.

Much of this new insight can come from existing raw milk testing equipment, even if the instruments still look much the same as they did twenty or so years ago. The lab instruments still require significant floor space, various fluids and routine checks for wear and tear, but nonetheless, in terms of what can be discovered from a milk sample, a quiet revolution is going on.

Essential parameters such as protein, fat, somatic cell and bacteria count are being augmented with tests for signs of ketosis, fatty acid profiling and screening for adulteration. And the smart thing is that these new tests do not require any new investment in hardware. While lab managers dream about smaller instruments that run forever, they can, at least, realise more value from the milk they are already testing.

The term 'at least' is actually out of place here because new tests such as the screening for early signs of ketosis are proving a powerful way to improve global productivity. The screening gives an early warning of cows at risk of the metabolic disease that can reduce milk yield by over 500 kg of milk per cow per year.

Also new, fatty acid profiling is proving another useful tool in monitoring saturated and unsaturated fat content in milk to improve the quality of raw milk while improving the characteristics of milk for healthier dairy products. The FOSS milk analysis instruments can test up to 15 groups of fatty acids in a milk sample.

Another unique aspect of milk analysis technology is the ability to screen for adulteration of milk. It is currently being used mainly in the dairy industry, and has the obvious potential to help tackle the growing

problem of abnormalities caused by deliberate or accidental adulteration of the milk supply. The CanWest DHI lab located in Edmonton is the first lab in Canada to acquire this new capability and will be exploring its potential in the near future with industry partners.

Given the ability of scientists to extract an increasing range of information nuggets from a milk sample, it is safe to assume that the next decade will bring further exciting tests. For instance, a wish being discussed on a theoretical level is an improved level of definition in somatic cell counting. It could have a huge positive impact on milk output by helping to spot signs of sub-clinical mastitis, thereby allowing more effective and proactive herd management.

In terms of global productivity, this proactive element is perhaps the most interesting aspect of these new and potential tests. A milk test is not just about static data. Increasingly, it is becoming a crystal ball for dairy producers about trends in the supply chain and the potential health and productivity of dairy herds. The extent to which this valuable information is used remains to be seen, but there is no doubt that there are yet more secrets to be found in a humble sample of milk.



A new tool for genetic selection for lifetime profit

Brian Van Doormaal, General Manager, CDN



Canada has been selecting for lifetime profitability for decades, especially since the introduction of the Lifetime Profit Index (LPI) in 1991. Although the formula initially included only production (60%) and major type (40%) traits, the LPI has expanded to now target cows that produce well for several lactations and have reduced costs associated with mastitis and poor reproduction.

Following extensive research carried out by Canadian Dairy Network (CDN), a new profit-based genetic selection index will be introduced in August 2015 for at least the Holstein and Jersey breeds. The official name will be "Pro\$", pronounced "Pro Dollars," referring to the fact that it is profit-based and expressed in dollar terms. The basis for deriving this new national tool for sire selection and genetic improvement of dairy herds has been the formula used by DHI agencies, both CanWest and Valacta, to provide Profitability Reports to their customers. These reports are provided for each cow enrolled on DHI and also include a Herd Summary report as a valuable management tool.

In developing the new profit-based index Pro\$, CDN used the DHI formula to calculate

the accumulated profit realized by each cow up to reaching six years of age. This definition of lifetime profit normally includes each cow's opportunity to perform through its first four cycles of breeding, calving and the subsequent lactation, therefore reflecting the desired combination of high production and longevity. Using the average daughter profit value for a group of 830 progeny proven Holstein sires, the optimal prediction equation was scientifically calculated as a function of each sire's proof for production yields, functional traits and the major type traits.

An important feature of Pro\$ is that it will be expressed in dollar terms such that differences between sires will directly reflect the expected average difference in profit to six years achieved by their daughters. Relative to the LPI formula, Pro\$ will result in greater genetic gains for milk yield, Herd Life, Somatic Cell Score, Milking Speed, Milking Temperament and calving performance while having less emphasis on the major type traits, fat yield and both fat and protein deviations.

In addition, the analysis conducted by CDN showed that the current LPI value of a proven sire is highly related to the average daughter

profit to six years of age with a correlation of 73% in Holsteins. Every 100-point difference in LPI between two sires translates to \$170 extra profit per daughter to six years of age.

In August 2015, the LPI formula will undergo some changes in response to input from producers, breed associations and A.I. organizations. Compared to the current Holstein formula, the new LPI is expected to increase the emphasis on key functional traits including Mastitis Resistance, Herd Life and Daughter Fertility, as well as Conformation, Mammary System and Feet & Legs, while the expected response will be reduced for production traits.

Both LPI and Pro\$ can be used to select for lifetime profitability. Since profit is not defined exactly the same for each and every dairy producer in Canada, these two genetic selection tools will be provided to meet the varying needs. As of August 2015, Canadian producers will have a choice of which national selection index best suits their breeding objectives.

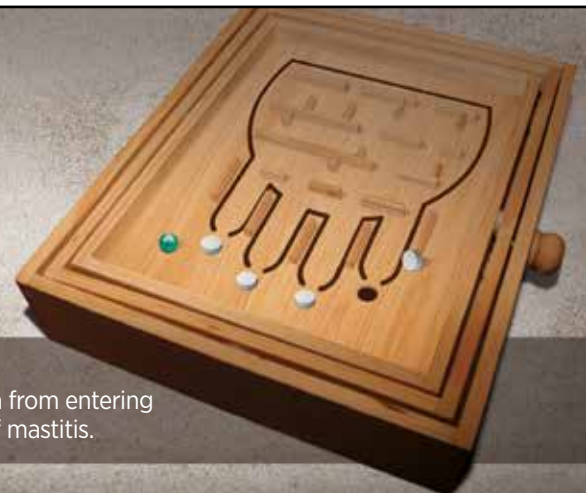
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Europe after the end of milk quota

Kevin Bellamy, Rabobank, Netherlands

As of April 1, 2015, milk production in Europe will no longer be limited by milk quotas. In the largest change to the European dairy industry for more than 30 years, European dairy farmers will be allowed to produce up to the full capacity of their farming systems.

Rabobank estimates that milk production in Europe will increase once milk quotas end. The expected increase from 2015 will be somewhere in the region of 7-8% on current levels by 2020. This is equivalent to an extra 10m tonnes on the current 140-145m tonnes produced. However, increases in milk production will not be uniform across Europe with growth initially confined to northwest Europe. Given the ability to produce milk from cheaper forage sources (grass), and access to global markets; Ireland, The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Poland, UK and France will see the bulk of the increase.

Some of the expected increase has already come through in recent years as farmers invested in expanding milk production, buoyed by historically high milk prices. This was in spite of milk quotas still being enforced and the resulting payment of superlevy – a fine for going over milk quotas. However, milk production will not increase without limit even though milk quotas have ended. Farmers will produce up to the next limiting factor which for many will come from the availability of land.

At a processing level, the expectation of extra milk from Northwest Europe has seen a large number of investments. Some of the investment has come from a need by farmer co-operatives, companies such as Arla and Friesland Campina, to process the extra milk produced by their members. However, investment has also been made to process the extra milk into products that can be sold on global markets with the majority of new facilities taking the form of drying towers.

In sending more milk onto global markets, the competitiveness of European farmers will become more important. Although the global dairy market is expected to be supply constrained in the medium term, price volatility will be a continuing factor. Factors including short-term in-elasticity of supply and demand; a lag between pricing and production decisions; high barriers to entry and exit; reliance on price-volatile inputs; exchange rate risk; exposure to new markets with poorly understood buying patterns; and lags between expansion in production and market development. From a European perspective, this is a difficult challenge as given the high cost of milk production relative to other global exporters, European farmers are more likely to suffer first when markets fall and may also be the last to benefit when markets recover.

