Dairy Farmers of Ontario announces new general manager

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DFO APPOINTS NEW GENERAL MANAGER
Current communications director and general counsel to assume role Aug. 1

CANADIAN CHEESE DOMINATES SIAL
Dairy Farmers of Canada’s booth featured 20 Canadian cheesemakers

RESEARCH LEADS TO PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS
How research in cow welfare can help dairy farmers address public concerns

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Technological advances, both on and off the farm, will change agricultural and food industry landscape both now and in the future.

Technology on and off the farm can take many forms. Advances in animal care practices and procedures, as well as food innovation and development, are changing the agricultural and food industry landscape as we know it today.

On the farm side, there are many improvements taking place that affect all aspects of the operation, from incorporating automation to detecting patterns and troubleshooting areas that need improvement. This month’s cover story (pages 30 to 33) on the future of farming examines the tools and strategies some farmers are using to improve their farms. For example, on Hoenhorst Farms, the Wensink family uses Digi-Star TMR Tracker to feed adult cows, as well as accurately load feed and track how animals are fed. There’s also a new tool available in Canada that helps producers monitor their pregnant cows. Reception of the product has been overwhelming, says a representative from the company’s Canadian distributor.

According to one Toronto agriculture expert, Canadian dairy farmers are among world leaders when it comes to using technology in agriculture. And with the global population expected to grow to around nine billion by 2050, farmers can expect a 50 to 70 per cent rise in demand for food, the expert notes. These figures echo the same statements in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s (AAFC) summarized report on current trends and emerging opportunities for food processing innovation. AAFC notes there is an abundance of food processing trends and emerging opportunities that will impact how food is grown, processed, delivered and consumed in the future. It identified current trends in two groups: consumer preferences and marketplace pressures, as well as opportunities that are likely to appear within the next five years—innovative ingredients or emerging technologies.

Under consumer preferences, it states shifting demographics, precipitated by aging baby boomers, the growing purchasing power of millennials and increased ethnic diversity, are contributing to changing food preferences. These factors are influencing trends toward food products with enhanced nutrition, ethical food choices, such as animal welfare and fair trade, environmentally-sustainable diets, as well as new taste profiles and flavour combinations. Additionally, as the population grows, the industry is challenged to produce more food to meet the growing demand. Addressing food security is further complicated by the desire to improve sustainability. The industry is under pressure to produce more food under diverse conditions, but use the least amount of resources possible and minimize its impact on the environment, including waste reduction and recycling.

The AAFC report recognizes increasing prevalence of third-party verification systems is being driven, in part, by consumer desires to align food choices with personal values. Consumers want additional standards that enable them to choose products with the desired environmental and personal choice attributes. The food processing industry will need to adapt to this increased marketplace pressure by building public trust and aligning corporate behaviour and products with consumer values. As well, Canada’s reputation for having a high-quality food supply depends on a superior food safety system, with enhanced traceability and data management, and increasing audit requirements.

In terms of innovative ingredients and emerging technologies, the population’s health concerns are a major factor driving the development of food ingredients with enhanced nutrition. There are also opportunities for processors in the category of food additives. For example, the demand is growing for sugar replacements, non-caloric sweeteners and natural alternative sweeteners, such as tagatose, a naturally-occurring substance in dairy products. The report states emerging technologies, such as biotechnology, provide a wide range of tools that can be applied to food. Nutrigenomics, which examines how genetic profiles interact with different foods and dietary patterns, can lower the risk of developing diet-related chronic diseases. Additional opportunities for the food processing industry include using nanotechnology and other technological advancements to improve packaging.

If you want to dig deeper on the subject of technological opportunities in the dairy industry, turn to page 30.

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FILLING ALL MARKETS WITH CANADIAN MILK

This past winter, Sandra and I had the pleasure of visiting India. Our third daughter, Andrea, is studying international development at the University of Toronto’s Scarborough Campus, and part of the co-op program involves spending a year abroad. Andrea secured a placement in central India, specifically in Korba, a city of about 300,000, about a 10-hour train ride west of Kolkata.

Sandra and I arrived in late January for 15 days to experience sights, sounds and smells we’ve never encountered before. Of course, I was viewing the experience through the lens of a Canadian dairy farmer and, therefore, was eager to learn how the whole dairy industry worked there. Agriculture was not the focus of the trip, but we found lots of opportunities to see several aspects of food production.

Of particular note was the high consumption of milk and dairy products in India. The most common drink served is chai. It comprises 50 per cent steamed milk and 50 per cent water, tea leaves, ginger, sugar, cardamom, cloves, cinnamon and other spices. Everywhere you go, you’re likely to be offered chai. When we first met Andrea’s host family, we were offered chai. When we went to the office where Andrea works, we were offered chai. On the overnight train to Kolkata, a vendor walked through the train periodically yelling “chai, chai, chai.” There are even street vendors making fresh chai.

Any milk we were offered was hot. You soon learn your bowl of Corn Flakes gets soggy pretty quickly with hot milk. We also enjoyed a number of sweet desserts, which were made from a variety of dairy bases, such as milk, milk solids, milk powder, yogurt and paneer (cheese). A majority of Indian sweets are made with milk products. Many dairy drinks are also very popular in India, such as flavoured milk drinks, milkshakes, buttermilk, and most prevalent, lassi, a yogurt drink served sweet or salty, and available in many flavours. Another aspect I found interesting is vegetarian cuisine is very common in India. Most restaurant menus prominently feature vegetarian sections. We even found a Subway in the Delhi airport with “veg” and “non-veg” lineups. This means many South Asians turn to dairy as a significant source of dietary protein.

All this got me wondering if the Canadian dairy industry is doing a good enough job of providing products to Canadians who wish to indulge in Indian foods containing dairy. There are many people from India and surrounding countries who now call Canada home, and a growing population of people who want to experience Indian and other ethnic foods. I am told many Indian dairy foods can be found here, but just as many are imported.

There is much discussion in the Canadian dairy industry regarding innovation. It is critical we continue this focus. Alongside innovation, we need to ensure we are making dairy products from around the world made with Canadian milk, and getting these foods into the hands of Canadian consumers.

INUNDER TOUS LES MARCHÉS DE LAIT ÊTRE CANADIEN

L’hiver dernier, Sandra et moi avons eu le plaisir de visiter l’Inde. Notre troisième fille, Andrea, étudie le développement mondial à l’Université de Toronto à Scarborough et, dans le cadre de son programme d’alternance travail-études, elle doit passer une année à l’étranger. Andrea a trouvé une place dans le centre de l’Inde, à Korba plus précisément, une ville d’environ 300 000 habitants située à 10 heures de train à l’ouest de Calcutta.

Sandra et moi sommes arrivés fin janvier pour 15 jours, prêts à découvrir des paysages, des sons et des odeurs dont nous n’avions jamais fait l’expérience auparavant. Bien sûr, j’envisageais cette expérience avec les yeux d’un producteur laitier canadien, et par conséquent j’étais avide de découvrir le fonctionnement de l’industrie laitière locale. Bien que l’agriculture n’ait pas été l’élément central de notre voyage, de nombreuses occasions de découvrir divers aspects de la production agro-alimentaire se sont présentées à nous.

Nous avons été particulièrement frappés par l’importante consommation de lait et de produits laitiers en Inde. La boisson la plus couramment servie est le chai. Elle se compose de 50 % de lait moussé et de 50 % d’eau, de feuilles de thé, de gingembre, de sucre, de cardamome, de girofle, de cannelle et d’autres épices. Où que vous alliez, il y a fort à parier que l’on vous proposera du chai. Lorsque nous avons rencontré la famille d’accueil d’Andrea, on nous a proposé du chai. Au bureau d’Andrea, on nous a proposé du chai. Dans le train de nuit pour Calcutta, un vendeur passait régulièrement dans les wagons en criant “cha, cha, cha.” On trouve même des marchands de rue qui préparent du chai frais.

Le lait que l’on nous proposait était invariablement chaud. On a tôt fait de découvrir que les céréales se détrempent rapidement dans le lait chaud. Nous avons également eu l’occasion de déguster plusieurs desserts sucrés à base de divers produits laitiers tels que du lait, des solides du lait, de la poudre de lait, du yogourt et du paneer (frommage). La plupart des confiseries indiennes sont préparées avec des produits laitiers. Beaucoup de boissons à base de produits laitiers sont populaires en Inde, telles que des boissons au lait aromatisées, le lait fâpé, le baberve, et surtout le lassi, une boisson à base de yogourt servie sucrée ou salée de différentes saveurs. La grande présence de la cuisine végétarienne en Inde m’a aussi interpelée. Les menus de la plupart des restaurants mettent en vedette leurs plats végétariens. À l’aéroport de Delhi, nous avons même trouvé un Subway proposant une sélection végétarienne et une autre non végétarienne. Cela signifie qu’une grande partie de la population d’Asie du Sud compte sur les produits laitiers pour assurer une grande partie de leur apport en protéines.

Cette expérience m’a amené à réfléchir à la situation au Canada : l’industrie laitière fait-elle assez pour proposer des produits adaptés aux Canadiens qui souhaitent déguster des denrées indiennes contenant des produits laitiers? De nombreuses personnes originaires d’Inde et des pays environnants ont fait du Canada leur foyer, et toujours plus de gens souhaitent découvrir la cuisine indienne ainsi que d’autres traditions culinaires ethniques. On m’a dit qu’un grand nombre de produits laitiers indiens sont en vente ici, mais une bonne partie d’entre eux est importée.

Les discussions concernant l’innovation vont bon train dans l’industrie laitière canadienne. La persévérance dans cet effort est d’une importance critique. Mais outre l’innovation, nous devons aussi nous assurer que les produits laitiers indiens, asiatiques ou d’ailleurs vendus ici au Canada soient préparés avec du lait canadien et mis en valeur auprès des consommateurs.
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1 Based on Canadian environmental mastitis vaccine labels. 2 Based on Canadian J-VAC product label. 3 Canadian Quality Milk On-Farm Food Safety Program Reference Manual, June 2010.
A SYSTEM WORTH DEFENDING

Are you on board to defend a system that is good for all Canadians?

Canadian dairy producers are privileged to operate their farms under a system that controls production levels to meet, but not exceed, market demands while providing a fair return for their investments. The insight of key people in the early 1970s to create a fair and equitable system for all producers has resulted in a sustainable industry we can enjoy today.

Since the start of supply management (SM), many changes have been made over the years. Decisions are made at the provincial, pool and national levels. One of the biggest changes has been the national ingredients strategy, which came into effect this past February.

The environment we are working in is constantly changing. The industry is making necessary adjustments to keep SM relevant and functional. In spite of many outside forces, SM continues to work and work quite well.

The reason I wrote all this is because I believe dairy producers can’t take what they have for granted. We need to continually work on defending and promoting our system. This is done by Dairy Farmers of Canada in Ottawa with the federal government through its activities, such as lobbying and making presentations, among other activities. At the provincial level, this happens through meetings between provincial boards and Members of Parliament and ministers. As well, provincial boards need to work together and find common solutions, where needed.

Individual dairy producers need to do their part whenever they can. We need to seize opportunities to educate our families, neighbours and friends about what it means to support SM. We need to talk to provincial representatives in positions of power. When people want to support local communities, they need to understand why agriculture as a whole—even more so supply-managed commodities—are so important. It is only when the consumer understands this that support for SM can grow. We have to realize the total number of people working in the agriculture sector is very small, but every person is a consumer.

I recently visited Europe where I learned many
dairy farmers need a second stream of income to run their farms. This was an eye opener. When listening to stories of hardship from American dairy farmers, it becomes apparent they are unable to make a living. The dairy industry in Australia is shrinking since it started deregulation, which has resulted in consumers paying more for dairy products than ever before.

We are blessed to call Canada home and privileged to be dairy producers. We need to get the message out the system works for producers, processors, governments and, above all, consumers. Are you on board to defend a system that is good for all Canadians?

GERRIT DAMSTEEGT, chair
Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia
May 19, 2017

UN SYSTÈME À DÉFENDRE

Êtes-vous prêt à défendre un système dont tous les Canadiens bénéficient?

Les producteurs laitiers canadiens ont le privilège d’œuvrer dans un système qui contrôle les niveaux de production à atteindre pour répondre à la demande du marché tout en assurant une rentabilité juste. Grâce aux créateurs avant-gardistes, dans les années 1970, d’un système juste et équitable pour tous les producteurs, l’industrie durable que nous connaissons aujourd’hui a pu émerger.

Depuis la mise en place de la gestion de l’offre, de nombreuses transformations ont eu lieu. L’administration provinciale, fédérale et les principaux acteurs de l’industrie prennent les décisions. La stratégie nationale d’ingrédients, mise en œuvre en février dernier, constitue l’un des changements les plus importants.

L’environnement dans lequel nous opérons est en constante mutation. L’industrie effectue les ajustements nécessaires à la pérennité et au bon fonctionnement du système de gestion de l’offre. Malgré l’action de nombreuses forces externes, ce système fonctionne toujours, et il fonctionne bien.

Si j’écris tout cela, c’est parce que je pense que les producteurs laitiers ne doivent pas tenir ce qu’ils ont pour acquis. Nous devons travailler constamment à la défense et à la promotion de notre système. Les Producteurs laitiers du Canada y travaillent auprès du gouvernement fédéral à Ottawa, notamment par le lobbying et des présentations. Au provincial, des réunions entre les commissions provinciales et les députés ainsi que des représentants des ministères remplissent ce rôle. En outre, les commissions provinciales doivent lorsque cela est nécessaire travailler ensemble et élaborer des solutions communes.

Les producteurs laitiers doivent contribuer dès qu’ils en ont la chance. Nous devons saisir toutes les occasions qui se présentent à nous pour éduquer nos familles, nos voisins et nos amis sur la vraie signification d’un soutien au système de gestion de l’offre. Nous devons parler aux représentants provinciaux qui occupent des postes d’influence. Quiconque souhaite soutenir les communautés locales doit comprendre l’importance du secteur agricole en tant que système, à plus forte raison lorsque l’offre fait l’objet d’une gestion. Le soutien au système de gestion de l’offre ne peut se développer que lorsque les consommateurs comprennent cela. Nous devons réaliser que le nombre total de personnes travaillant dans le secteur agricole est très petit, mais que chaque personne est un consommateur.

J’ai récemment visité l’Europe où j’ai appris que de nombreux producteurs laitiers ont besoin d’une seconde source de revenus pour assurer le fonctionnement de leurs exploitations. Cette expérience m’a ouvert les yeux. Lorsque l’on écoute les histoires de producteurs laitiers étrangers, il devient évident qu’ils ne sont pas en mesure de gagner leur vie. Depuis le début de sa dérégulation, l’industrie laitière australienne est en perte de vitesse, ce qui entraîne une hausse sans précédent des prix des produits laitiers pour les consommateurs.

Nous avons de la chance que le Canada soit notre patrie et nous avons le privilège d’être des producteurs laitiers. Nous devons faire comprendre à tous que le système fonctionne pour les producteurs, les transformateurs, les gouvernements et, avant tout, les consommateurs. Êtes-vous prêt à défendre un système dont tous les Canadiens bénéficient?
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Dairy Farmers of Ontario’s (DFO) board of directors has announced Graham Lloyd has been promoted to the position of general manager, effective Aug. 1. Lloyd will start his position immediately following Peter Gould’s, current general manager, retirement on July 31, 2017.

Lloyd, who currently serves as communications director and general counsel, started his career with the dairy industry as the organization’s general counsel and secretary to the board in July 2011. Lloyd’s portfolio expanded to include director of communications, where he became heavily involved in government relations and managed the activities of the communications division.

During this tenure, Lloyd has led numerous initiatives, including the introduction of social media as a communication platform, the expansion and improved efficiencies of Milk Producer magazine, expansion of the dairy education program in Ontario school boards, introduction of the dairy producer committee liaison role, as well as strategic messaging and government relations.

As part of the senior management team at DFO, Lloyd has been instrumental in many accomplishments, such as the implementation of the national ingredients strategy and seizing significant market growth opportunities. In a very short time, Lloyd has quickly learned about all aspects of the dairy industry.

“Numerous government contacts, industry partners, and our processor community recognize how valuable Lloyd has become to the industry at large. Anyone who has worked with Lloyd will know his incredible passion for the industry, his desire to protect the interests of dairy producers, and his drive for results,” says Ralph Dietrich, DFO chair. He adds Lloyd has built strong relationships and is valued for his strategic thinking. “Lloyd has a reputation for his relentless pursuit of excellence,” Dietrich says.

“This is a great honour and privilege. Dairy is an important contributor to the Canadian economy and the health of Canadians,” Lloyd says. “We have a great team at DFO. I look forward to working hard on behalf of dairy farmers and our stakeholders to grow our industry.”

Lloyd will continue to work with and for producers, in partnership with staff, as well as all levels of government, processors and industry partners to grow Canada’s strong dairy industry, Dietrich says.

The dairy industry is undergoing shifting times, where trade, growth, innovation and consumer trends dictate the landscape and opportunities ahead, Dietrich says. “Lloyd’s leadership will be invaluable during these times. Our focus is to work with our industry partners to continue to strengthen the Canadian dairy industry and work collaboratively with government toward positive outcomes,” he says.

Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) is relaunching its website—www.milk.org—with a new design in late June. The more user-friendly site has updated and improved information about DFO and the dairy industry.

There has been a steady increase in producers, stakeholders and consumers seeking news and information from DFO’s website, says Graham Lloyd, DFO’s general counsel and director of communications. DFO’s communications team recognized a need to upgrade the website with more comprehensive information to reflect its various user groups, he adds.

The updated website features a modern design, with a top navigation bar and drop down menus, new photography and graphics, and integration of DFO’s social media accounts. It also features expanded dairy education program and Milk Producer magazine sections, as well as more information for new farmers and processors, and general information about the dairy industry directed toward consumers.

“The new website will enhance DFO’s online presence and let us communicate with producers and consumers more efficiently,” says DFO’s communications manager Laural Adams.

When users log in through the redesigned www.milk.org, they will be directed to the current dashboard and information that resides behind the password. And when DFO’s milk marketing system (MMS) launches later this year, producers and stakeholders will see a newly designed website when they log in. DFO will be communicating with website users over the coming months about the MMS launch.
Bonnie Mallard, a professor in the department of pathobiology at the University of Guelph (U of G), recently received one of six 2017 Governor General’s Award for Innovation from Governor General David Johnston. Johnston congratulated Mallard and other award recipients via Facebook messenger. 

Created in 2016, the awards celebrate groundbreaking research that enhances quality of life for Canadians. Mallard developed an immuno-genetic profiling tool that improves animal health and food quality and safety, and promotes greener farming. 

“Professor Mallard’s work epitomizes our approach to research at the University of Guelph, making cutting-edge, fundamental discoveries and creating innovations that improve life and livelihoods,” says Malcolm Campbell, vice-president (research).

Mallard’s High Immune Response (HIR) technology uses animal genetics and immunity to breed healthier cattle naturally and safely. 

“It is a real honour to have been nominated and I feel very privileged to have won,” Mallard says.

She worked with colleagues in U of G’s Ontario Veterinary College and the Ontario Agricultural College’s Centre for Genetic Improvement of Livestock, as well as with researchers from across Canada.

The patented HIR technology allows breeders to identify and breed cows with better immunity to disease, especially mastitis, metritis and pneumonia. These diseases cost livestock producers millions of dollars every year, and are the primary cause of antibiotic use.

Between 20 and 30 per cent of variation in immune response stems from inherited factors rather than from husbandry practices, such as housing or nutrition, Mallard says. “The advantage of the inherited factor is that these genes can be identified and used to select future offspring with more robust immunity,” she says.

Mallard worked with companies, including Semex Canada, to create a test for routine use on Canadian dairy farms. HIR genetics are now available globally, and a test is also under investigation for swine, horses and other species.

Besides improving animal health and milk quality, better breeding leads to less antibiotic use on farms, which helps improve land and water quality, Mallard says.
FARM & FOOD CARE CANADA TRANSITIONS TO CANADIAN CENTRE FOR FOOD INTEGRITY

Farm & Food Care Canada (FFCC) has now transitioned to become the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity (CCFI).

“After much consideration and consultation, (we) feel this is the right strategic direction and organizational model that’s needed to help Canada’s food system earn trust in the future,” says Ian McKillop, FFCC chair. “This refined focus will strengthen CCFI’s trust earning services and provide enhanced support for Farm & Food Care Ontario and Saskatchewan, and many other agri-food sector partners working in this area.”

The decision was made after FFCC’s board of directors evaluated its mission, vision and organizational structure. FFCC says the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity, with its research, training and consumer support services, is well equipped to provide valuable expertise and support to the entire food system.

The new CCFI is funded by partners and individuals from across the food system and country. It will be governed by a small board of directors and a larger advisory council representing the entire agri-food chain. Farm & Food Care Canada’s board will serve as the transition board for the new CCFI until the new board and advisory council is in place in the next few months.

Farm & Food Care Canada was created in 2010 as a charity with the mandate of building public trust in Canadian food and farming. The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity was launched in 2016 as a program of Farm & Food Care Canada, and an affiliate of The Center for Food Integrity, created in the United States in 2007.

The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity is a not-for-profit organization that helps today’s food system earn trust. Members and project partners, who represent the diversity of the food system, are committed to providing accurate information and working together to address important issues in food and agriculture. CCFI does not lobby or advocate for individual companies or brands.

To learn more or be a part of the progress, agri-food representatives are encouraged to attend the CCFI Public Trust Summit in Calgary, Alta., from Sept. 18 to 20. To register for the event, visit www.foodintegrity.ca.
CVMA BEGINS UPDATING VETERINARY ANTIMICROBIAL MEDICATION GUIDELINES

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) has started the initial steps to develop a tool set to provide veterinarians with guidelines to support responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial medications in animals.

“The veterinary community has a professional responsibility to support Canada’s overarching strategy on antimicrobial resistance and use, and adopt a multidimensional approach toward antimicrobial stewardship,” says Dr. Troy Bourque, CVMA president. “We are excited to embark on this project to meet veterinary needs for critical information, oversight and decision support related to prudent antimicrobial use (AMU) in animals.”

Canadian veterinarians, veterinary researchers and educators, government officials and stakeholders in the areas of swine, poultry, beef, dairy, small ruminants and companion animals are working together to help identify AMU stewardship issues of concern, anticipate content and format needs for veterinary practitioners, address existing information gaps, and discuss ways to communicate and engage the new tool set.

The overall outcome of the project is to develop guidelines for prudent AMU across the six species groups and pilot a prototype tool set to review effectiveness and guide further improvements.

“Ultimately, we want to promote enhanced antimicrobial stewardship to slow or limit the rising trend of AMR,” says Dr. Phil Buote, chair of the expert advisory group involved in the project, as well as deputy registrar for the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. “Providing these guidelines and tools to veterinarians is intended to influence their prescribing behaviours and enhance communication with producers and industry on the science-based rationale for antimicrobial use. The goal is to promote stewardship and maintain access to effective medically-important antimicrobials.”

The CVMA is building on past achievements with its specific-usage Antimicrobial Prudent Use Guidelines for Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Poultry and Swine (2008), and small animal guidelines through an Antimicrobial SmartVet application for urinary tract infections.

Funding for the project is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada via its Agri-Marketing Program supplemented with in-kind contributions by partners, including CVMA and veterinarians.

CORRECTION

In the April issue’s Applied Science section, the article entitled Beta casein, A2 milk and genetics contained a graph showing possible combinations when mating animals of various beta casein genotypes. Some of the figures were incorrect. Below are the corrected figures highlighted in yellow. Milk Producer regrets the error.

ONTARIO DAIRY FARMERS SUPPORT SCHEER WIN

Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO), on behalf of Ontario’s dairy farmers, has congratulated Andrew Scheer on becoming the new leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Ontario’s dairy farmers are pleased the Conservative party elected a new leader who is strongly committed to supporting the benefits to Canadian consumers and farmers that come from Canada’s strong dairy system.

According to Statistics Canada figures, DFO represents the biggest sector in Ontario’s agricultural economy. It has more than 3,700 dairy farms, 72 processors and is a growing part of the economy with more than 15 per cent growth in the last two years. It also contributes more than $1 billion to Ontario’s economy each year.

Recent consumer surveys show the vast majority of Canadians, 92 per cent, are happy with the range and quality of dairy products available in Canada, and three-quarters approve of Canada’s supply management system for dairy and poultry. Just one-tenth, or 12 per cent, disapproves of supply management, and a similar proportion, 13 per cent, has no opinion.

“The Conservative party, and all other major parties, have long been supporters of our farmers. We are pleased this will continue,” says Ralph Dietrich, DFO chair.

The next few years will be tough as the U.S. looks to alter its dairy trade surplus with Canada, Dietrich says. “It is vital all parties and politicians continue to defend the interests of our farmers and Canadian consumers,” he adds.

Several major countries that want to tear down Canada’s strong agricultural economy heavily subsidize their own farmers with taxpayer dollars, namely the United States, Australia, New Zealand and many European countries. They all subsidize their industries with major taxpayer support, Dietrich says.

Graham Lloyd, DFO communications director, says it is clear what Canadian consumers want. “Canadians want Canadian milk, naturally. Our strong dairy system makes sure they get what they want and at competitive prices.”
DUNDA S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME INDUC T EES

Five agricultural representatives were recently inducted into the new Dundas County Agricultural Hall of Fame in March.

ALVIN RUNNALLS
The late Alvin Runnalls dedicated four decades of service to the agricultural community, playing a role in several ag organizations, including the Dundas Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Dundas County Cattlemen’s Association, Eastern Ontario Beekeepers Association, and 4-H, as well as several organizations outside agriculture.

Runnalls and his wife, Dawn, along with their two daughters, moved to Dundas County in 1973 and established a dairy farm near Winchester. In 1991, he and his wife were named the recipients of the Eric Casselman Award, which honours the county’s farmer of the year.

Outside of agriculture, Runnalls was a councillor in the Township of North Dundas, held the mayor’s seat for a time, and served as a 156th warden of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

Runnalls passed away in January 2016 while felling trees on his property. According to the Dundas Federation of Agriculture, his death was the lynchpin for the start of the Dundas County Agricultural Hall of Fame. The federation nominated Runnalls for the Hall of Fame.

GORDON JOHNSON
As a former board member of Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO), Gordon Johnson started his work in agriculture with a small hobby farm near Ashton where he raised beef cattle with his late wife Marilyn. In the 1970s, the couple moved the farm to the Chesterville area and built a new tiestall barn and milking parlour.

Johnson was involved in various organizations, including the Dundas Federation of Agriculture, Dundas Farm Safety Organization, Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Dundas Dairy Producer Committee, and Chesterville and District Agricultural Society.

Along with being a DFO board member from 1994 to 2006, Johnson was also chair of the Eastern Ontario Milk Producers Committee, board member for the Agricultural Adaptation Council, and board rep for the provincial Farm Safety Council and Human Resources Committee.

In 1989, Johnson was the recipient of the Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Award of Merit. Outside of agriculture, Johnson also sat on the Winchester Township council from 1988 to 1994. Johnson’s son, Chris, and his wife, Leslie, now run the family farm, but Johnson remains active in the business by feeding calves and keeping all equipment in working order.