In looking at cost competitiveness, there may be a crumb of comfort for dairy farmers in Europe. Recent analysis conducted by

Rabobank suggests that the cost of milk production globally is showing signs of converging. However, while this would appear positive news for European dairy farmers, it could mean that milk processors have the option to buy milk within or close to target markets. This could be attractive given the fragmentation of dairy farming within Europe where there is an enormous variation in the size of farming operations. Yet even amongst the largest producing countries, average herd sizes of 80 to 150 cows are still much less than those in the US (190), Australia (258) or New Zealand (402).

Therefore, there needs to be consolidation in order for European dairy to gain economies of scale and become more competitive. However, high land prices or poor availability constrains the ability to consolidate production.

Thus, while Europe will continue to have a conducive climate –together with the good infrastructure needed for dairy production – and will always supply the needs of the mature European market, further actions will be required to ensure Europe is competitive. These actions include investment in entrepreneurial farmers; intensification of farming systems; availability of capital to fund continued production consolidation; a supportive regulatory environment; and focus on increasing the proportion of value-added products.



Rayner Dairy Research & Teaching Facility, University of Saskatchewan

Bernard Laarveld, Strategic Project Leader, University of Saskatchewan



The \$11.5 million Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility at the University of Saskatchewan was officially opened on October 15, 2013. The facility was named after John G. Rayner who was Director of the Department of Agricultural Extension from 1920–1952. Rayner is best known for his extensive agriculture extension activities throughout Saskatchewan and for educating its rural youth.

The Rayner dairy facility will serve the research and teaching needs of the Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Engineering and the Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Organization. It is located in a prominent location on the university campus with convenient access for students, researchers and the visiting public.

The new facility was funded by the University of Saskatchewan, federal and provincial governments, private donations and donations from the agriculture industry, including SaskCanola, SaskFlax, the financial sector and equipment suppliers.

The dairy producers of Saskatchewan through SaskMilk played a pivotal role in the project, working closely with the university from the inception of the project and assisting with the needs assessment, planning and design to ensure that needs of industry and university were met. The dairy producers also contributed the milk quota for 135 kg fat valued at around \$4 million or \$25,000 per farm.

The facility houses around 110 milking cows in a large naturally ventilated free stall barn and 24 milking cows in two tie-stall rooms. The free stall barn is designed to manage two separate groups of cows, which are milked either in a 2x6 milking parlour or with a milk robot. Cows in the tie stall can be milked in the parlour or in the tie stalls.

Currently 16 computer feeders are installed in the free stall barn to support feed research, as are the tie stalls. Manure removal is with a scraper system with above ground manure

storage. The facility includes a large feed storage and preparation area and extensive space for teaching and staff support. A 'phase 2' project is being planned to include advanced manure management and processing and to introduce green sustainable technologies.

Research areas include nutrition and feed development, metabolism, genetics, health, reproduction, management, animal welfare, green technologies, and application of information technologies.

Early in the project planning the dairy producers required that public education be an essential and integral aspect of the facility. The facility was designed to include a 4,000 square foot Gallery area and a long cat ("cow") walk that will allow the public to walk through the free stall facility for an elevated view of the animals and operation.

The theme of the Gallery is "Feeding the World" from the perspective of the Saskatchewan agriculture sector and its role in the global food supply and security. The displays are designed to educate the consumer and youth. It will promote a better understanding of food production as a system, the rapidly increasing global demand and need for food, the opportunities for rewarding careers in agriculture and convey that agriculture is a business.

The Gallery with catwalk is used for tours for schools throughout Saskatchewan and beyond, and for national and international delegations. It is open to the public during the afternoons.

The development of this world class facility has had a major positive impact on the teaching and research programs and has facilitated improved extension activities to the benefit of the dairy industry.

LOW SCC HERDS

DHI congratulates the following producers for outstanding udder health management resulting in SCC of 100,000 or less.

Farm	Producer	City	Records	Avg SCC × 1000
BRITISH COLUMBIA				
Tom Degroot	—	Rosedale	104	47
Viewfield Farms Ltd	Dave Taylor	Courtenay	149	48
Shenandoah Dairy	—	Armstrong	32	53
Trinity Holsteins	Paul Schmidt	Mission	26	64
Riverwater Farm Ltd	J Wikkerink	Duncan	130	66
Lac Roix Acres	Rayner & Sharene Oosterhoff	Telkwa	52	66
Springbank Holsteins Ltd	—	Chilliwack	149	68
Wikksview Farm Ltd	Fred Wikkerink	Cobble Hill	71	68
Milky Way Dairy	Frank & Debbie Les	Chilliwack	74	71
Coanwood Farms Ltd	Larry Wigham	Chilliwack	103	74
West Coast Holsteins	Jeff Kooyman	Chilliwack	26	75
Dinn Farms Ltd	Erin Bell & Martin Dinn	Agassiz	108	76
Neveridle Farms	Arthur Keulen	Delta	162	77
Delmar Dairy Inc	Dean & Al Martens	Sardis	77	79
Martiann Holsteins Ltd	Martin Hamming	Delta	194	81
Lindrian Farms	John Tamis	Surrey	75	88
Warwhoop Farm Ltd	Bert Van De Burgt	Agassiz	66	88
Colbrit Holsteins	Gordon Peterson	Agassiz	61	91
Atson Farms Ltd	Allen Atsma	Abbotsford	224	92
Seabreeze Farm Ltd	Jerry Keulen	Delta	304	94
ALBERTA				
Earnewald Holsteins-Dejong Bros Ltd	—	Lacombe	140	57
Houweling Farms Ltd	Pete Houweling	Coaldale	260	69
Scholten Dairy	Harm & Jennie Scholten	Barrhead	89	71
Sylvanside Dairy Ltd	Sipke & Margreet Dijkstra	Ponoka	157	80
Aspenridge Farms Ltd	Dick & Steve Tenhove	Blackfalds	49	84
Grubenmanns Dairy Farms Ltd	Simon Grubenmann	Breton	99	85
Schuurman Dairy Ltd	—	Leduc	90	85
Plainview Colony	Tim Waldner	Warner	126	86
Deerhaven	Glenda Mutrie	Thorsby	32	86
Freedom Dairy	Marinus Helmus	Barrhead	74	90
Deerfield Colony	Andy Waldner	Magrath	117	92
Byemoor Colony Farming Co	—	Byemoor	103	92
Poly-C Farms	Cor & Cathy Haagsma	Ponoka	309	95
Dave Salomons	—	Lacombe	50	95
Buffalorock Dairy	Jan & Joke & Berend Ridder	Olds	138	96
Hylac Holsteins	Ken & Donna Fenske	Ponoka	66	96
Arco Farms Ltd	Albert Bysterveld	Barrhead	93	101
Van Der Kooij Dairy	Dirk Van Der Kooij	Nobleford	143	102
Wintering Hills Colony	Dan Walter	Hussar	107	102
Nifera Holsteins	—	Nobleford	91	104

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* Based on Canadian NSAID for cattle product label. ¹ Based on Canadian ANAFEN product label. ² Canadian Quality Milk On-Farm Food Safety Program Reference Manual, June 2010.



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LOW SCC HERDS

DHI congratulates the following producers for outstanding udder health management resulting in SCC of 100,000 or less.