Johnson was nominated to the Hall of Fame by the Dundas Dairy Producer Committee.

MARILYN JOHNSON
Along with her husband, Gordon, the late Marilyn Johnson was also inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame. From the mid-1970s until she passed away in 2015, Johnson was involved with the Chesterville and District Agricultural Society, serving in several roles, as well as working behind the scenes.

Along with the agricultural society, Johnson was the secretary and treasurer of the Dundas Federation of Agriculture for 15 years. She was also one of the first area delegates to attend the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Convention. She was a member of the grassroots Women for the Survival of Agriculture, Ontario Farm Women Network and Women and Rural Economic Development group, and also headed up the Ag in the Classroom.

When she wasn’t fighting for equal rights of women as legal partners in the farm business, she was working on her own dairy farm with her husband.

Outside of agriculture, Johnson served as secretary and treasurer for Ye Olde Bargain Shoppe in Chesterville and was a Girl Guides of Canada leader.

The Chesterville Agricultural Society nominated Johnson to the Hall of Fame.

MARTIN SCHNECKENBURGER
Martin Schneckenburger started working in Canadian agriculture in 1956 when he purchased a 160-acre farm property in the Glen Becker area. The property came with a Jersey herd, which he and his wife developed into one of the top producing in Canada.

In 1970, Schneckenburger and his family liquidated the herd and launched a beef feed...
lot and cash crop business, which Schneckenburger’s son, grandson and families are still running today.

Schneckenburger had once served as president of the Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association. He was also a member of the Dundas Federation of Agriculture and represented the county at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and was a charter member of the Dundas County Cattlemen’s Association.

Schneckenburger received a number of accolades over his career. In the 1960s, he received the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club Certificate of Recognition several times, Award of Merit from Hogg and Lyte Limited, and Farmer of the Year award from the Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Schneckenburger received the Award of Merit from the Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association in 1979, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food’s Bicentennial Certificate of Merit in 1984, and the St. Lawrence Branch of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists Award of Merit in 1985. In 2014, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Stan Vanden Bosch, Gordon Garlough and Terry Daynard nominated Schneckenburger to the Hall of Fame.

NORM TINKLER
As a successful dairy farmer near Winchester Springs, Norm Tinkler played an integral role in helping Oak Valley farmers affected by spring flooding.

In the 1970s, Tinkler was a part of the Save the Nation committee that went head-to-head with the South Nation Conservation in an attempt to redirect the river flow, protect farmland and lobby for proper drainage.

Eventually, the conservation authority joined as a partner in channeling the South Branch and South Nation rivers, and Tinkler later served on the authority’s board as a municipal councillor, representing the former Matilda Township for eight years. He also sat on the board of the Clean Water Committee since its formation in 1993, and served as a field representative for the program from 1999 to 2007.

Tinkler has also been a director on the Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association, which included a period where he was president. The same organization recognized him for his accomplishments by giving him the Farmer of the Year Award in 1989. Along with that, he was also a recipient of the Tri-Valley Conservation Award in 2010.

Tinkler served on the county’s milk committee, and was a township co-ordinator for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. He did all of this while managing his family’s dairy farm. At one time, he also managed a Pride Seed’s dealership and did custom work.

The Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association nominated Tinkler for the Hall of Fame.

The Dundas Federation of Agriculture created the Agricultural Hall of Fame to recognize individuals past and/or present who have made significant contributions to agriculture and Dundas County’s rural community.

For more information on the Dundas County Agricultural Hall of Fame, visit http://dundasagriculture.weebly.com/hall-of-fame.html.
U OF G RECEIVES LARGEST DONATION

The University of Guelph (U of G) has received its single largest gift—a $20-million donation from the Arrell Family Foundation to create the Arrell Food Institute at the university.

“This landmark gift will allow our university to address the defining challenge of our time: food security, safety and sustainability,” says U of G president Franco Vaccarino. “The Arrell family has shown incredible generosity and foresight in making this gift, and we are grateful to them for their faith in our agri-food prowess.”

The university will provide matching funds of $20 million, for a total commitment of $40 million.

Along with recent government and private funding—including a $77-million award from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund for the Food From Thought project—this gift brings the total investment in agri-food at U of G to more than $150 million in the past 12 months.

“The Arrell Food Institute will influence research, policy, practice and behaviour,” says Tony Arrell, a U of G alumnus and chair and chief executive officer of Burgundy Asset Management in Toronto. “It’s a bold initiative, and its impacts extend nationally and globally.”

Tony and his wife, Anne, who is also a U of G graduate, created the Arrell Family Foundation in 1999. The couple made the funding announcement in March, along with daughters Laura, Ashleigh and Nicole, all of whom are directors of the foundation.

Laura, who is the managing director, says the foundation is dedicated to improving health and quality of life, which matches the university’s goal to improve life through research, teaching and innovation.

The Arrell Food Institute will bring together cutting-edge research, agricultural expertise, big data, environmental science, business and civil society.

The donation will support new research chairs and scholars, international food innovation awards and a prestigious annual conference.

“This gift will help U of G and Canada lead the agri-food revolution,” says professor Evan Fraser, director of the Arrell Food Institute and the Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security. “The same technologies that are transforming medicine are now being applied to farmers’ fields and food processing factories. We can produce more food on less land using fewer inputs.”

He says the institute will “harness and direct the energy and knowledge to help Canada develop the technology to feed tomorrow.”

SHARE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF IMPACT

This year marks 40 years that Sending Help And Resources Everywhere, also known as SHARE, has been in operation. The non-profit charity provides funding, guidance and expertise to agriculturally-based communities in developing countries, with a focus on Central and South America.

The organization was founded by a small group of farmers in Peel and Halton counties. For 40 years, SHARE has helped hundreds of small, sustainable projects by providing a hand up so underprivileged, rural families could improve their standards of living through their own efforts.

SHARE founders were inspired to use the “pass on principle” to expand results in each of the projects in which it was involved. This principle was used to expand a small dairy herd in Guatemala, goat herds in Brazil and dairy herds in El Salvador. The program has worked so well that the offspring of the original dairy cattle shipped to Brazil are still producing milk for local families. SHARE-funded dairy herds have not only lifted many co-operative groups of farm families out of abject poverty, but also helped families improve their nutrition and increase their incomes selling cheese and bull calves.

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ALBERTA MILK DONATES MILK TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD BANK, NHL TEAMS

As a way to support those in need and encourage people to cheer on the Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames during their run in the NHL 2017 playoffs, Alberta Milk has donated $4,039.10 to the Calgary and Edmonton food banks allowing more families to enjoy a cold one.

“It all started because both the Flames and Oilers were in the playoffs,” says Karlee Conway, Alberta Milk’s corporate communications co-ordinator. “It’s been a really long time since that had happened, so we wanted to be part of the buzz.”

During Round 1 for the Flames and Oilers, Alberta Milk donated one serving of milk every time someone retweeted the “Pour a Tall Cold One” image on @AlbertaMilk’s Twitter account. For every goal the Oilers and Flames scored, Alberta Milk donated a month’s worth of milk to one person in need. Then the donations doubled for Round 2 of the playoffs for Edmonton.

“When the Flames sadly lost out in Round 1, we put it all behind our Oilers and doubled up,” Conway says. “We’ve never done anything like this before, but will again next year and go even bigger when they win the Stanley Cup.”

The Flames were beat out during Round 1 against the Anaheim Ducks, and Edmonton’s run in the playoffs ended on May 10 when the team also lost the series to the Ducks. But their efforts led Alberta Milk to donate 67 months’ worth of milk based on goals scored, as well as 3,415 servings of milk from the Twitter campaign.

“We are so humbled to have great support from hockey fans who just want to make sure everyone can pour a tall cold one,” Conway says. “That translated to Albertans promoting milk and it reached more than 200,000 impressions just on Twitter.”

The Calgary Food Bank received $243.50 that was raised during the first round, and the Edmonton Food Bank received the remaining $3,795.60 raised in its first and second round of the playoffs. The food banks supply several other smaller organizations, allowing Alberta Milk’s donation to benefit many people in the province.

“Giving back is a fundamental part of what Alberta’s dairy producers stand for,” Conway says. “We know those in need don’t have regular access to nutrient-dense products, such as dairy, so any chance we can help out we will.”

Alberta Milk planned a campaign for dairy month in June, and had a giveaway to celebrate World Milk Day on June 1.

Dairy Farmers of Ontario SCHOLARSHIPS

Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) has an annual scholarship program, which offers up to four $3,000 scholarships to students entering a degree or diploma program in agriculture.

To be eligible for these scholarships, an applicant must:

• be a son or daughter of a DFO licensed dairy producer (sons or daughters of current board members are not eligible);
• be entering semester one of an agricultural degree program or a diploma program in agriculture;
• have achieved an average of 80 per cent or greater in Grade 12 credits (best six to be averaged).

Selection criteria will be based on:

• academic achievement;
• future career plans;
• demonstrated leadership in secondary school and/or community activities.

Payment if selected:
The scholarships will be payable in two installments, one in semester one and one following semester two, based on satisfactory achievement.

Application forms are available on DFO’s website at www.milk.org in the Forms section under Farmers.

Complete application forms must be sent to Dairy Farmers of Ontario by August 31, 2017.

For more information, please contact Kateryna Dmytrakova at kateryna.dmytrakova@milk.org or 905-817-2168.
ATTENDEES at the Dairy Sen$e conference last month took part in case studies and facility tours, as well as networked with industry leaders to gain practical skills that will assist them in running a profitable dairy operation. Dairy Sen$e guest speakers spoke about the impact of management decisions on the bottom line, and shared key elements of creating a successful succession plan.

Farmers should be proud of who they are and how they farm, says Laura Daniels, founder and president of Dairy Girl Network in Wisconsin, U.S., who was a keynote speaker at Farm & Food Care’s annual conference in April. “We need your voice more than ever,” she says, adding storytelling can be an effective way to resonate with the public and explain to people the moment they became passionate about agriculture.

Daniels says she and her husband left lucrative jobs and invested in Heartwood Farms 12 years ago as first-generation dairy farmers. Daniels is now the general manager and makes most of the decisions on the farm.

As the founder of Dairy Girl Network, Daniels knows the importance of having a network for women in agriculture, as well as advocating to the public about the important work farmers do to feed the world.

Daniels says the people who often have questions about the food they’re eating are intelligent people—they just don’t have all the answers farmers do. And one of the biggest obstacles in bridging the gap between farmers and consumers is building trust.

“People don’t care how much you know until they know you care,” Daniels says, encouraging farmers to share stories about their passion for farming, which can be compelling to the public. “It’s important to think about why you do what you do. When you get in a tough conversation, this will help you out.”

Daniels says the dairy industry has come a long way when it comes to technology, sustainability and production, referring the industry’s ability to produce more milk with fewer cows. It’s a story farmers should be proud of, but Daniels says the public might see these successes a different way.

“They will use the same information to say it’s unnatural what we do,” Daniels says. “You know the real story, though. You have the power to shift that paradigm. Don’t miss that opportunity.”
Pregnant cows often experience two simultaneous phenomena that are neither good for them nor their soon-to-be-born calves. They reduce their feed intake right before calving, and may simultaneously experience chronic, low-grade, body-wide inflammation.

How does one affect the other, and which one comes first? University of Guelph researchers are investigating that, and trying to prevent metabolic inflammation that may contribute to health problems.

Professor Stephen LeBlanc and post-doctoral researcher Dr. Osvaldo Pascottini of the department of population medicine are using a novel approach to maintain feed intake and health by examining the effects of anti-inflammatory therapy around calving.

“Outwardly, cows experiencing systemic inflammation look normal, but inflammation correlates with lowered feed intake,” LeBlanc says. “Once we discover whether inflammation puts cows off feed, or reduced intake and fat mobilization trigger inflammation, we will be able to determine if an anti-inflammatory, such as a medication or supplementation of certain fats in the diet, can fix this common issue.”

Affected cows tend to eat less one to two weeks before calving. Reduced feed intake during the close-up dry period can lead to several issues in dairy cows, including lowered milk production and increased disease risk.

At the same time, inflammation may lead to metabolic disease—a link that has been discovered in human medical research. Inflammation is identified through blood tests that recognize specific components associated with inflammation, such as haptoglobin—a blood protein.

For their research at the new Livestock Research and Innovation Centre near Elora, LeBlanc and Pascottini will restrict feed intake for a few days in late-pregnant cows to see if an inflammatory response is produced, and administer an anti-inflammatory to half the cows.

RESEARCHERS AT the new Livestock Research and Innovation Centre near Elora will study the reduction in feed intake in late-pregnant cows to see if an inflammatory response is produced, and administer an anti-inflammatory to half the cows.

RESEARCH @LRICDAIRY
The Livestock Research and Innovation Centre – Dairy Facility near Elora, Ont., is one of the world’s most advanced dairy research facilities. The Research @LRIC-Dairy series highlights research at the centre, which is a joint project with the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario, the University of Guelph and the Ontario Dairy industry. Follow this series and follow us on Twitter @LRICDairy to learn about the latest studies designed to benefit Ontario’s and Canada’s dairy sectors.
PROTECT YOURSELF

Various zoonotic infections, such as calf scours, can pass between cattle and people

When you think of biosecurity, you probably think about protecting your cows from getting sick or keeping diseases off the farm, but biosecurity is also about protecting yourself from illness. Various infections, known as zoonotic infections, can pass between cattle and people. Some of these infections include leptospirosis, streptococcus, Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus), Q-fever, listeria and ringworm, to name a few.