Farm	Producer	City	Records	Avg SCC × 1000
SASKATCHEWAN				
Daum Farms	Doug Daum	Dalmeny	51	113
Rynview Holsteins	Michael Wesselingh	Saskatoon	62	116
Quill Lake Colony	Robert Tschetter	Quill Lake	114	117
Downie Lake Colony	Josh Hofer	Maple Creek	90	124
Dierker Enterprises	Neil & Terry Dierker	Mistatim	53	133
Baumann Holsteins	Emanuel Baumann	Kipling	97	141
Bramville Farm	Fran & Joanne Edwards	Nokomis	57	141
Dept of Animal & Poultry Science	—	Saskatoon	115	147
Ronleen Holsteins	Ron & Cathy Schaeffer	Vibank	70	152
Cypress Colony	Darrell Entz	Maple Creek	85	153

MANITOBA

Holmestead Dairy	Russ Holme	Anola	56	80
CMT Farms Ltd	Michael Carels	Bruxelles	64	86
Mageo Pouteau Farms Ltd	Chris & Carla Pouteau	Mariapolis	73	93
Reutter Farms Ltd	Fritz Reutter	Grunthal	335	98
Park Dairies	Larry & Wilma Park	Lake Francis	85	102
Optimist Holsteins	Hans Gorter & Nelleke Vandervliet	Otterburne	133	105
Glenlea Research Station	Dr. Kees Plaizier	Winnipeg	66	108
Readore Farms	Rheal Simon	Notre Dame	135	116
Rehoboth Farms	—	Grunthal	180	130
Jakob & Ana Fehr	—	La Broquerie	134	130

PROVINCIAL STATISTICS

Province	Calving Interval (Months)		Dry Period (Days)		Age at First Calving (Months)		SCC (Average)	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
British Columbia	14.0	14.0	73	70	26.4	26.3	178	184
Alberta	13.9	13.7	81	77	26.4	26.3	213	211
Saskatchewan	14.1	14.1	86	83	26.7	26.8	246	254
Manitoba	14.4	14.4	93	85	27.6	27.3	263	258
Ontario	14.0	14.0	73	71	26.6	26.4	241	233
Quebec	13.9	13.9	67	65	26.8	26.5	229	222
New Brunswick	14.0	13.8	71	67	27.8	27.5	203	203
Nova Scotia	14.1	14.0	74	71	27.8	27.7	223	224
Prince Edward Island	14.4	14.3	85	78	28.4	27.9	206	211
Newfoundland	14.0	13.9	73	73	27.0	27.1	239	221



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* When used as recommended. ¹ Based on Canadian EPRINEX and other pour-on endectocide product labels. ² Nodvedt A, Conboy G, Dohoo I, Sanchez J, Keefe G, Descoteaux L. Increase in milk yield following eprinomectin treatment at calving in pastured dairy cattle. *Veterinary Parasitology* 105 (2002) 191-206. ³ Material Safety Data Sheet. ⁴ Canadian Quality Milk On-Farm Food Safety Program Reference Manual, June 2010.



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REGIONAL STATISTICS *(Generated throughout the year)*

		305			BCA						
Region	Herds	Milk	Fat	Protein	Comp	Milk	Fat	Protein	2011	2012	2013
BRITISH COLUMBIA	318	9,915	378	317	225.0	225	226	224	223.9	222.3	223.4
Agassiz	19	9,969	378	314	220.0	219	224	217	218.1	217.6	218.0
Central B.C.	10	8,389	316	269	187.3	190	183	188	189.5	186.3	188.3
Chilliwack	64	10,269	387	326	233.4	235	233	232	230.2	230.6	231.3
Courtenay-Comox	9	8,998	357	288	208.4	204	216	205	208.1	204.0	212.5
Cowichan	23	9,804	381	310	219.6	217	226	216	219.8	221.6	224.9
Delta-Richmond	13	10,366	386	334	230.8	230	230	232	226.2	220.5	223.1
Dewdney-Deroche	27	10,018	383	320	231.2	233	231	230	233.9	230.0	231.7
Kamloops-Okanagan	60	9,913	383	321	225.6	223	228	225	223.3	222.6	220.8
Kootenay	5	8,615	328	277	194.1	195	193	195	218.1	219.1	197.0
Matsqui	22	9,897	366	312	220.8	222	220	220	216.6	212.7	217.5
Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge	8	9,601	379	314	230.1	233	226	231	233.6	229.8	236.3
Sumas	34	10,136	381	323	229.7	231	230	229	228.6	226.0	226.9
Surrey-Langley	24	9,734	373	316	224.7	225	223	226	223.1	222.0	223.4
ALBERTA	438	9,767	373	311	219.1	218	223	217	214.8	216.0	217.0
Calgary	55	9,773	379	313	222.0	220	227	220	213.6	218.3	219.8
Edmonton	94	9,261	354	297	207.5	206	210	207	208.6	207.7	208.4
Lethbridge-Brooks	126	9,945	376	315	222.0	221	225	220	219.4	222.9	221.9
Peace River	2	10,272	386	320	230.8	232	235	227	211.3	209.6	199.8
Red Deer	148	9,982	382	316	223.0	221	228	220	216.3	215.5	218.2
Vermilion	13	9,144	361	296	217.4	216	220	216	208.3	212.3	216.3
SASKATCHEWAN	108	10,011	379	323	223.4	221	225	224	212.3	213.5	217.1
Canora	3	9,641	341	315	205.1	206	197	212	189.9	188.9	187.5
Prince Albert-Melfort	6	9,747	366	318	219.8	217	220	223	188.9	206.2	208.5
Regina	17	10,406	388	333	226.6	226	227	227	218.6	221.5	223.2
Saskatoon	14	9,895	377	322	224.2	223	224	226	214.0	210.9	218.1
Saskatoon East	26	10,234	389	326	227.9	226	231	227	214.4	219.5	223.0
Saskatoon West	13	9,834	390	322	224.3	218	232	223	214.2	214.3	217.3
Swift Current	23	9,916	374	320	223.6	221	225	225	213.1	213.9	218.5
Weyburn	6	9,391	343	299	202.1	203	200	204	221.1	205.5	203.7
MANITOBA	197	9,457	357	300	211.5	212	213	210	200.7	202.4	209.4
Central	58	9,757	360	309	216.1	218	215	216	207.9	207.8	212.2
Eastern	93	9,260	352	293	208.3	208	211	206	196.4	199.2	206.8
Interlake	34	9,599	368	305	211.6	211	215	209	202.1	203.6	211.7
South West	12	9,138	351	298	213.5	216	210	215	202.7	202.9	214.5
Eastern	95	9,280	350	296	206.8	207	208	206	201.5	196.4	199.2
Interlake	33	9,536	364	305	211.7	211	214	210	204.6	202.1	203.6
North west	3	8,687	314	283	183.4	183	179	188	186.9	183.4	181.1
South west	13	9,264	349	302	214.5	218	209	217	213.0	202.7	202.9

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ENROLLMENT *(Generated throughout the year)*

	British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba	2011	2012	2013	2014*
DHI Herds	318	438	108	197	1,116	1,103	1,079	1,061
Percent Publishable	81%	59%	63%	71%	70%	69%	68%	68%
Percent Management	19%	41%	37%	29%	30%	31%	32%	32%
DHI Cows	48,466	59,045	18,974	28,164	153,288	158,197	153,655	154,649
Percent Publishable	74%	63%	68%	67%	71%	69%	68%	68%
Percent Management	26%	37%	32%	33%	29%	31%	32%	32%
Average Herd Size	152	135	176	143	137	143	142	146

* All Western Provinces

PRODUCTION TRENDS

	British Columbia (Kg)			Alberta (Kg)			Saskatchewan (Kg)			Manitoba (Kg)		
Year	Milk	Fat	Protein	Milk	Fat	Protein	Milk	Fat	Protein	Milk	Fat	Protein
2014	9,915	378	317	9,767	373	311	10,011	379	323	9,457	357	300
2013	9,894	374	317	9,679	367	309	9,715	366	314	9,437	354	301
2012	9,869	372	315	9,666	364	308	9,624	359	309	9,170	342	293
2011	10,009	375	320	9,676	362	308	9,682	357	308	9,162	338	291

COMPLETE LACTATIONS

	2014 (Kg)				2013 (Kg)			
	Milk	Fat	Protein	Avg DIM	Milk	Fat	Protein	Avg DIM

BRITISH COLUMBIA

All	10,117	386	326	310	9,875	373	318	304
Publishable	10,274	394	330	311	10,118	384	325	305
Management	9,846	373	317	309	9,501	357	306	303

ALBERTA

All	9,833	380	316	304	9,539	366	307	294
Publishable	10,161	392	326	304	9,857	376	317	296
Management	9,357	363	301	303	9,126	352	294	293

SASKATCHEWAN

All	9,983	383	325	308	10,032	384	327	311
Publishable	10,161	393	331	305	10,145	392	330	309
Management	9,741	369	317	312	9,862	373	322	313

MANITOBA

All	10,015	383	320	320	9,480	360	304	305
Publishable	10,113	385	323	320	9,799	369	314	308
Management	9,882	381	317	321	9,041	346	290	302



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¹ Marcelo F. Martínez, Reuben J. Mapletoft, John P. Kastelic, and Terry Carruthers. The effects of three gonadorelin products on luteinizing hormone release, ovulation, and follicular wave emergence in cattle. *Can Vet J*, Volume 44, February 2003; 125-131. ² Based on Canadian CYSTORELIN product label. ³ Canadian Quality Milk On-Farm Food Safety Program Reference Manual, June 2010.



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Tonesa Holsteins Ltd, Chilliwack

"I don't think I do anything exceptional. Healthy cows are happy cows," he says.

The previous major improvement came in 2006 when he built a new free-stall barn and milking parlour. That improved cow comfort and provided more bunk and water space.

Glenn uses DHI data "for breeding and culling decisions."

Somatic Cell Counts identify cows that need treatment; he orders a Mastitis 4 test for any that score higher than 750.

He cleared up a mystery ailment for one cow when he ordered both the DHI tests for Johne's and Leukosis; she had Leukosis.

He often runs MUN tests, but not recently because his ration has remained steady.

He ran one ketosis test when it first became available, found no problems and, again, because the ration is now consistent, hasn't ordered another test.

His management focus now is reproductive performance because "I'm not happy with it." A veterinarian performs regular herd health and pregnancy testing and the cows are equipped with activity monitors to help detect heats.

His wife, Julie, would like to be more involved with the herd, but is busy now with three girls, all below the age of six. "She helps out when she can," says Glenn.

Herd Management Scores have been improving ever since Tonesa Holsteins began three-times milking three years ago, moving the Chilliwack-area herd to second position for British Columbia in 2014.

Glenn de Groot hired Laurie McGivern to help with the extra milkings and she has been part of the team of four hired hands ever since.

A lot of good things came with that management change – significantly greater milk production, Somatic Cell Counts dropped from the 250 range to a current average of 110 and "I have been able to be more selective about my culling."

Most routines have stayed the same since then, including feed.

BRITISH COLUMBIA HERD MANAGEMENT SCORE

Rank	Farm Name	Owner	City	Total Score	Herd Size	Breed	Region
1	Milky Way Dairy	Frank & Debbie Les	Chilliwack	928	74	HO	Chilliwack
2	Tonesa Holsteins Ltd	Glenn De Groot	Chilliwack	924	129	HO	Chilliwack
3	B & L Farms Ltd	Matt Dykshoorn	Abbotsford	911	50	HO	Sumas
4	Country Charm Farms Ltd	Huizing Brothers	Matsqui	898	229	HO	Matsqui
5	Jennifer Veldhuisen	—	Grindrod	897	41	HO	Kamloops-Okanagan
6	Romyn Hill Farm Ltd	Brad & Jodi Romyn	Sorrento	897	40	HO	Kamloops-Okanagan
7	Abbeyview Dairies Ltd #2	Theo Van Der Kooi	Rosedale	881	266	HO	Chilliwack
8	Trinity Holsteins	Paul Schmidt	Mission	881	26	HO	Dewdney-Deroche
9	Valedoorn Farms Inc	Tom & John Hoogendorn	Agassiz	876	271	HO	Agassiz
10	PJV Farms Ltd	Peter Vink	Chilliwack	876	121	HO	Chilliwack
11	Lindrian Farms	John Tamis	Surrey	871	75	HO	Surrey-Langley
12	Coanwood Farms Ltd	Larry Wigham	Chilliwack	868	103	HO	Chilliwack
13	Melinke Farms Ltd	Theo Stoker	Deroche	858	122	HO	Dewdney-Deroche
14	Lyba Farms	Lyle Mammel	Chilliwack	858	101	HO	Chilliwack
15	Springbank Holsteins Ltd	—	Chilliwack	851	149	HO	Chilliwack
16	Windy Dairy	Wim Klop	Chilliwack	840	60	HO	Chilliwack
17	Kambro Farms Ltd	Doug Kampman	Abbotsford	838	386	HO	Matsqui
18	Seabreeze Farm Ltd	Jerry Keulen	Delta	837	304	HO	Delta-Richmond
19	Hoek Holsteins	Greg Vanderhoek	Agassiz	832	275	HO	Agassiz
20	Hammingview Farms Ltd	Yvonne Murdoch	Pitt Meadows	831	89	HO	Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge



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Roseglen Farming Co. Ltd., topped the province of Alberta for Herd Management Score in 2014.

Dairy manager, Rueben Entz, runs a tight ship at the colony, making sure his son, Jacob, and another lad, Edward Entz, are doing a good job. "I stay home as much as possible and keep a close watch," said Rueben.

He is pleased that DHI keeps adding services and he uses a lot of them. "Somatic Cell Count is number one. I really look at that."

Roseglen Farming Co Ltd, Hilda

If he has more than enough cows – the herd is 94 milking cows housed in a free-stall barn – he will use the BCA scores to help identify candidates for culling.

He has tested the herd for Leukosis, uses the pregnancy test as a backup to veterinary services and recently enrolled the herd on the new Ketosis test.

"It's a valuable tool as far as I'm concerned," he says of DHI.

When he sees a high SCC, he treats her "right away" and sometimes uses the Mastitis4 tests to identify the bacteria involved.

Feed and cow comfort are a couple of keys to management on the farm. Rueben tries to buy the best-quality hay he can find and to have the colony put up good barley silage. They are combined by TMR with bran, dried distiller's corn, soybean meal and a mineral package.

The cows rest on pasture mats bedded with kiln-dried sawdust. While it's somewhat costly, Rueben said "the beauty of it is it's dry."

The herd is purebred Holsteins and continues to improve as the bulls the farm buys are getting progressively better. They have never used artificial insemination.

ALBERTA HERD MANAGEMENT SCORE

Rank	Farm Name	Owner	City	Total Score	Herd Size	Breed	Region
1	Roseglen Farming Co Ltd	Rueben Entz	Hilda	969	94	HO	Lethbridge-Brooks
2	Brando Holsteins Inc	Wim, Sylvia & Brad Schakel	Lacombe	961	292	HO	Red Deer
3	Nifera Holsteins	—	Nobleford	957	91	HO	Lethbridge-Brooks
4	Wetoka Farms Ltd	Michael & Marla Roth	Millet	947	66	HO	Red Deer
5	Deerfield Colony	Andy Waldner	Magrath	935	117	HO	Lethbridge-Brooks
6	Mars Dairy	Gert & Sonja Schrijver	Stettler	932	262	HO	Red Deer
7	Lathom Colony	Mike Hofer	Bassano	921	121	HO	Calgary
8	Prairiehome Colony Farming Co Ltd	Jonathan Waldner	Wrentham	912	121	HO	Lethbridge-Brooks
9	Aspenridge Farms Ltd	Dick & Steve Tenhove	Blackfalds	908	49	HO	Red Deer
10	H & W Rommens Farms	H & W Rommens	Duchess	906	209	HO	Lethbridge-Brooks
11	Sunshine Colony Farming Ltd	Paul Walter	Hussar	906	59	HO	Calgary
12	Verhoef Dairy	Herman Verhoef	Ponoka	900	110	HO	Red Deer
13	Ridder Farms Ltd	—	Ponoka	899	165	HO	Red Deer
14	Poly-C Farms	Cor & Cathy Haagsma	Ponoka	897	309	HO	Red Deer
15	New Rockport Colony	Steven Wipf	New Dayton	894	111	HO	Lethbridge-Brooks
16	New Elm Farming Co Ltd	Jason Entz	Magrath	893	75	HO	Lethbridge-Brooks
17	Joseph Wurz	Old Elm Colony Farming Co Ltd	Magrath	892	119	HO	Lethbridge-Brooks
18	Philipsen Farm Ltd	Arie & Dineke Philipsen	Lacombe	885	315	HO	Red Deer
19	Sylvanside Dairy Ltd	Sipke & Margreet Dijkstra	Ponoka	882	157	HO	Red Deer
20	Earnewald Holsteins-Dejong Bros Ltd	—	Lacombe	875	140	HO	Red Deer



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Robert Tschetter, Dairy Manager at Quill Lake Colony says “really no one thing makes or breaks a herd. You have to do everything right. It takes more than one guy.”