Common illnesses in calves include pneumonia, navel infections and scours. Navel infections and pneumonia probably won’t make you sick, but calf scours can be a problem. Calves with scours will shed high numbers of microbes into the environment—a source of contamination for other calves and yourself. The main causes of calf diarrhea include E. coli, salmonella, cryptosporidium and coccidia, which can all transmit to humans. When humans become infected with any of these pathogens (disease-causing viruses and bacteria), symptoms include abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting.

Although human disease outbreaks from contact with calves are infrequent, occasional outbreaks do occur. In the fall of 2016, a human outbreak of Salmonella Heidelberg (S. Heidelberg) occurred across multiple states in the United States, which was traced back to contact with dairy bull calves in Wisconsin. This particular strain of S. Heidelberg has also shown resistance to a wide range of antibiotics. Although Canada wasn’t affected in this outbreak, antibiotic-resistant S. Heidelberg has been confirmed in Ontario and Quebec, which was linked to poultry and poultry products. And because these infections are resistant to antibiotics, it is even more important to prevent calves or people from contracting them since we cannot rely on antibiotics to help overcome the infection.

Precautions to protect you from getting sick include regular hand washing after contact with calves or cows, and before eating or drinking. Even calves that appear healthy can shed microbes, so it’s important to be careful when working with all calves. Wear disposable gloves when working with sick calves. Gloves should be used only once and immediately disposed of after use—don’t put them in your pocket. Avoid touching your face or mouth while in the barn or after contact with calves. Having designated barn clothing and footwear is also important, and the key is keeping them in the barn. Leaving boots at the back door can track pathogens out of the barn and up to the house, which can get tracked indoors.

Keeping young children out of the barn is the best way to protect them from zoonotic disease. Children are notorious for touching things and putting their hands in their mouths or near their faces. Young children, like calves, still have developing immune systems and can get sick easily. If children are in the barn, do not let them interact with sick cattle or come into contact with the sick pen. Watch them carefully to prevent them, as much as possible, from playing near soiled areas, such as straw bedding, and putting anything in their mouths. Encourage proper hand washing and biosecurity from a young age. If young children cannot be supervised in the barn, consider setting up a playpen or gated play space that is set apart from animal housing areas. In the wintertime, kids in the barn are usually wearing snowsuits and winter boots, which also get worn in the house, car and to school. Try to maintain separate boots and clothing for the barn to prevent pathogens from leaving the barn and being tracked around to other areas outside the farm.

The emergence of antibiotic resistance in many of the bacteria that cause diarrhea in calves, along with the zoonotic potential, highlights the need for careful management to prevent both human and animal infections. In some cases, producers, their families and farm workers can develop immunity to some of these infections, but precautions need to be taken since healthy people can still spread disease. An infection with antibiotic-resistant bacteria in an individual with reduced immune function, such as the elderly, young children or those fighting a chronic disease, can be deadly. If you get sick, you need to rest, drink lots of fluids to keep hydrated and replenish electrolytes. Seek medical attention and inform your health care provider that you work with calves and cows. Following good biosecurity practices and a few preventative measures can go a long way to keeping yourself, your family and your calves healthy.

www.milkproducer.ca

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Tip of the Month:
Look at your calving area...is it clean and dry?
NAFTA: PART II
Renegotiations on a new North American Free Trade Agreement could start as early as mid-August

We often hear economists and politicians reference the increase in globalization. According to Wikipedia, globalization is the process of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas and other aspects of culture. Advances in transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, including the rise of the telegraph and its development into the Internet, are major factors in globalization, which generate further interdependence of economic and cultural activities.

As globalization increases, it is not surprising countries are looking to grow through international trade. Canada has recently concluded the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with European countries, which is expected to be implemented shortly, and in October 2015 announced an agreement with 11 other countries in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). Many experts thought there would be no other significant Canadian trade agreements in the near future.

However, at the time, no one anticipated the United States would look to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). But, with the election of Donald Trump, NAFTA became an issue. On May 18, 2017, President Donald Trump’s administration triggered the required 90-day countdown to renegotiate NAFTA, with the intention of starting formal negotiations as soon as Aug. 16.

WHAT IS NAFTA?
NAFTA is a comprehensive trade agreement Canada, the U.S. and Mexico began in 1994. It is an expanded version of a Canada-U.S. free-trade deal from 1988, and at the time, was the biggest free trade area in the world. NAFTA removed many barriers between the three countries with respect to trading of goods and services. One of Trump’s contentious issues with NAFTA is it includes oversight by an independent dispute settlement process.

WHY RENEGOTIATE?
During the U.S. election, then candidate Trump promised an “America first” attitude toward trade, immigration and foreign affairs. He claimed NAFTA was an unfair deal that needed to be changed. More recently, two of the issues he identified were Canada’s supply management system and the softwood lumber industry. As well, he has identified a trade imbalance with Mexico as being unfair. Regarding Mexico, it was obvious during his campaign Trump wanted to build barriers, a border wall for immigration and economic walls for trade. His stance since he began running for president is the U.S. does not benefit from NAFTA.

In its official notice to Congress, the U.S. administration stated it wants to modernize NAFTA because it has not changed with the times in its more than 20-year history. As well, the Trump administration says it is frustrated with the independent dispute settlement process provided in NAFTA, indicating it would prefer a U.S.-based resolution process rather than handing it to a “foreign” body.

TIMELINES FOR RENEGOTIATING
According to reporter Alexander Panetta from The Canadian Press, the Canadian government says it expects negotiations to start this summer for a new North American free trade deal. A time crunch is looming, with the U.S. and Mexico in the biggest hurry to start talks.

Panetta identified the following key dates to take place over the summer:

• June: Canada’s federal government begins its formal consultations with the delivery of a memorandum to cabinet, and receives a mandate to lead Canada’s negotiating team;
• June 27: The U.S. holds a public hearing in Washington involving committees of the Senate, House of Representatives, and the business community;
• July 17 (or around this date): The U.S. must publish a detailed summary of its objectives for the negotiations;
• Aug. 16: Negotiations can begin any time after this date, which marks the end of the 90-day consultation period required by U.S. domestic law. At that point, American negotiators can meet with their foreign peers.

DEFENDING DAIRY
Currently, 35 U.S. states have Canada as their largest export market. There is no doubt the U.S. is under a lot of pressure to maintain strong ties with Canada. Compromising NAFTA and these trading states would not be in the best interest of many elected officials.

The Canadian and provincial governments are hard at work defending Canada’s interests in NAFTA. CBC’s Mike Blanchfield reported Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has assigned 11 cabinet ministers to key U.S. states to make the case for NAFTA.

He also reports there have been 235 meetings between Canadian and U.S. government officials, 110 Canadian political visits to the U.S., as well as high-level meetings with Trump and 13 of his cabinet secretaries. Canadian officials have also met 115 members of Congress and 35 state governors or lieutenant-governors.

Both the federal and provincial governments have repeated their support and defence of supply management. Canada’s U.S. ambassador sent the American government a letter defending our system. According to 2017 surveys, the vast majority of Canadians—92 per cent—are happy with the range and quality of dairy products available in Canada, and three-quarters approve of Canada’s supply management system.

Canadians know and value Canadian dairy and we will continue to work to defend it.

Graham Lloyd
is DFO’s general counsel and communications director.
Information in this article is intended for informational purposes and is summary in nature. It does not constitute legal advice.
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Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) is taking a multi-pronged approach in advance of European cheese exports coming into the Canadian market as a result of the Canadian-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

The deal allows the EU to ship an additional 16,000 tonnes of fine cheese and 1,700 tonnes of industrial cheese into Canada tariff-free. This additional market access granted to the EU will represent an annual loss in milk sales worth $116 million to Canadian dairy farmers, the equivalent of Nova Scotia’s annual milk production.

To ensure Canadian consumers differentiate between imported and Canadian-made cheeses, DFC recently launched an integrated cheese campaign: Canadian Cheese. Crafted with Creativity.

The campaign positions Canadian cheese as world-class. A short animated film, Mia & Morton, targeting millennial consumers, focuses on the creativity of Canadian cheesemakers. The film premiered on YouTube and has also been promoted through Facebook ads. The campaign includes 15- and six-second videos, a website showcasing creative Canadian cheesemakers, a pairing tool that allows users to pair cheese with other foods or beverages, and both out-of-home and social media elements.

For more information, visit https://www.dairygoodness.ca/cheese/canadian-cheese/.

**CANADIAN CHEESE DOMINATES SIAL**

Canadian cheese played a prominent role at this year’s SIAL Canada exhibit from May 2 to 4 in Toronto. DFC sponsored SIAL Canada’s cheese exhibit and promoted Canadian cheese to 15,000 national and international professionals representing the agri-food industry from 60 countries.

DFC’s large booth featured 20 Canadian cheesemakers from across the country and showcased their products through a number of innovative seminars and competitions sponsored by DFC. These included a competition of cakes made from Canadian cheese, a panini competition, and a Canadian cheese and Canadian beer seminar.

Attendees took advantage of the opportunity to sample an array of Canada’s diverse and delicious cheese. Retailers visiting SIAL were impressed, with many asking the Canadian artisanal cheese exhibitors where they could purchase their products.

According to SIAL Canada, 40 per cent of those who attended the event were retailers, 30 per cent manufacturers, and 23 per cent representatives from the food services industry. The remaining seven per cent represented services. Of the total number of attendees, 80 per cent have a decision-making role in the buying process.

Stay informed with the Dairy Express

Sign up now for Dairy Express, Dairy Farmers of Canada’s bi-monthly newsletter. Email emilie.tobin@dfc-plc.ca to have your name added to the mailing list.

DFC brings you the latest national marketing and nutrition news with this feature. Learn more about the programs and activities we carry out to get the most from your promotion dollar. We welcome your comments, so write or fax us at:

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**CANADA’S FARM PROGRESS SHOW**

40th annual show is the largest agricultural trade show in Canada

Dairy producers interested in discovering the latest innovations and emerging technology and products in the industry are invited to join more than 40,000 visitors and 700 exhibitors from around the world at the 2017 Canada’s Farm Progress Show.

The event will take place from June 21 to 23 at Evraz Place in Regina, Sask. Along with the Innovation Showcase, attendees will also have a chance to participate in Farm Credit Canada’s Farm Progress Forum, which brings high-profile speakers to the front stage. The audience can learn the latest information about agriculture and agribusiness by listening to discussions about changing world markets, technology and agvocacy.

Canadian manufacturers and exporters can connect with potential buyers from more than 50 countries at the International Business Centre. And visitors can shop for the latest accessories, art, fashion or health and wellness products at the Modern Lifestyles Showcase. The winner of Saskatchewan’s Outstanding Young Farmers Program will also be announced during the event.

Canada’s Farm Progress Show is the largest trade show in Canada, covering 1.9 million square feet of tradeshow space and generating more than $500 million in sales last year. This year marks the 40th annual event, and in celebration of that milestone, the organizing committee is asking people to share a story or memory they had through their involvement with the event over the last 40 years.

For more information on the event or to share a story or memory, visit www.myfarmshow.com.

**BREACKFAST ON THE FARM CELEBRATES ONTARIO FOOD AND FARMING**

Farmers and non-farming Ontarians can experience a unique opportunity to have a conversation about food and farming.

The seventh annual sold out Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF) event, hosted by Farm & Food Care Ontario, will take place on June 24 at Donkers Family Farm near Shedden, Ont. The event will give visitors a chance to visit a working farm, as well as showcase agriculture and give non-farmers a chance to have their questions answered by real farmers. This year is the first time the event will be held on an Ontario dairy goat farm.

“I’ve been wanting to host an open house like this for several years,” says Ed Donkers, owner of Donkers Family Farm. “Partnering with Farm & Food Care on Breakfast on the Farm is a great way of showing the public how goats are raised and cared for on Ontario farms.”

The Donkers family has been operating the farm for 55 years. Today, Donkers milks 900 goats and has about 1,700 goats on the farm in total. Milk from the farm is used to produce specialty cheese, which is one of the fastest growing markets in Ontario agriculture.

To date, BOTF has fed nearly 12,000 people, and organizers are expecting 2,500 people to attend the June event this year.

BOTF will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. when farm tours will wrap up. Breakfast will be served until 11:30 a.m.

After being treated to an all-Ontario breakfast, featuring eggs, pancakes, sausages and more, visitors will be able to tour the dairy goat farm and meet hundreds of animals. Interactive stops around the farm will include many displays, activities and exhibits that showcase other types of farms in Ontario. There will also be more than 100 Ontario farmers on hand to answer guests’ questions about food and farming.

In preparation for the event, Farm & Food Care Ontario is looking for volunteers to help during the day. About 150 volunteers are needed on the day of the event.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, visit www.farmfoodcareon.org.

Farm & Food Care Ontario is planning a second event at an Ontario dairy farm in September. Stay tuned for details.

**JERSEY CANADA’S COW OF THE YEAR CONTEST**

Producers who think they have high-quality Jersey cows in their barns are invited to enter their bovine in the Jersey Cow of the Year contest, which recognizes animals that demonstrate outstanding qualities within a broad range of criteria. Animals can only win the designation once, but can be entered or nominated subsequent times if they haven’t previously won.

Entry deadline is July 20. An anonymous selection committee will choose three nominees to announce by July 27. The nominees will be featured in the September edition of Jersey Breeder.

Voting will take place from Oct. 2 to Nov. 12, and the Jersey Cow of the Year will be announced by Nov. 20. The official award will be presented at the Jersey Canada 2018 annual general meeting.

Visit www.jerseycanada.com for contest rules or to apply.
JERSEY CANADA AWARD PROGRAMS

Jersey Canada is hosting four programs for members, Jersey enthusiasts and people involved in the dairy sector. Those programs include:
• Jersey Canada Youth Scholarship – two scholarships of $750 each to recognize outstanding interest, knowledge and achievement in the Jersey breed, as well as agriculture in general;
• Royal Jersey Ambassador – will represent the Jersey breed at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ont. They will assist with presenting scholarships of $750 each to recognize outstanding interest, knowledge and achievement in the Jersey breed, as well as agriculture in general;
• Royal Jersey Ambassador – will represent the breed, as well as agriculture in general;
• Nola Brown Continuous Achievement Award – in memory of Nola Brown, a former Jersey Canada employee. This award will be presented annually at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair;
• Earl Vander Meulen Memorial Award – presented annually to the person who best exemplifies the qualities and values Earl held dear. It commemorates Earl’s strong character, and recognizes his legacy of caring for family, establishing lifelong friendships, and maintaining a strong faith and love for farming.

Applications for the Jersey Canada Youth Scholarships, Royal Jersey Ambassador and Nola Brown Continuous Achievement Award are due Sept. 15.
Nominations for the Earl Vander Meulen Memorial Award are due Sept. 20. For more information or to download application forms, visit www.jerseycanada.com.

2017 ALBERTA DAIRY CONGRESS SHOW

Dairy cows will be taking centre stage during the 2017 Alberta Dairy Congress show.

The event, which will take place at the Leduc Recreational Centre from June 7 to 10, includes a dairy show, junior dairy show and dairy sale.

The purpose of the event is to allow participants to learn about the journey their food takes as it travels from the farm to the grocery store to their plates. Along with the dairy show and sale, the public will have a chance to go on tours of the barns.

Producers can take advantage of the dairy sale to increase the size of their herd, and established dairies can use this event to introduce new bloodlines or sell some of their top animals.

All cows are pre-selected for the sale, so producers interested in putting their animals up for consignment need to contact event organizers.

For more information, visit www.albertadairycongress.ca.

STRAWBERRY SUNDAY/E SCHEDULED FOR JULY

Two family farms in Stormont County, Ont., will be opening their doors to the public for a Strawberry Sunday/e event. Avonmore Berry Farm in Avonmore, Ont., and Kemmatten Dairy Farm in Moose Creek, Ont., will host the event on July 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visitors can purchase strawberry sundaes, made with Ontario strawberries and 100 per cent Canadian ice cream, at the Avonmore Berry Farm for $5. The proceeds from the sundaes will go to support the local 4-H, Junior Farmer and Lions Clubs.

For more information or to register for the free event, visit https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/strawberry-sundaye-tickets-33230916566. Participants are welcome to visit both farms.

TENTATIVE HOLSTEIN CANADA CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

MID-JUNE: Halton, York and Peel, Simcoe and Dufferin, Ontario
LATE JUNE: Lambton, Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Elgin
EARLY JULY: Ontario Central, Alberta
MID-JULY: Northumberland, Manitoba
LATE JULY: Peterborough, Waterloo
EARLY AUGUST: Oxford, Wellington

Italics indicate mid-round classifications
A daptability and finding ways to make the subject matter relevant to students’ lives are two important qualities to have as an educator. Children learn in different ways and have varying styles and interests. By using a variety of teaching methods, tools and activities, an effective educator can engage students and allow them to make meaningful connections to their own lives. I have seen this firsthand when presenting to primary grades who most enjoy my inflatable cow, Daisy—a regular crowd pleaser. I also carry a mystery tool bag full of farm tools. Students get to pull a tool out of the bag and discuss what they think it is used for. It is always interesting to listen to their ideas. The cow magnet, in particular, generates many interesting responses.

For older grades, I like showing them some of our new educational videos that discuss how technology has changed on the farm. Students are amazed to learn farmers no longer milk their cows by hand but use robotic milking machines to do their jobs. One of my favorite activities is making butter with the primary classes. They are always amazed to see how liquid milk transforms into solid butter.

Sometimes, I get to be entertained rather than the one who is entertaining others. One particular instance I will never forget occurred at the end of a presentation. The teacher was getting ready to line the students up at the door to leave the room and called out, “Can all the girl cows line up at the door?” She then paused and asked me what the boy cows are called. Before I could share the correct terms for male and female dairy animals, a young boy jumped up and said, “We are called cowboys!”

I have received a lot of positive feedback from the schools I’ve visited. Teachers like that the presentations support their in-class lessons. With a wide variety of topics to choose from, our presentations can be used to build on lesson plans and provide students and teachers with valuable resources. We are always creating new, interactive activities and games to support our presentations, which are a big hit with students. Many of them look forward to our visits every year.

I believe education should be connected to the experiences and issues in a student’s everyday life. Knowing where their food comes from lets students appreciate the work and commitment it takes to be a dairy farmer. There are many misconceptions about dairy farming and it’s important to support farmers by informing and educating people about the industry.

I have participated in the Caledon, Bolton and Brampton Fall Fairs, as well as the Canadian National Exhibition and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Attending the last two events is especially enjoyable because I get to interact with the audience during our many milking demonstrations. Working at local fairs is also a great opportunity to connect with local farmers. As well, many of the children who come out to these fairs with their families recognize me and remember my visit to their schools.

When it comes to teaching students about the industry, my favorite topic to present is dairy processing. I enjoy making butter, puddings, milkshakes, whipped cream and ice cream with the students while watching their amazement at what they were able to produce. I also like to tap into my science background and explain to students what chemical reactions are taking place in the process of making these products. When talking about careers, I try to highlight the many jobs and opportunities available today in the food and agricultural sectors and point out how they are already connected to these industries.

The dairy education program has an important role to play in today’s society. Educators are often the first faces the public encounters in the industry. It is a rewarding experience to share what we know about the dairy industry.

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The Ontario Milk Transport Association is seeking an exceptional person to replace the current General Manager, who will be retiring.

The General Manager will promote the OMTA and advocate and represent the interest of the OMTA members on various platforms. He/she will be called upon, as necessary, to assist members in the negotiation process, as well as in the implementation of (collective or individual) agreements relating to the transportation of milk and to represent them in any grievance procedure or arbitration. They will also analyze the concerns and needs of members in order to promote their common, economic and social interests.

What You’ll be Doing
• Establish rapport and liaise with all stakeholders and a proper Government Ministries and Agencies
• Represent the OMTA at hearings, tribunals, functions and to the media
• Increase visibility of the OMTA
• Provide counselling services and assistance to the transporters
• Negotiate with Dairy Farmers of Ontario, on behalf of the transporters
• Work with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario on initiatives such as policy development and training of new drivers
• Prepare yearly budgets for the OMTA and present financial reports to the Board
• Anticipate issues or changes in the industry and develop and recommend strategies to prepare for them
• Maintain regular contact with transporters and the Board of Directors
• Schedule and coordinate meetings and take minutes
• Attend relevant conferences and meetings

What We’re Looking For
• Strong presentation, influencing and negotiating skills
• Strategic capability to assess issues and their potential impact on the industry
• A solid understanding of financial, operational and management controls
• Sound judgment, excellent analytical skills and strong problem solving identification and resolution skills
• Ability to establish and build healthy working relations and partnerships
• Business acumen
• Self-motivated, efficient, able to take initiative and work independently with minimal direction
• Diplomacy and political savvy
• Proficiency in MS Office suite
• Demonstrated strong administrative and organizational skills
• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
• Knowledge of the dairy/agriculture industry
• Understanding of the rules and regulations of the transport industry would be an asset
• Fluency in French is an asset
• Some travel is required

The OMTA offers competitive compensation and benefits. Interested and qualified candidates must submit their resume, cover letter and salary expectations before Friday, June 30th, 2017 to the attention of:
Vana Amanatidis, CHRP
Stern Cohen LLP
45 St. Clair Ave West, 14th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1L3
Email: amanatidis@sterncohen.com
OMTA offers accommodation for applicants with disabilities in its recruitment processes. If you are contacted regarding a job opportunity, please advise if you require accommodation.
Cox Wensink, manager of Hoenhorst Farms Ltd. in Innerkip, Ont., believes automation is the future of farming.

“Automated systems allow for consistency on the farm,” Wensink says. “Automation takes a lot of guesswork away, allowing us to focus on what’s important—animal health and milk production optimization.”

What was once new technology introduced on Canadian farms in 1999, automatic milking systems are now quickly being adopted by those looking to improve efficiencies on their farm.

This was one of the reasons the family decided to incorporate robotics. The farm, which originally started in 1929 in Hummelo, Netherlands, now houses 900 Holstein cows, milks 460 cows in two milking locations, and crops about 940 acres of land. In order to run an efficient operation, it was important the farmers utilize technology.

About 340 cows are milked using eight Lely A4 robots on the home farm, and 120 are milked using two Lely A4 robots on the Braemar Farm, which the family bought in December 2015.

“The farms are around the corner from each other, so we run both farms as one operation and treat the Braemar Farm as another barn located a bit further away from the home farm,” says the fourth-generation dairy farmer.

At the home farm, family members initially milked cows in a milking parlour until they installed six Lely A3 robots in 2008, allowing them to milk 330 cows at one time.

“It was only over the last two years that this became a limiting factor,” Wensink says. “In order to keep filling quota, we needed to add more robots.”

In February 2017, the farm switched out its six robots for eight new Lely A4 robots. Meanwhile, at the Braemar Farm, the family traded in their 10x10 parallel parlour and installed two Lely A4 robots in November 2016.

WHAT LED THE FAMILY TO INSTALL ROBOTS?

Wensink has a background in mechanical engineering and knows the importance technology can play in making an operation more efficient. She brought this knowledge with her when she returned to the family farm in 2014.

“Farming is not a stagnant industry,” Wensink says. “There are always new innovations and opportunities to grow and improve. That’s what’s really exciting about it.”

As the farm manager, Wensink strategizes ways to improve the operation, which has included incorporating automation to help workers with day-to-day tasks. Automation also helps farmers gather data, detect patterns and troubleshoot areas that need improvement on the farm.

She says as a farm manager, it’s often difficult finding reliable labour to milk in the parlour, particularly during early-morning or late-night shifts, and it was also a challenge competing for employees with factories in Woodstock that could offer higher wages.

“We wanted to provide our employees with better working hours and more interesting work,” Wensink says. “Having robots allows us to be more efficient by focusing on animal
health and production."

With robotic milkers, Wensink can hire more skilled employees. Hoenhorst Farms has three full-time herds people, one full-time feeder and three part-time herds people. While all employees are familiar with different aspects of the farm, they each have their own focus area.

“When we were milking in a parlour, we needed to train the milkers to be able to perform many tasks, and it is difficult to train someone to do many tasks well,” Wensink says. “Now, we’re able to hire skilled people and thoroughly train them in their focus area.”

**HOENHORST FARMS EMBRACES TECHNOLOGY**

In addition to automated milking systems, the family doesn’t shy away from using technology to help them on the farm in other areas. The farm uses CanWest DHI’s DairyComp technology to gather data for benchmarking. This allows farmers to determine what they are doing well and what they could improve on.

Hoenhorst Farms’ suppliers also use this tool to measure whether changes on the farm are effective.

“Our calves are bottle-fed for the first seven to 10 days, and then put on the U40 automatic calf feeder until they are weaned,” Wensink says. “The system is great because the milk feeding curve is programmed in, taking the guesswork out of feeding.”

The automated feeder allows the farm to accurately track how well calves are drinking, and is an additional tool to help farmers determine which calves need extra attention.

For adult cows, Hoenhorst Farms uses the Digi-Star TMR Tracker for feeding, which helps Wensink easily adjust recipes, as well as accurately load feed and track how animals are fed. To help with other day-to-day barn activities, the farm has a Juno feed pusher, the Discovery barn cleaner and the Luna brush.

The family also uses smartphone apps, including an RSS reader to access milk pickup data, as well as Dropbox to maintain a “paper-light” office that also allows them to access documents quickly from anywhere on a smartphone.

“We’re also able to remotely log in to our farm computers,” Wensink says. “We use it mainly to check in on T4C Lely robot software, DC303’s herd management software and daily notes in Excel.”

This is useful when Wensink is in the barn, away from the computer, and wants to change a robot setting.

“We also find suppliers like logging in to check on how we’re doing, as well as help us troubleshoot if we have a software question,” she says.

**CHALLENGES THAT COME WITH AUTOMATION**

Wensink says the main challenge with automated systems is learning not to rely too heavily on the system but instead, use it as a guide.

She says there are a lot of data that come with automated systems, and it’s important to learn to utilize useful information and avoid drowning in the data.

“It’s also good to remember when working with animals, nothing beats actually walking through the barns yourself and seeing the animals first-hand,” Wensink says.

She says automated systems enhance how farmers work and can detect patterns, but when working with animals, she suggests farmers not rely on automated systems entirely. While robots can operate 24 hours a day, it also means they can break down at any point during the day.

“There will always be the human element of farming,” Wensink says. “I don’t think you can completely automate it because you deal with a lot of unexpected and uncontrollable variables on the farm.”

But despite some challenges, Hoenhorst Farms has reaped the benefits from embracing technology on the farm. Wensink’s goal for the farm is to continue to create a good work-life balance, while at the same time, continue to strengthen the farm business.

“We run a family farm and family comes first,” she says. “We want to be able to enjoy the time together and away from the farm.”
Canadian dairy farmers are among the leaders in the world when it comes to using technology in agriculture. “They not only have been early adopters of technology, but they continue to upgrade,” says Richard Worzel, a futurist based in Toronto, Ont.

As a futurist, Worzel anticipates changes on the horizon and helps people prepare for challenges they may face in their industries. Believing there’s a connection among different industries, many futurists study several sectors. “I look at a little bit of everything,” Worzel says. “Having said that, for the last 10 years, I’ve looked a lot at the food story arc—from farm to fork—as well as genetic research and government regulations related to traceability.”