The team of four full-time staff that manages about 114 purebred Holsteins, milking in a 100 tie-stall barn, came first in Saskatchewan for the 2014 Herd Management Score.

They pay attention to all aspects, including calves, heifers, rations and cow comfort.

Quill Lake Colony, Quill Lake

In the past year they have increased their attention to genetics and started genomic testing of heifers, providing information to Holstein Canada. They take a balanced approach between conformation and productivity and want cows with longevity.

They are on supervised DHI testing, keep a close eye on Somatic Cell Count results and order a Mastitis4 test for every cow that has a high SCC, and Tschetter checks the mastitis early-warning data. He also watches milk production trends as an early warning system for health issues. Another DHI statistic he looks at closely is age at first calving and says it’s important “to raise heifers right.”

The herd has been DHI milk-tested three times for Ketosis and so far results have been good. At 10 cents per cow, “it’s a cheap test” that helps keep an eye on things.

The cows are kept comfortable on lots of chopped wheat straw bedding over a new set of mats installed recently. Hooves are trimmed twice a year.

The cows are fed a TMR blend of alfalfa and barley silage and supplement, dished out from a feed cart. “Good quality forages are another key to good herd performance,” Tschetter says.

The colony was established in 1977 on land beside Lake Quill, due east of Saskatoon, and also operates a cow-calf beef herd.

SASKATCHEWAN HERD MANAGEMENT SCORE

Rank	Farm Name	Owner	City	Total Score	Herd Size	Breed	Region
1	Quill Lake Colony	Robert Tschetter	Quill Lake	947	114	HO	Saskatoon
2	Cypress Colony	Darrell Entz	Maple Creek	897	85	HO	Swift Current
3	Sierra Colony	—	Shaunavon	884	87	HO	Swift Current
4	Dept Animal & Poultry Science	—	Saskatoon	883	115	HO	Saskatoon East
5	Rynview Holsteins	Michael Wesselingh	Saskatoon	879	62	HO	Saskatoon East
6	Elkrest Farms	Brad, Jason, Trevor Kornelius	Osler	874	756	HO	Saskatoon East
7	Fox Valley Farming Co Ltd	Jake Entz	Fox Valley	857	77	HO	Swift Current
8	Alley Holsteins	Albert Leyenhorst	Dalmeny	851	175	HO	Saskatoon East
9	Pennant Colony	Dan Wipf	Pennant	847	87	HO	Swift Current
10	Dinsmore Colony	David Waldner	Dinsmore	845	93	HO	Saskatoon West
11	Marfay Farms Ltd	Merlis & Mark Wiebe	Osler	833	253	HO	Saskatoon East
12	Broyhill Holsteins	Brian Lindenbach	Balgonie	831	105	HO	Regina
13	Foth Ventures Ltd	Melvin Foth	Hague	819	439	HO	Saskatoon East
14	Diamond Holsteins	Phil & Howard Huizing	Osler	787	296	HO	Saskatoon
15	Vandenbrink Dairy Farms	Henk Van Den Brink	Saskatoon	782	153	HO	Saskatoon West
16	Robella Holsteins	Reg & Juliann Lindenbach	Balgonie	782	83	HO	Regina
17	Postma Dairy Ltd	Jent Postma	Saskatoon	777	147	HO	Saskatoon East
18	Abbyview Farms	Ben Vanderkooi	Saskatoon	756	477	HO	Saskatoon East
19	Milden Colony Dairy	Steven Mandel	Milden	751	93	HO	Saskatoon West
20	Kessel Family Farm	Raymond Kessel	Balgonie	746	156	HO	Regina



Mark Donohoe credits his son, Haydn, with putting the family farm at the top of Herd Management Score for Manitoba in 2014.

Haydn took responsibility for Age at First Calving and Calving Interval three years ago, the two things that “were the missing pieces,” says Mark. It’s a challenging role because heat detection in a tie-stall barn isn’t easy.

Mark and Haydn used DHI records to help with those issues, including pregnancy checking. “We get really excited when test day is coming around because we’re anxious to see results, especially components,” says Mark.

Malarky Holsteins, Minnedosa

Haydn is in charge of choosing sires and credits the Dairy \$ense Workshop, put on by the Manitoba Holstein Branch, for ingraining the management side of farming into him. Last year they earned a Master Breeder shield for their 53-cow milking herd of Holsteins.

They also use DHI to keep track of Somatic Cell Counts and, when necessary, for Mastitis4 testing.

He credits CanWest DHI for constantly adding services that increase benefits so the costs remain reasonable.

They feed a TMR of alfalfa and barley silage balanced with protein and concentrates. They also provide a deep bedding of wheat straw, held in place with bedding keepers. “Some people don’t like them, but we find they keep bedding under the cows and keep their feet from slipping when they’re getting up,” says Mark.

They adhere to a strict regime for feeding and milking. When starting out on his own, Mark went to see a speaker who said there’s no secret to getting milk out of cows – just feed them a well-balanced ration and keep them clean, dry, and comfortable 24 hours a day. “It sounded so easy. It’s hard in the real world but we try,” says Mark.

“There’s no one secret” to achieving a high management score, says Mark. “It’s a dozen things done right, every day.”

MANITOBA HERD MANAGEMENT SCORE

Rank	Farm Name	Owner	City	Total Score	Herd Size	Breed	Region
1	Malarky Holsteins	Mark Donohoe	Minnedosa	899	53	HO	South West
2	Columbine Holsteins	Jacob & Annita Benthem	Elm Creek	882	91	HO	Central
3	Optimist Holsteins	Hans Gorter & Nelleke Vandervliet	Otterburne	847	133	HO	Eastern
4	Labass Holsteins Ltd	Jan & Tracy Bassa	La Broquerie	822	506	HO	Eastern
5	Jakob & Ana Fehr	—	La Broquerie	810	134	HO	Eastern
6	C & D Farms	Cornie Penner	Altona	810	71	HO	Central
7	Mageo Pouteau Farms Ltd	Chris & Carla Pouteau	Mariapolis	806	73	HO	Central
8	Rocky Ridge Dairy	Hotze & Pietje Woudstra	Grunthal	790	171	HO	Eastern
9	Olfert Dairy Inc	Milton Olfert	Winkler	787	93	HO	Central
10	Aletta Joint Ventures	Alvin Plett	Landmark	774	1,217	HO	Eastern
11	Lang Farms Ltd	Arnold & Kim Lange	Dufresne	765	74	HO	Eastern
12	Van Dorp Dairy	Bill & Tanja Van Dorp	Petersfield	759	159	HO	Interlake
13	Clearvale Farm	Jonathan & Judy Hocking	Steinbach	759	98	HO	Eastern
14	Friecrest Holsteins	Ed & Kathy Friesen	Kleefeld	756	81	HO	Eastern
15	Streamline Dairy	Martin & Jennifer Hamming	Roseisle	750	112	HO	Eastern
16	Bannisters Dairy	John Andy Dave Bannister	Lockport	747	120	HO	Interlake
17	Optimal Dairy	Steve Boerchers & Ellen Gorter	Beausejour	744	122	HO	Eastern
18	Zacland Dairy	Conrad & Val Zacharias	Winkler	742	43	HO	Central
19	Noreydo Holsteins	Norbert & Kevin & Ryan Rey	St Claude	738	80	HO	Central
20	Pleemark Holsteins	Matt & Tanya Plett	Blumenort	735	79	HO	Eastern

BRITISH COLUMBIA PUBLISHABLE HERD LISTINGS

Farm	Owner	City	BCA				Records	Kilograms			Breed
			Average	Milk	Fat	Protein		Milk	Fat	Protein	
Romyn Hill Farm Ltd	Brad & Jodi Romyn	Sorrento	308.0	318	295	311	29	14,821 R	3.4%	3.1%	H
Wisselview Farms	Wayne & Judy Wisselink	Pitt Meadows	287.0	293	270	298	101	13,367 *	3.4%	3.2%	H
Triwest Farms	Vic & Terry Triemstra	Chilliwack	285.0	288	288	279	110	12,683 *	3.7%	3.1%	H
Jennifer Veldhuisen	—	Grindrod	285.0	274	303	278	32	12,518	4.2%	3.2%	H,J
Tonesa Holsteins Ltd	Glenn De Groot	Chilliwack	284.3	281	300	272	106	12,530 *	4.0%	3.1%	H
G & A Ferguson	G & A Ferguson	Enderby	273.0	279	261	279	87	9,140	4.4%	3.5%	J,H,A
Hammingview Farms Ltd	Yvonne Murdoch	Pitt Meadows	272.7	269	275	274	77	12,277	3.8%	3.2%	H
Malabar Farm	Norman Vander Wyk	Dewdney	272.0	280	265	271	100	12,466 *	3.5%	3.1%	H
Lindrian Farms	John Tamis	Surrey	272.0	278	262	276	58	11,782	3.7%	3.2%	H,G,J
Van Gard Farms Ltd	Jim Van Garderen	Chilliwack	271.7	278	261	276	50	12,120	3.5%	3.2%	H
H A Antonsen & Co Ltd	Harvey Antonsen	Aldergrove	270.3	273	265	273	53	12,479 R	3.6%	3.2%	H
Sunnyhome Farms Ltd	Richard Carlson	Salmon Arm	267.3	261	276	265	83	12,059	3.9%	3.2%	H
Trinity Holsteins	Paul Schmidt	Mission	266.7	267	269	264	23	12,418	3.7%	3.2%	H
B & L Farms Ltd	Matt Dykshoorn	Abbotsford	265.3	265	269	262	31	12,036	3.8%	3.2%	H
Hamming Holsteins Ltd	Walter & Peggy Hamming	Vernon	264.0	253	282	257	109	11,735	4.2%	3.2%	H,J
Kambro Farms Ltd	Doug Kampman	Abbotsford	263.7	271	262	258	319	11,028 *	3.9%	3.1%	H,J
Lavender Farms Ltd	Gerrit Vaandrager	Abbotsford	263.7	273	260	258	118	12,401 R	3.6%	3.0%	H
Coanwood Farms Ltd	Larry Wigham	Chilliwack	263.3	269	255	266	68	11,805	3.5%	3.2%	H,G
Milky Way Dairy	Frank & Debbie Les	Chilliwack	263.3	257	279	254	61	11,343	4.0%	3.1%	H
Martiann Holsteins Ltd	Martin Hamming	Delta	261.7	260	260	265	148	11,721	3.7%	3.3%	H,J

In order for a herd to be included in the listing, 50% or more of the total records contributing to the herd's average must be Publishable. *Greater than 2X tests (All or Part) R: Robotic

ALBERTA PUBLISHABLE HERD LISTINGS

Farm	Owner	City	BCA				Records	Kilograms			Breed
			Average	Milk	Fat	Protein		Milk	Fat	Protein	
Mars Dairy	Gert & Sonja Schrijver	Stettler	304.3	307	310	296	213	14,253 *	3.7%	3.1%	H
Aspenridge Farms Ltd	Dick & Steve Tenhove	Blackfalds	296.7	296	298	296	45	13,247	3.7%	3.2%	H
Lucky Hill Dairy	—	Lacombe	280.7	281	283	278	173	12,975 *	3.8%	3.2%	H
Stamm Dairy	Heinrich & Beatrice Stamm	Ponoka	279.0	284	273	280	80	12,249 R	3.6%	3.1%	H
Earnewald Holsteins-Dejong Bros Ltd	—	Lacombe	278.0	272	292	270	121	11,817	4.0%	3.2%	H
New Rockport Colony	Steven Wipf	New Dayton	274.0	268	286	268	85	11,873	4.0%	3.2%	H
Royal Hill Farm	—	Lacombe	271.3	268	284	262	206	11,884 *	3.9%	3.1%	H
Janna Dairy Ltd	John Hulsman	Ponoka	271.3	271	278	265	111	12,025 *	3.8%	3.1%	H
Deerfield Colony	Andy Waldner	Magrath	271.3	257	304	253	100	11,512	4.4%	3.1%	H
Poly-C Farms	Cor & Cathy Haagsma	Ponoka	268.3	268	276	261	262	11,790 *	3.8%	3.1%	H
Nifera Holsteins	—	Nobleford	266.7	270	272	258	86	11,956	3.7%	3.0%	H
Irvine Farms Ltd	Doug Wyllie	Vegreville	266.7	265	263	272	37	8,923	4.1%	3.4%	A
Verhoef Dairy	Herman Verhoef	Ponoka	265.0	257	284	254	63	11,579 R	4.1%	3.2%	H
Rinsma Holsteins	Geert Rinsma	Olds	263.7	264	268	259	70	12,412 R	3.8%	3.1%	H
Prairiehome Colony Farming Co Ltd	Jonathan Waldner	Wrentham	262.3	266	258	263	104	11,820	3.6%	3.1%	H
Van Benthem Dairy Ltd	E & J Van Benthem	Red Deer County	262.3	260	270	257	100	11,941	3.9%	3.1%	H
Breevliet Ltd	J.T. De Goeij	Wetaskiwin	260.7	259	264	259	350	11,545 *	3.8%	3.2%	H
Clover Prairie Farms	Brad Bredenhof	Calmar	258.7	267	254	255	46	8,915	4.4%	3.4%	J,H
Solid Rock Farms Ltd	Daniel Kramer	Didsbury	257.7	251	270	252	31	11,087	4.0%	3.2%	H
Three Hills Colony	Dairy Barn	Three Hills	256.7	246	281	243	118	10,544	4.2%	3.2%	H

In order for a herd to be included in the listing, 50% or more of the total records contributing to the herd's average must be Publishable. *Greater than 2X tests (All or Part) R: Robotic