Christophe Pelletier, a futurist based in Summerland, British Columbia, has a similar mindset. “Although I specialize in food and agriculture, I follow developments in all sectors since everything is intertwined and has consequences, as well as offer opportunities,” he says.

Pelletier says automated systems have been helping farmers for decades, allowing them to do more work with less labour, while keeping costs low and increasing efficiencies.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF DAIRY FARMING LOOK LIKE?

With global population expected to grow to around nine billion by 2050, Worzel says farmers can expect a 50 to 70 per cent rise in demand for food. The population will also turn to higher quality food, as developing countries move into middle class and trade in their carbohydrate-rich diet for a diet high in meat and dairy products.

“Canada, as a modern and efficient agricultural producer, will have great opportunities to contribute in feeding the future,” Pelletier says.

Pelletier says dairy farmers will continue to face competition with milk substitutes, but this will only represent a small percentage of consumption largely because of the difference in prices. Instead, dairy farmers will benefit from the growing trend toward more dairy consumption, Pelletier says. Butter, for example, is making a comeback, which will offer dairy farmers more opportunities.

“There are strong trends for healthy diets, and yogurt has been growing in popularity,” Pelletier says. “I see this trend will last for some time.”

Along with the rise in demand for food, Worzel says dairy farmers around the world can also expect to see a rise in competition globally. Worzel says there’s a future for Canadian dairy farmers who choose to specialize in niche markets, such as grass-fed dairy or organic dairy.

As agriculture evolves, environmental impact, animal welfare and efficiency will become more of a priority on dairy farms, Pelletier says.

“Pasture management, manure processing and implementation of new technologies and tools will deliver solutions and offer opportunities,” Pelletier says.

This is why it’s important for farmers to stay up-to-date on the latest technology to help them farm more efficiently.

HOW CAN DAIRY FARMERS BENEFIT FROM FUTURE TECHNOLOGY?

Worzel says dairy farmers should pay attention to evolutionary algorithms, such as genetic programming, and fog computing technology.

Inspired by biological evolution, genetic programming is a technique where computer programs imitate evolution to arrive at answers where none have existed before. The technology is used to discover solutions to problems researchers don’t know how to solve, and many of these issues may relate to dairy farming, including animal husbandry, health and increasing productivity.

Fog technology is the next generation of cloud computing and allows for more efficient data processing.

“In a fog computing network, you get results emerging autonomously that can be integrated on a farm-by-farm basis to come up with answers, such as identifying an emerging disease or a new
The potential to help farmers breed better animals, preventing genetic defects or health issues. It could also help create better crops to feed animals, Pelletier says.

To address environmental impact, Pelletier says he expects to see more manure processing systems that can stop methane from being released in the atmosphere, and optimize recuperation of minerals contained in the manure to prevent runoff in water systems.

**HOW CAN CANADIAN FARMERS REMAIN LEADERS IN TECHNOLOGY?**

Worzel says dairy farmers should broaden their reading list if they’re interested in staying updated on the latest emerging technologies in agriculture. He says along with reading regular dairy farming publications, producers should also read economic publications, such as *The Economist*, and visit technology websites, such as Gizmodo or Wired.

“A lot of the changes that are coming, for example in human medicine, are applicable to veterinary and may come faster in veterinary medicine, so farmers want to be aware of that,” Worzel says. “Read broadly and beyond your field.”

Worzel also says that while dairy producers should keep an eye on emerging technologies, they probably don’t want to be the first to adopt new systems. Instead, they should watch those who are experimenting and then try to adopt the technology early on, after the bugs have been worked out.

“You don’t necessarily want to be the one that’s being experimented on, but you don’t want to be the last one that’s using the technology either,” he says.

Paying attention to IBM’s Watson, designed to absorb human language and information and draw conclusions on its own, could prove to be another key advantage for farmers.

“Watson is an artificial intelligence available in the cloud on a transactional basis,” Worzel says. “I would look at what IBM is doing in agriculture with Watson and maybe consider doing a pilot project with a group of farmers in your region.”

Pelletier says Canadian dairy farmers can remain leaders in utilizing technology in agriculture by having the right mindset, including being curious, open-minded, pragmatic, innovative and critical.

“Next to that, I would crush numbers all the time, challenge system suppliers and also work with suppliers to get tailor-made solutions for your particular situation,” Pelletier says.

To find out more about Worzel and Pelletier’s work, visit Worzel’s website at www.futuresearch.com and Pelletier’s website at www.hfgfoodfuturist.com.
**ANTIMICROBIALS**

By Sharon Laidlaw

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Researchers say greater scrutiny on the use of antimicrobial medicines in livestock sectors could lead to industry changes and regulations.

**AHEAD**

Researchers say greater scrutiny on the use of antimicrobial medicines in livestock sectors could lead to industry changes and regulations.

Antimicrobials (AMRs) are among the most used medicines on the market today. Coupled with increasing demand for meat and milk as the human population is expected to double to nine billion in 2050 means livestock producers will need to expand through sustainable intensification to meet this demand, says Tim McAllister, principal research scientist for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

However, although increasing production improves efficiency and profitability, doing so poses many challenges. Antimicrobials are often added to diets to reduce infectious diseases, or used to treat livestock with clinical disease. These practices are increasingly scrutinized by consumers that several retail and fast food chains are now requesting antibiotic-free meat and milk products. However, what most consumers don’t realize is the term “free of antibiotics” does not necessarily mean free of AMR bacteria since they are part of the natural microbial world. Using antimicrobials in livestock production increases AMR, but links to those AMR bacteria that have the greatest impact on humans is less clear, McAllister says.

Shortly after the discovery of penicillin by Sir Alexander Fleming in 1928, scientists recognized bacteria could become resistant to antibiotics. The emergence of AMR in bacterial pathogens is a serious global issue. With alarming frequency, untreatable human and animal pathogens with multiple AMR determinants are rising. The emergence of AMR in pathogens is commonly accepted as a result of widespread use of antimicrobials in agriculture and medicine.

Antimicrobial use in agriculture has attracted particular attention, in part due to the immensity of global meat production where antimicrobials are routinely used to support animal health.

**CONSUMER PRESSURES TO ELIMINATE ANTIMICROBIALS IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

Antimicrobials have become an important management tool in intensive livestock and poultry production systems. Global models of future meat and milk needs indicate intensification of livestock and poultry production systems will be an integral part of ensuring food security for humanity, McAllister says. A recent study suggested curtailing the use of antibiotics in food animals may have little impact on AMR in humans when transmission of AMR bacteria from humans to animals is high (van Bunnik and Woolhouse 2017).

The connections between AMR in livestock and poultry microbial populations to human health are likely to become more apparent as antimicrobial use in food animal production continues to increase, McAllister says.

Future investigations may validate mitigation strategies, such as the separation of the types of antimicrobials used in livestock and poultry from those used in humans. As well, proper and judicious use of antimicrobials will help prolong the usefulness of both clinical and veterinary antimicrobials, McAllister says.

In terms of farming, Lorraine M. Sordillo, who serves as the Meadow Brook chair in farm animal health and well-being for the college of veterinary medicine at Michigan State University, says certain strategies that can help reduce health disorders of transitioning cows could lead to reduced use of antimicrobials to treat disease in livestock. For instance, transition cows are susceptible to increased incidence and severity of both metabolic and infectious diseases. Antibiotics are often used to treat these health problems and may contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance on farms, Sordillo says. Given the desire to reduce on-farm use of antibiotics, nutritional-based management strategies should have a central position in any disease prevention program.

The ability of cows to resist diseases during the transition period is related in part to the efficiency of their immune system, Sordillo says. A properly-functioning immune system can protect animals from various pathogenic organisms, including viruses, bacteria and parasites. A cow’s immune system consists of biological components and processes that protect it from disease. The primary roles of the immune system are to prevent microbial invasion of the body, eliminate existing infections and other sources of cellular injury, and restore tissues to normal function. Whereas antibiotic therapy remains the status quo for treating many infectious diseases, there is a need for alternative and adjunct therapeutic options that target host immune responses to prevent diseases from occurring in the first place, Sordillo says.

McAllister adds the pressure on reducing or even eliminating the use of antimicrobials in animal production is likely to grow, and if new antimicrobials are developed they will...
be more likely used exclusively in humans as opposed to veterinary medicine. As the number of effective antibiotics dwindles, antibiotics previously deemed unsuitable for use in humans may be resurrected, further reducing the number of antibiotics available for use in veterinary medicine. What will be useful is identifying viable alternatives to antimicrobials. “It is important for science to play a key role in policy development (with respect to AMRs) that may further curtail their use in livestock and poultry production,” he says.

MAINTAINING CONTROL AND HUMAN HEALTH RISKS

Efforts to maintain antimicrobials for use in veterinary medicine that do not pose a threat to human health, or to develop alternatives, is essential in ensuring intensive food animal production can continue in a manner that fully meets animal welfare standards, McAllister says.
CATTLE ASSESSMENTS

DFO will seek producers’ input to help select a future service provider

For validations conducted in September 2017 and onward, producers must have a record of a cattle assessment performed on their lactating herd. Holstein Canada is performing every producer’s first assessment, up to 24 months prior to a producer’s validation month. The assessment will include body condition score, lameness, and hock, knee and neck injuries. The assessment is not required for validations conducted prior to September 2017.

Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions regarding this requirement.

1. How are cattle assessments scheduled?
Holstein Canada plans assessment visits according to their classification schedules and every producer’s validation date. Holstein Canada is contacting producers directly via a letter and information package sent well ahead of the validation date to schedule the cattle assessment visit. This package contains a survey producers must complete indicating date options for the assessment visit, as well as other information, such as barn and milking system type, etc. to help assessors plan the visit.

In order to ensure the cattle assessment is performed prior to validation, it is critical producers promptly provide the completed survey to Holstein Canada. Holstein Canada may not be able to accommodate cattle assessments if it does not receive a timely response to the survey.

2. What is the cost of the assessment?
Holstein Canada will provide cattle assessment service at no additional cost to their classification clients if the assessment is performed as part of a classification visit. The cost of the assessment for non-classification clients, or performed outside of a classification visit, will be $6 per cow scored, in addition to a $100 herd visit fee. Ontario producers are responsible for paying Holstein Canada directly for this service.

3. How are assessors trained?
Ensuring assessments are performed accurately and consistently is very important. Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) is responsible for providing initial and ongoing training to assessors. To this end, DFC has contracted the services of Clémence Nash from Novus Canada who was part of the team that developed the scoring methods through the Dairy Research Cluster Project in 2012.

Prior to becoming assessors, Holstein Canada employees attended 2.5 days of training, which involved classroom and on-farm sessions. Attendees successfully completed an exam before they could be authorized to perform cattle assessments on-farm. Additional exams are required every six months to ensure scoring accuracy is maintained.

4. What happens during the assessment?
First, the assessors will use a “sample size calculator” (included in the Animal Care and Live-
stock Traceability Manual available on Dairy Farmers of Ontario’s (DFO) website to determine the number of cows to assess. For example, for a lactating herd of 70 cows, a total of 27 cows must be included in the sample, which must be selected randomly and among all pens and/or barns where applicable. In this example, the assessor must select every third cow.

Assessors must strive to move cattle calmly and freely. In freestall settings, they may use one of the following methods to select cattle for the assessment. A milking herd of 70 cows will be used as an example.

- During milking or by moving cattle through the parlour between milkings. The assessor will select every third cow as cattle are being released through the return alley;
- After milking, by securing cattle in headlocks and releasing every third cow;
- Between milkings, by moving cattle to one end of the pen and then releasing them. The assessor then selects every third cow as cattle are being released;
- Between milkings, by searching for specific animal identification numbers randomly selected.

5. What will the cattle assessment record look like?
Once the assessment is complete, the producer will be provided with a cattle assessment record, which contains a summary of the percentage of cows with acceptable scores for each measure, as well as details of the scores given to each cow in the sample.

The report will indicate the zones where each measure falls within:
- green zone – acceptable;
- yellow zone – caution;
- red zone – corrective action is required.

These zones will be established once a statistically significant number of herds have been assessed, which is expected to take place in June 2017. Producers who have had their assessment performed before this time will receive an updated report showing the zone comparison.

6. What are the minimum acceptable scores required?
The objective of the first assessment is to obtain data and establish Canadian benchmarks for animal-based measures, and provide information to producers regarding the status of their individual herds. During the first round, producers will not be required to meet any minimum scores. For the second round, DFC, in conjunction with provincial boards, will establish expectations for continuous improvement where required.

In order to meet this requirement at the first proAction validation, producers must provide to the validator:
- the cattle assessment record conducted by a qualified assessor;
- a documented corrective action plan to improve measures that fall within the red zone, if any.

If this documentation is not available at the time of validation, a major corrective action request (CAR) will be issued, which will prevent a producer from passing his or her proAction validation. In Ontario, penalties will be applied when proAction program requirements are not met.

7. Will Holstein Canada continue to be the service provider for cattle assessments after the first round?
DFC and the provincial boards are discussing service provider options for the second and subsequent rounds of cattle assessments.

Holstein Canada, veterinarians and field services representatives are options being evaluated in Ontario. Factors, such as producers’ input, cost, training needs and consistency requirements, will be considered before a decision is made.

DFO will launch a survey in the coming months to gather producers’ feedback regarding the assessments that have been conducted so far and input relating to service provider preference. The survey will be made available on DFO’s various communication tools.
FORAGES FOR DAIRY CALVES: WHY, WHAT AND HOW?

Helping calves make a smooth transition during weaning

Nutritional management of dairy calves continues to be an area of much discussion. Promoting high growth and good health in early life is important for long-term health and production of calves as they mature. Given the structure and function of calves’ digestive systems early in life, as well as their high motivation to drink milk, the first step in raising healthy and productive calves is providing sufficient quantities of milk. Restricting milk intake in the first few weeks of life to low levels (< 20 per cent of bodyweight) can leave calves hungry, and hinder optimal growth and long-term performance.

In addition to milk consumption, solid feed intake is critical for supporting the transition calves make from non-ruminant to ruminant digestion. Encouraging solid feed intake is particularly important when more milk is provided since weaning calves off high levels of milk may be challenging. Growth may lag or even stop over the weaning period if insufficient solid feed is consumed at that time.

It is well understood consuming a well-formulated, palatable concentrate starter is important for young calves. Concentrate provides carbohydrates, which are digested in the rumen into end-products, such as butyrate, which provides energy for growth and stimulates development of rumen papillae. However, forages, such as hay or straw, are less readily digested, contribute less to rumen papillae development, and provide little nutrients for growth. A traditional concern has been that offering forage will reduce concentrate intake, and negatively impact rumen development and growth.

Researchers have recently shown some forage intake prior to weaning may be beneficial. Several studies have demonstrated offering forage with concentrate does not necessarily reduce concentrate intake, but instead, forage intake has had positive impacts on the rumen environment, increasing rumen pH and improving the ability of the rumen to digest and absorb nutrients. Providing forage to young calves is also important from a behavioural standpoint. Calves are motivated to consume a certain portion of their diet as forage, and calves offered forage spend less time licking surfaces and rolling their tongues, suggesting the opportunity to nibble and chew on pieces of forage may help satisfy the natural motivation of calves to spend time foraging.

Results of feeding forage to calves depend on the amount provided, type and physical form. Calf performance is optimized when forage represents no more than five per cent of the total dry solids feed consumed. Consuming forage levels more than 10 per cent of total dry solids intake may result in gut fill issues, hindering rumen development and growth. To control intake, a good option is to mix the forage with the concentrate as a dry total mixed ration (TMR).

The type of forage is also important in controlling intake. If the forage is more palatable than the concentrate, calves may eat too much of that forage, causing gut fill and reducing the intake of concentrate. Specifically, providing alfalfa hay (or other higher-quality forages) may reduce concentrate intake, as researchers have shown calves will consume larger amounts of alfalfa hay compared with other types of hay, such as ryegrass. Calves should be given low-quality forage, such as straw or a lesser quality grass hay.

The next thing to consider is forage particle size. The positive effects of forage intake on nutrient digestibility are reduced when forage is finely ground. Alternatively, if the forage is too long, it may be more difficult to digest. If forage is mixed with concentrate, long forage particles will make it easier for calves to sort their feed. In our research, calves demonstrated sorting, thus consuming an imbalanced diet, and learned these sorting patterns, which will persist over time. A good particle size target to minimize sorting while maintaining physical effectiveness is two to three centimetres (one inch) in length.

Overall, dairy calves should consume a small amount of low-quality, chopped forage in addition to high-quality, highly-palatable concentrate. Ideally, these feeds should be provided to calves as a dry TMR. Such a feeding regimen would not only help the rumen develop, facilitating a smooth transition at weaning, but is important for calves’ behavioural development.
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This June let’s celebrate together.
Celebrate our passion in dairy. Share our dairy nutrition knowledge. And build a thriving dairy business for the future.

Together is a great place to be. Together we grow strong herds.

June is Dairy Month!

GROBERNUTRITION.COM
“O ur world today is changing,” says Dan Weary, animal welfare program professor at the University of British Columbia (UBC). “We have a general public who are increasingly interested in where their food comes from, including wanting assurances farm animals lead a reasonable life. The challenge for dairy welfare researchers is to find solutions that keep cows, farmers and the public healthy and happy.”

For close to 20 years, UBC professors David Fraser, Marina (Nina) von Keyserlingk and Weary have partnered with the Canadian dairy industry and the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Industrial Research Chair program. Their goal is to find practical solutions that improve dairy cattle welfare, which farmers can incorporate on their farms without experiencing negative effects on their livelihood, but that are acceptable to the public. This trio of researchers and their group of 18 graduate students, plus an additional 10 to 15 post-doctoral fellows and visiting scientists, publish more than 20 peer-reviewed articles every year.

Collectively, their work has contributed much of the foundational work that is cited in industry best practice documents, including:
1. The National Farm Animal Care Council of Canada’s Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle;
2. The United States’ National Milk Producers Federation’s Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM);

These documents provide guidance for the care and handling of dairy cattle, and are widely implemented by dairy producers. For example, Canada’s Code of Practice provides the basis for Dairy Farmers of Canada’s new proAction Initiative. The results of research done by the UBC group also directed the development of the new Animal Care Workbook manual, available at https://www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction/resources/animal-care.

Much of the research done by this team is based out of their research dairy facility—the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre in Agassiz, British Columbia, the world’s leading facility for dairy welfare research. The UBC Dairy Centre is helpful for controlled, experimental work, but to get a better sense for how these results apply on commercial farms, the research team also has a long history of applying their research on working farms in B.C. and elsewhere in North America. The results of their on-farm research are useful for the farmers who participate in the work since it allows them to benchmark their performance against their peers, as well as use their own data to develop tailored solutions for their farms.

For example, Alex Hoogendoorn from Valendoor Farms in B.C. has seen real value in this work. “The recommendations and research provided by UBC have helped our farm adapt and progress into a modern dairy industry. Some things done on a dairy farm are because that’s how dad or uncle did it, or that’s how we have always done it. UBC has provided me with research-based recommendations that allow for more informed decision making. By taking these new results, I have changed small things or tweaked other things to improve our farm and make it more efficient and
The research published by the UBC team always goes through the quality control process of peer-reviewed publication in a scientific journal before the researchers summarize it for industry trade magazines and newspapers, such as Milk Producer, Ontario Farmer, Hoard’s Dairymen and Progressive Dairymen. Their work is recognized around the world, often making international headlines in publications, including Scientific American, The LA Times and The Economist. For example, their work on calf housing has shown benefits of pair-housing pre-weaned calves, including surprising benefits in the calves’ learning and social skills compared with calves housed individually. This work, together with a decade of other research by this group on production, health and behavioural effects of social housing, provides a scientific basis for recommendations regarding alternative housing methods.

“From the research that gets the limelight, but we wouldn’t have any of that without the students,” von Keyserlingk says. “They’re incredibly passionate, and are going to create positive change for animal welfare in the future.”

Many of the research students have gone on to work in the field, and now hold faculty positions at several top Canadian and American universities, or work in the industry with organizations, such as Ag Research in New Zealand, Chicken Farmers of Canada and Alberta Farm Animal Care, among others.

All three UBC researchers are internationally recognized as leaders in their field and have received many awards for their work. Weary received the Killam Research Prize in 2015, while von Keyserlingk received the American Dairy Science Association Award for Excellence in Dairy Science in 2013, sponsored by Elanco.

Both were jointly awarded the first International Ruminant Well-Being Award in 2016 at the International Buiatrics Congress in Dublin, Ireland, sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Inc. Fraser has also received numerous accolades, including the Order of Canada, for his contributions to animal welfare research.

Part of what makes their research partnership so successful and highly productive is mutual respect between the three chair holders and their students, but also their different but complementary research strengths. “We can do more together than we could ever do individually,” Fraser says. Having access to dairy research and conducting daily meetings with students also gives the researchers opportunities to problem solve and brainstorm ideas.

In addition to the biological work funded by NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Dairy Cattle Welfare, the UBC researchers are leaders in using social science methods to understand the views of farmers, veterinarians and the public around issues associated with dairy welfare. By taking a research-based approach to these societal concerns, the group is able to better identify emerging issues and develop research solutions that also address the barriers and values of those working directly with cows.

For more information on the researchers’ work and research outcomes, visit http://dairycentre.landfood.ubc.ca/research/animal-welfare-and-behaviour/. For an overview of the research under this chair financed by Dairy Farmers of Canada, visit www.dairyresearch.ca.
ne aspect of supplemental fat feeding that has not had much attention at the farm level is its ability to modify the fatty acid composition of milk fat. Milk fat contains a diverse range of fatty acids. Generally speaking, short- and medium-chain fatty acids are made in the mammary gland from acetate, and long-chain fatty acids in milk mostly originate from the cow’s diet. Palmitic acid (denoted as C16:0, after its chemical structure) in milk originates from both dietary sources and is made in the mammary gland.

Dairy farmers tend to think about a nutritional program change in terms of how it will affect a cow overall, such as whether or not a change would improve the transition period, peak milk production, body condition score, milking persistency or health, among others. However, milk composition changes are another area where changing the diet can have successful results for cows and your bottom line. Nutritionists have been formulating diets or feeding supplemental fat to increase the energy density of rations for decades because fats are more calorie dense than carbohydrates. The energy fat provides can increase milk production, improve milk fat yield and support body condition score in high-producing dairy cows. But feeding your cows certain fats can also change dairy products’ physical composition.

One of the most common feed ingredients used today is fat supplements containing high levels of palmitic acid. Anecdotal reports suggest the practice of feeding this ingredient is so commonplace now milk fatty acid composition may have been impacted, potentially resulting in changes to the properties of milk fat, such as how hard butter is or the temperature at which it melts.

Dairy researchers from the University of California at Davis recently teamed up with other colleagues to investigate the impact of feeding two types of fat containing different levels of palmitic acid. They also looked at the impact of that change on milk fatty acid composition and the properties of fats in butter.

Twelve Holstein cows were fed either a high palmitic (HP) acid-containing diet or a low palmitic (LP) acid diet for 14 days and then switched to the opposite treatment so all cows received both diets. Diets were identical with the exception of the fat supplement source. Diet ingredients were 43 per cent alfalfa hay, 14 per cent beet pulp, 10 per cent flaked corn, 10 per cent rolled barley, 10 per cent whole cottonseed, five per cent molasses cane, four per cent almond hulls, two per cent mineral and two per cent supplemental fat (either HP or LP).

The HP diet used a fat source obtained from Malaysia (containing 79.3 per cent palmitic acid), and the LP diet used yellow grease as the fat source, obtained from rendered fat (about 12 per cent palmitic acid). Cows were fed twice daily after milking at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Milk production was recorded during the second week from each treatment, and samples of milk were taken for Fatty Acid Composition Changes

Effect of feeding popular supplemental fat to dairy cows can change the properties of fat in butter.

### Table 1. Fatty acid composition of triglycerides in butter from cows fed either a fat source containing high or low levels of palmitic acid (C16:0) in their diet. (Modified from Chamberlain et al., 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fatty Acid</th>
<th>High Palmitic Diet</th>
<th>Low Palmitic Diet</th>
<th>Standard Error</th>
<th>Probability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C4:0</td>
<td>4.33</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6:0</td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C8:0</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C10:0</td>
<td>2.08</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C11:0</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C12:0</td>
<td>2.24</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C14:0</td>
<td>8.62</td>
<td>9.05</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C14:1</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C15:0</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C16:0 (palmitic acid)</td>
<td>41.45</td>
<td>27.66</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C16:1 trans</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C16:1 cis</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C16:1 trans-7</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:0</td>
<td>9.41</td>
<td>14.54</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 trans-5</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C:18:1 trans-7 and trans-8</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 trans-9</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 trans-10</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 trans-11</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 trans-12</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 trans-13 and trans-14</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 cis-9 and cis-10</td>
<td>17.95</td>
<td>22.86</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 cis-11</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 cis-12</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 cis-13</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:1 trans-16</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:2</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:3</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18:2 cis-9,trans-11</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C20:4</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C20:5</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C22:5</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C22:6</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
compositional analysis. Milk was also collected for cream separation and making butter.

There were no differences between the diets for dry matter intake or milk yield. Four per cent fat-corrected milk yield was higher for the HP diet (40 kilograms per day versus 37.1 kg per day) reflecting the higher fat content of the milk from the HP-fed cows (4.21 per cent versus 3.68 per cent). The milk protein content from the two diets was not significantly different. The fatty acid profiles of the butter made from the HP- and LP-fed cows are shown in Table 1.

Palmitic acid is normally the most abundant fatty acid in milk fat and that was the case for both of the butters made from cows on the two diets. However, the content of palmitic acid increased from 27.66 grams per 100 grams in the LP butter to 41.45 grams per 100 grams in the HP butter.

Important physical properties of the butter were affected by the sources of fat fed to the cows. Butter hardness was measured at 10 degrees Celsius and at ambient (room) temperature. The findings showed at both temperatures, the butter from the HP-fed cows was harder. As well, the melting temperature of the HP butter was higher than the LP butter, with a peak melting temperature of 38.11 C (HP butter) versus 35.96 C (LP butter). The impact of changing the cows' diet resulted in physical differences in the butter made. The authors pointed out this could also affect physical properties of other dairy products containing fat, such as cheese.

There is no information readily available on the use of palm-based fats at the farm level, but it is important to recognize as an industry the potential exists for nutritional changes to affect the properties of the final product. It is unknown what the impact smaller changes to cows’ diets may have on the physical properties of dairy fat since only two diets were compared in this experiment. The researchers couldn’t make any conclusions as to whether or not the physical changes are desirable or not, in terms of consumer health benefits. There was a small but significant decrease in the level of Omega-3 fatty acid (linolenic acid, C18:3) in the butter when the palm fat was fed. Any potential impact on dairy products will depend on the desired fat characteristics for the final product the milk is processed into, including butter or cheese, as well as consumer preferences. Maintaining good communication with processors about milk’s characteristics will continue to be important in developing novel dairy products.
MARKETS

GAP NARROWS

Market indicators show P5 is in a better position to fill all current domestic butterfat demand

P5 production and Canada’s butter stock levels are in a better position to fill all current domestic butterfat demand, says Patrice Dubé, director of economics for Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO), adding there is no sign the strength behind that demand will weaken over the next dairy year.