SASKATCHEWAN PUBLISHABLE HERD LISTINGS

Farm	Owner	City	BCA				Records	Kilograms			Breed
			Average	Milk	Fat	Protein		Milk	Fat	Protein	
Rynview Holsteins	Michael Wesselingh	Saskatoon	299.7	310	294	295	50	13,913	3.5%	3.0%	H
Prairie Diamond Farm	Harley Strudwick	Balgonie	286.0	285	286	287	42	12,917	3.7%	3.2%	H
Foth Ventures Ltd	Melvin Foth	Hague	277.0	273	282	276	330	12,261 *	3.8%	3.2%	H
Dept Animal & Poultry Sci	—	Saskatoon	267.3	266	270	266	106	11,862 *	3.8%	3.2%	H
Postma Dairy Ltd	Jent Postma	Saskatoon	264.7	252	286	256	120	11,544	4.2%	3.2%	H
Elkrest Farms	B, J, & T Kornelius	Osler	260.3	259	259	263	630	11,626 *	3.7%	3.2%	H
Pennant Colony	Dan Wipf	Pennant	257.7	255	260	258	80	11,480	3.8%	3.2%	H
Robella Holsteins	Reg & Juliann Lindenbach	Balgonie	255.7	248	272	247	61	11,379	4.1%	3.2%	H
Morsan Milkstream Ltd	Greg Thalen	Ponoka	254.7	247	270	247	346	10,389 *	4.0%	3.2%	H,B
Quill Lake Colony	Robert Tschetter	Quill Lake	254.7	248	270	246	92	11,294	4.0%	3.2%	H
Richard & Ashley Vanderkooi	—	Warman	254.7	254	254	256	91	10,608 *	3.9%	3.3%	H,J,B
Broyhill Holsteins	Brian Lindenbach	Balgonie	254.3	251	263	249	82	11,437	3.9%	3.1%	H
Alley Holsteins	Albert Leyenhorst	Dalmeny	250.3	250	250	251	150	11,434 *	3.7%	3.2%	H
Eatonia Farming Co Ltd	Dave Mandel	Eatonia	244.3	242	243	248	147	10,994	3.7%	3.3%	H
Smiley Hutterite Colony	Leonard Kleinsasser	Smiley	244.3	232	261	240	104	10,341	4.2%	3.3%	H
Star City Colony	Ruben Tschetter	Star City	244.0	235	257	240	175	10,349	4.1%	3.2%	H
Baumann Holsteins	Emanuel Baumann	Kipling	244.0	240	247	245	57	11,340	3.8%	3.2%	H
Kessel Family Farm	Raymond Kessel	Balgonie	242.7	246	239	243	135	11,191	3.6%	3.1%	H
Marfay Farms Ltd	Merlis & Mark Wiebe	Osler	241.3	241	243	240	220	10,841 *	3.8%	3.2%	H
Dinsmore Colony	David Waldner	Dinsmore	241.0	236	247	240	87	10,561	3.9%	3.2%	H

*In order for a herd to be included in the listing, 50% or more of the total records contributing to the herd's average must be Publishable. *Greater than 2X tests (All or Part) R: Robotic*



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MANITOBA PUBLISHABLE HERD LISTINGS

Farm	Owner	City	BCA				Records	Kilograms			Breed
			Average	Milk	Fat	Protein		Milk	Fat	Protein	
Aggies Holsteins	Hermann & Curtis Hueging	Woodlands	304.7	305	309	300	111	13,918	3.8%	3.1%	H
Current Holsteins	Darren & Allison Hueging	Woodlands	303.3	303	310	297	56	13,984	3.8%	3.1%	H
Friecrest Holsteins	Ed & Kathy Friesen	Kleefeld	279.0	273	301	263	76	12,196	4.1%	3.1%	H
Malarky Holsteins	Mark Donohoe	Minnedosa	276.3	278	278	273	42	12,970	3.7%	3.1%	H
Lifewind Holsteins	Christophe Roulin	Stonewall	265.0	261	277	257	46	12,206 *	3.9%	3.1%	H
Isaac Dairy Ltd	Brent & Victoria Isaac	Kleefeld	264.3	259	291	243	76	11,678 *	4.2%	3.0%	H
Labass Holsteins Ltd	Jan & Tracy Bassa	La Broquerie	261.7	263	267	255	415	11,569 *	3.8%	3.1%	H
Bannisters Dairy	John Andy Dave Bannister	Lockport	261.3	261	263	260	94	11,576	3.7%	3.2%	H
Alcorn Dairy	Werner & Lori Wiebe	Grunthal	259.3	253	275	250	56	10,821	4.0%	3.2%	H
Van Dorp Dairy	Bill & Tanja Van Dorp	Petersfield	255.0	255	253	257	92	10,889	3.8%	3.3%	H,J,A
Dueck Holsteins	Jeremy Dueck	Landmark	250.3	255	245	251	41	11,372	3.6%	3.1%	H
Clearvale Farm	Jonathan & Judy Hocking	Steinbach	250.0	253	250	247	82	11,258 R	3.7%	3.1%	H
Donfield Farms Ltd	Garry Donohoe	Brandon	250.0	246	254	250	68	11,756	3.8%	3.2%	H
Jakob & Ana Fehr	—	La Broquerie	249.7	252	254	243	108	11,366 R	3.7%	3.1%	H
Columbine Holsteins	Jacob & Annita Benthem	Elm Creek	249.0	248	247	252	81	11,333	3.7%	3.2%	H
Vandel Holsteins	L Vandenbossche	Bruxelles	249.0	252	242	253	79	11,045	3.6%	3.2%	H
Airport Colony	Michael Maendel	Portage	248.3	252	253	240	52	11,438	3.7%	3.0%	H
James Valley Colony	Tim Wurtz	Elie	248.0	254	250	240	59	11,935 *	3.7%	3.0%	H
Iberville Colony Farms	Chris Gross	Elie	245.7	249	248	240	27	10,994	3.7%	3.1%	H
Pouteau Holsteins Ltd	Darcy, Randy & Ed Pouteau	Swan Lake	244.7	243	249	242	71	11,237	3.8%	3.2%	H

In order for a herd to be included in the listing, 50% or more of the total records contributing to the herd's average must be Publishable. *Greater than 2X tests (All or Part) R: Robotic



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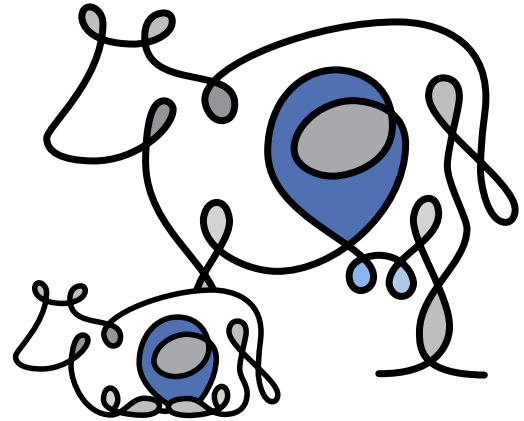
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MANAGEMENT CENTRE BENCHMARKS *All Western Canada DHI Herds based on 2014 herd averages*

	British Columbia				Alberta				Saskatchewan				Manitoba			
MANAGEMENT CENTRE	25th	50th	75th	90th	25th	50th	75th	90th	25th	50th	75th	90th	25th	50th	75th	90th
Number of Cows	76	112	172	281	84	119	163	253	90	132	183	316	63	88	134	247
Standard Milk (kgs)	31.7	34.8	37.3	39.0	32.6	34.9	37.3	39.4	32.5	35.4	38.1	40.4	30.1	33.9	36.3	38.3
Annual Milk Value (\$)	6,694	7,292	7,909	8,324	6,477	7,188	7,800	8,218	6,429	7,052	7,828	8,513	5,788	6,767	7,455	7,872
Udder Health (Linear Score)	2.7	2.4	2.1	1.9	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.0	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.3	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.2
Age at 1st Calving (MO)	27.2	25.7	24.8	24.1	27.1	25.8	24.7	23.9	27.8	26.1	24.6	23.9	28.5	26.6	25.2	24.4
Calving Interval (MO)	14.3	13.7	13.3	13.0	14.1	13.4	13.0	12.7	14.5	13.8	13.2	12.9	15.0	14.0	13.3	13.0
% Herd in 3+ Lactation	29.4	34.2	40.0	45.5	30.3	34.6	39.6	44.9	30.7	35.8	39.1	42.6	29.3	34.8	39.5	44.1
Efficiency (% Herd in Milk)	84.8	86.7	88.2	89.7	81.2	84.9	87.4	89.2	80.5	83.2	86.1	88.5	78.9	84.6	87.4	89.3
Turnover (% Herd Removed)	43.1	36.6	30.4	24.3	45.7	38.4	31.7	25.7	48.9	39.0	32.5	24.0	45.9	37.4	30.9	23.8
Days Dry	77	66	60	55	83	72	62	55	91	80	67	56	99	76	64	54
Days to 1st Breeding	103	92	82	76	96	82	73	67	99	84	76	70	103	86	77	70

HOW PERCENTILES WORK: If all the herds (animals could be substituted for herds) were arranged in order from lowest to highest, the 75th percentile would be the value of the herd that is better than 75% of all the other herds. The 99th percentile value is that which is better than 99% of all the other herds.

HERD DEMOGRAPHICS

BRITISH COLUMBIA	Herd Size				Housing		Frequency		Robotic
	0-49	50-99	100-199	200+	Tie-Stall	Free-Stall	2×	3×	
Number of Herds	33	99	121	65	12	300	254	37	27
% of Herds	10.4	31.1	38.1	20.4	3.8	94.3	79.9	11.6	8.5
% of Cows	2.3	15.8	34.1	47.9	1.2	95.1	74.5	19.4	6.1
Average Herd Size	34.0	77.1	136.4	357.0	50.3	153.6	142.2	253.7	109.9
Average 305 Milk	9,315	9,471	10,196	10,370	8,989	9,952	9,701	10,898	10,574
Average 305 Fat	359	365	388	387	352	379	372	413	385
Average 305 Protein	299	304	326	328	296	318	311	345	333
BCA Milk	217	216	231	232	217	225	221	246	235
BCA Fat	214	217	233	233	207	227	222	249	229
BCA Protein	215	215	230	231	215	224	220	243	232
Average SCC	164	181	172	213	230	180	177	201	212
ALBERTA									
Number of Herds	27	134	214	63	43	389	380	22	36
% of Herds	6.2	30.6	48.9	14.4	9.8	88.8	86.8	5.0	8.2
% of Cows	1.7	17.0	49.3	32.0	5.7	93.5	81.7	10.4	7.8
Average Herd Size	37.0	75.0	136.1	299.5	78.7	141.9	127.0	279.8	128.7
Average 305 Milk	8,751	9,679	9,891	9,968	9,190	9,854	9,639	10,967	10,387
Average 305 Fat	330	366	381	382	352	377	370	417	385
Average 305 Protein	286	308	314	317	295	313	307	344	332
BCA Milk	202	214	220	224	203	220	215	243	232
BCA Fat	198	217	228	229	208	225	221	249	229
BCA Protein	204	214	219	223	205	219	214	239	232
Average SCC	245	199	208	243	219	209	209	216	249
SASKATCHEWAN									
Number of Herds	2	32	50	24	12	94	82	19	7
% of Herds	1.9	29.6	46.3	22.2	11.1	87.0	75.9	17.6	6.5
% of Cows	0.3	13.1	37.9	48.8	4.8	94.1	56.4	38.0	5.6
Average Herd Size	24.0	77.7	143.8	385.5	76.5	190.0	130.4	379.9	151.6
Average 305 Milk	8,941	9,885	10,013	10,264	9,763	10,070	9,819	10,810	10,087
Average 305 Fat	299	369	383	389	373	380	371	415	369
Average 305 Protein	287	318	324	328	315	324	317	346	330
BCA Milk	191	221	220	228	220	222	217	239	223
BCA Fat	172	220	227	232	219	226	220	246	219
BCA Protein	192	223	224	228	220	225	220	240	229
Average SCC	252	226	265	271	197	263	249	276	257
MANITOBA									
Number of Herds	23	90	57	27	70	127	151	18	28
% of Herds	11.7	45.7	28.9	13.7	35.5	64.5	76.6	9.1	14.2
% of Cows	3.0	23.1	27.1	46.8	19.0	81.0	64.1	23.1	12.9
Average Herd Size	36.8	72.2	134.0	488.4	76.6	179.6	119.5	361.1	129.3
Average 305 Milk	8,631	9,490	9,689	9,564	9,541	9,412	9,269	10,524	9,788
Average 305 Fat	330	355	369	362	364	353	352	396	359
Average 305 Protein	279	300	307	302	304	298	295	327	308
BCA Milk	200	213	213	216	215	210	208	234	217
BCA Fat	198	212	218	219	216	211	210	237	214
BCA Protein	199	210	212	213	213	208	207	229	214
Average SCC	225	257	262	293	250	265	254	270	281



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10-19.....	7
20-29.....	10
30-39.....	25
40-49.....	40
50-59.....	62
60-69.....	73
70-79.....	78
80-89.....	68
90-99.....	74
100-109.....	75
110-119.....	57
120-129.....	82
130-139.....	58
140-149.....	38
150-159.....	27
160-169.....	39
170-179.....	30
180-189.....	20
190-199.....	16
200+.....	179

* All Provinces

DISPOSAL REASONS									
Reason	British Columbia		Alberta		Saskatchewan		Manitoba		

Reproductive	3,237	28%	4,460	30%	952	23%	1,777	26%	
Mastitis/High SCC	2,328	20%	2,198	15%	621	15%	1,352	20%	
Low Milk Production	1,524	13%	2,380	16%	446	11%	965	14%	
Feet & Leg Problems	1,542	13%	1,556	10%	428	11%	709	10%	
Udder Breakdown	771	7%	1,554	10%	347	9%	635	9%	
Sickness	881	8%	1,173	8%	426	10%	667	10%	
Injury/Accident	801	7%	609	4%	284	7%	352	5%	
Old Age	375	3%	501	3%	110	3%	162	2%	
Exported	100	1%	333	2%	426	10%	119	2%	
Slow Milker	110	1%	238	2%	30	1%	81	1%	



LOOKING FORWARD

Genomics: a new tool to select for feed efficiency in dairy cattle

Filippo Miglior, Canadian Dairy Network & University of Guelph

Sophisticated statistical methods are used to predict the genetic merit of individuals using information from daughters, parents and other relatives. These methods are able to separate genetic and environmental effects. Their application has been very successful in dairy cattle for the improvement of easily measured traits, such as individual milk yield, which has increased dramatically over the past 50 years. The success of this approach is mainly due to the feasibility of recording traits of interest from thousands of herds. However, this strategy is not feasible for traits that are more difficult and costly to measure.

The advent of genomics and its swift uptake by the dairy industry provide an exceptional opportunity to genetically improve the national herd for those novel traits that are more costly to record. Feed is currently the largest expense related to milk production. Thus, improving a dairy cow's efficiency in converting feed into milk (feed efficiency) would bring considerable economic benefit to the industry. More efficient animals also produce less manure and emit less methane, reducing the industry's footprint on the environment. Preliminary estimates show that breeding for increased feed efficiency can decrease annual cost of feed by \$108/cow/yr. However, collecting reliable field data on individual animals for feed efficiency is very difficult and expensive, so to date there has been no large-scale direct selection for these traits in dairy cattle. Genomics, however, offers an opportunity to change this situation.

Provided that enough genotypes and phenotypes can be collected to create a reference population of sufficient size, marker effects for feed efficiency can be calculated and genomic predictions made for all animals genotyped in a population, including young animals without known phenotypes. Industry breeding strategies can then effectively incorporate this important trait. Genomic selection for feed efficiency will decrease the amount of feed required for achieving the same production, and reduce manure and methane emissions, which will have a cumulative and permanent beneficial impact on the environment.

Canada has been participating in the international project "Global Dry Matter Initiative" (gDMI), where a total of nine countries have contributed genotypes and daily dry matter intake (DMI) data collected



on lactating cows and growing heifers from various research herds worldwide, with the objective of using this joint data as a reference population for genomic selection. Initial results are promising. However, results are not yet applicable to Canada as the size of the Canadian data contributed to the project was especially modest (200 cows from the University of Alberta). Therefore, a joint academia-industry effort is currently underway to enlarge the Canadian reference population for feed efficiency and to develop a reference population for methane emission.

The first significant Canadian project has just been approved for funding by the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA), and one large national project is currently under review by Genome Canada to collate the enlarged Canadian data together with data from three International partners (Australia, UK and US). If the second project is approved for funding, Canada will have the opportunity to become a global leader in the genetic determination of feed efficiency traits that will contribute to both improved feed efficiency and reduced greenhouse base emissions – supporting a green and sustainable dairy industry.



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