It should translate into a reduction in the quantity of butterfat being imported through the use of supplementary import permits over the coming months.

While P5 production levels remain strong, so is the demand for butterfat. P5 producers, especially in Ontario, are filling their incentive days at a fill rate above 60 per cent (close to 60 per cent for P5 producers), Dubé says.

In the May issue, it was reported butter stock levels at the end of March were at 35,809 tonnes, when in fact they were at 28,704 tonnes. Even with this correction, butter stocks at the end of April were at 29,917 tonnes, which is close to the original target of 30,000 tonnes that was expected to be reached at the end of July. The Canadian Dairy Commission believes butter stock levels could reach as high as 33,000 to 38,000 tonnes at the end of July if current production trends continue.

“If all markets are being filled with domestic butterfat, including the further processing market, that will signal butter stocks are at the right levels,” Dubé says. “Above that level, it would mean additional butter stocks can be used to meet the growing butterfat demand.”

Having butter stocks above the 30,000 target level, or any level that is sufficient to meet all domestic butterfat demand, will likely result in fewer requests for supplementary imports for butter from further processors who require, on average, approximately 1,100 tonnes of butter per month to satisfy all their manufacturing needs. “It will mean these further processors will be able to get all their requirements from domestic butterfat, which is a good thing for the Canadian dairy industry,” Dubé says.

Overall indicators are showing butterfat demand will continue to grow, such that the industry is expecting another five per cent increase in the overall demand in the next dairy year. Dubé says, adding the key to market forecasting is determining what the right level of butter stocks is to fill current and future demands.

The P5 quota committee will be meeting again on June 16 to review current dairy year data and the forecast for the next dairy year in order to determine whether or not an adjustment in the production signal is required.

Summary: Despite butter stock levels reaching close to or above the 30,000-tonnes target level, P5 producers are encouraged to continue with the production momentum to ensure the industry is able to fill all current demand, Dubé says. Market indicators point to an increasing ability to meet all current domestic butterfat demand with Canadian domestic butterfat production, a goal the industry should continue fulfilling.

P5 UTILIZATION BY CLASS*

For March 2017 (kg of butterfat/kg of solids non-fat)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% Butterfat</th>
<th>% Solids Non-Fat</th>
<th>% Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1(a)</td>
<td>11.43%</td>
<td>25.78%</td>
<td>*28.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1(b)</td>
<td>11.17%</td>
<td>23.61%</td>
<td>*6.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2(a)</td>
<td>6.45%</td>
<td>19.50%</td>
<td>*3.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2(b)</td>
<td>4.86%</td>
<td>21.20%</td>
<td>*3.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3(a)</td>
<td>5.55%</td>
<td>16.80%</td>
<td>*6.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3(b)</td>
<td>5.50%</td>
<td>14.10%</td>
<td>*6.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3(c1)</td>
<td>3.94%</td>
<td>13.93%</td>
<td>*4.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3(c2)</td>
<td>6.12%</td>
<td>15.42%</td>
<td>*7.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3(d)</td>
<td>4.07%</td>
<td>22.24%</td>
<td>*3.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.99%</td>
<td>24.53%</td>
<td>*12.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5(a)</td>
<td>2.44%</td>
<td>21.17%</td>
<td>*1.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5(b)</td>
<td>3.28%</td>
<td>21.80%</td>
<td>*1.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5(c)</td>
<td>0.71%</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
<td>0.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5(d)/4(m)</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
<td>0.53%</td>
<td>0.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.06%</td>
<td>24.73%</td>
<td>*5.15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class 1a: Homo, 2%, 1%, skim, chocolate milk, flavoured milks, buttermilk
Class 1b: Fluid creams
Class 2a: Yogurt, yogurt beverages, Kefir and Lassi
Class 2b: Ice cream, sour cream, frozen yogurt
Class 3a: Fresh cheese, specialty cheese
Class 3b: Cheddar cheese
Class 3c: Asiago, Munster Canadian style (muenseter), Feta, Gouda, Havarti, Parmesan, Swiss
Class 3ci: All types of mozzarella except those declared in class 3d, Brick, Colby, Farmer, Jack, Monterey Jack
Class 3d: Mozzarella used strictly on fresh pizzas by establishments registered with the CDC
Class 4a: Butter and powders
Class 4b: Condensed and evaporated milk for retail sale
Class 4c: New products
Class 4d: Inventory, animal feed
Class 4m: Domestic surplus
Class 5a: Cheese for further processing
Class 5b: Non-cheese products for further processing
Class 5c: Confectionery products
Class 5d: Planned exports (Class 4m is grouped with 5d)
Class 7: Milk used to process milk ingredients
**P5 AND WESTERN MILK POOL BLEND PRICES**
The graph below shows the 12-month blend price for the P5 provinces and Western Milk Pool (WMP).

*There is a three-month lag reporting these figures.

**MONTHLY QUOTA PRICES ($/kg)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROVINCE</th>
<th>PRICE/kg</th>
<th>AMOUNT WANTED/kg</th>
<th>AMOUNT FOR SALE/kg</th>
<th>AMOUNT PURCHASED/kg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>115.47</td>
<td>115.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>$39,075</td>
<td>60.50</td>
<td>278.29</td>
<td>30.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>$31,309</td>
<td>97.00</td>
<td>32.47</td>
<td>31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>$23,999</td>
<td>53.50</td>
<td>339.24</td>
<td>45.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>12,246.82</td>
<td>695.42</td>
<td>695.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>8,587.90</td>
<td>1,146.00</td>
<td>1,144.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>683.75</td>
<td>41.13</td>
<td>41.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>45.10</td>
<td>28.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>$23,202</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>75.80</td>
<td>33.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Newfoundland does not operate a monthly quota exchange. Quota is traded between producers.

**ONTARIO DEDUCTIONS, PER HL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Within quota</th>
<th>Over-quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DFO Administration</td>
<td>$0.635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQM Administration</td>
<td>$0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFO Research</td>
<td>$0.050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canwest DHI</td>
<td>$0.060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$2.920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Expansion</td>
<td>$1.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deductions</td>
<td>$5.185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total net</td>
<td>$72.852</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These figures are based on Ontario’s average composition for April 2017 of 4.11 kg. butterfat, 3.37 protein and 5.80 other solids, rounded to the nearest cent.

**U.S. CLASS PRICES**

The April 2017 Class III Price, US$15.22 per hundredweight, is equivalent to C$47.28 per hectolitre. This equivalent is based on the exchange rate of US$1 = C$1.36857, the exchange rate when the USDA announced the Class III Price.

The Class III Price is in $ US per hundredweight at 3.5 per cent butterfat. One hundredweight equals 0.44 hectolitres. Canadian Class 5a and Class 5b prices track U.S. prices set by the U.S Department of Agriculture.

*Source: USDA*

**ONTARIO MONTHLY PRODUCER AVERAGE GROSS BLEND PRICE**

A total 3,622 producers sold milk to DFO in April compared with 3,746 a year earlier.
15 **FARMERS WIN TRIPS TO ONE: THE ALLTECH IDEAS CONFERENCE**

Dairy farmer Andrew Brekveld from Woodstar Farm in Thunder Bay, Ont., will represent Canada at ONE: The Alltech Ideas Conference as one of the winners of the My Farm. My Future. contest.

Farmers are continuously adapting to changes in technology, markets and the weather, battling the constant unknown while working hard to ensure a future for their farm and feed a growing world.

The Alltech My Farm. My Future. Facebook contest offered producers the opportunity to create a video to share their farm’s story and future for a chance to win a trip to ONE: The Alltech Ideas Conference, held in Lexington, Kentucky, in May. The selected videos were posted on Alltech’s Facebook page (Facebook.com/AlltechNatural) for public voting.

It was a tight race and the votes were so close that a second-place prize was added. Brekveld received the second place trip package to Lexington for the conference. He is focused on improvements and innovations for the future of his farm, including cow comfort and producing high-quality Canadian milk.

“In no other business is future planning more important than in farming,” says Dr. Pearse Lyons, president and founder of Alltech. “Yet at the same time, in no other business is it as difficult as it can be within agriculture with its myriad variables.”

Lyons says Alltech is proud to salute these forward-thinking farmers for sharing their ideas and inspiring others with their stories.

ONE: The Alltech Ideas Conference is an annual international conference that draws more than 3,000 attendees from nearly 80 countries to network and discuss world-changing ideas.

For more information, visit one.alltech.com.

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**ANTIBIOTIC ALTERNATIVE FOR CATTLE NOW AVAILABLE TO CANADIAN VETERINARIANS**

NovaVive Inc., a Canadian immunobiology company, has announced its cattle immunotherapeutic, Amplimune, is now available to Canadian veterinarians.

Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) recently approved the product.

Amplimune is a potent immunomodulator that reduces the clinical signs and mortality associated with *E. coli* K99 diarrhea in neonatal calves. The product is an emulsion of mycobacterium cell wall fractions (MCWF) that enhances innate immunity to fight bacterial infections without the use of antibiotics.

Veterinarians and cattle producers are under increasing pressure to reduce antibiotic therapies used in animals, particularly food-producing animals, such as cattle.

*E. coli* diarrhea in calves is typically treated with antibiotics. There is growing concern in Canada and globally about the dramatic increase of antibiotic resistance. In animals, this has primarily resulted from the indiscriminate use or overuse of antibiotics as preventative therapies or growth promoters.

“The development of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens in animals can pose serious risks to human health when they are transmitted as foodborne or waterborne contaminants,” says Graeme McRae, president of NovaVive Inc.

“There is a growing need for effective antibiotic alternatives.”

He says products, such as Amplimune, that activate the body’s innate immune system to fight infection and disease are one such alternative.

“We are excited to be taking this proactive step to help Canadian cattle producers curb antibiotic use in their herds, and we look forward to working with producers and veterinarians to assess additional cattle diseases where antibiotic alternatives are needed,” he says.

For more information about the company, visit www.novavive.ca.

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**LALLEMAND ANIMAL NUTRITION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS**

Lallemand Animal Nutrition is excited to announce the continuation of its Lallemand Forward Scholarship in 2017.

This is the third consecutive year the scholarship program will be offered to students in Canada, United States and Mexico. This continued investment, which supports the development of nutrition technology and expertise, parallels with the company’s goal of enhancing knowledge and production practices.

“We received an overwhelming response from outstanding candidates over the last two years, and we look forward to this year’s submissions to support future leaders of our industry,” says Jeff Ast, commercial director at Lallemand Animal Nutrition, North America.

For questions regarding the scholarship, contact Lauren Kasten at lkasten@lallemand.com.
Patz Corporation has redesigned and rebranded its current 270- and 350-cubic-foot trailer vertical mixers, which are now available as Patz 800 Series II Vertical Mixers.

Enhancements to this new series include an increase in tub wall thickness (from 3/16” to 1/4”) and a new containerized package for international shipping.

This go-to mixer blends a wide variety of ingredients and can be used for several different applications to fit farmers’ needs. The 800 Series II Trailer Vertical Mixer is great for feeding dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats and hogs. Composting is another popular use for this mixer. It can handle yard and field waste, food waste, cardboard, sawdust, poultry litter, and much more.

A wide variety of options allow multiple opportunities for customization. Customers will be able to choose discharge door location(s) that best fits the needs of their operation. A Patz Tub Mounted Magnet (patent pending) can be added to remove tramp metal from the ration. Additional options include our patented Raptor knives, hay retainer kits, a camera package, and scale packages.

Like all Patz vertical mixers, the 800 Series II Trailer Vertical Mixers feature a simple design, and are engineered with high-quality components to ensure long life and reliable performance.

For more information, visit www.patzcorp.com.

DeLaval recently launched a new DeLaval calf feeder CF1000S, which is the latest model that features remote connectivity, allowing calf raisers to access information about their calves’ feeding habits and plans from a smart device, such as a phone or tablet.

Automatic calf feeding has been praised in research from leading universities for its intensive calf feeding capabilities, helping increase calves’ daily rations and intake frequency.

“The benefits of automated calf feeding—increased milk yields, lower mortality rates and lower replacement costs—have been widely studied and accepted within the industry,” says Gavin Strang, DeLaval market development and sales support manager for capital equipment. “However, feeding calves robotically also includes advantages for the producer, such as the conversion of higher value labour and now with CalfApp, the ability to monitor calf data and service the machines remotely.”

The Dairy Calf and Heifer Association recommends calves double their birth weight in the first 60 days to ensure lifetime health and productive milk yields. DeLaval calf feeder CF1000S helps producers achieve this target growth rate by taking the guesswork out of feeding. DeLaval’s exclusive calf feeder software accommodates each calf’s unique feeding pattern by allowing her to carry over the remaining ration from the previous day. DeLaval understands success in automated calf feeding is a team effort, which is why the company requires its dealers to be certified before they install the machines. Further, these dealers are supported by a large network of DeLaval veterinarians, nutritionists and calf health experts to help farms achieve maximum results.

The CalfApp is free for iOS and Android users and can be downloaded at https://www.calf-cloud.com/#!calfApp.

For more information, contact Hannah Barthels, communications specialist, at hannah.barthels@delaval.com.
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Tea lovers are going crazy over a new food trend in Asia. It’s called cheese tea, and before you turn your nose up on this idea, think of it as bubble tea meets Frappuccino. But instead of a whipped cream topping, it’s a frothy blend of whipped cream and rich cream cheese.

The drink started in China, which is surprising considering up until recently, the country consumed almost no cheese at all. But North Americans always knew cheese made everything taste better, and China is starting to pick up on the amazing things cheese can do for foods. With the invention of cheese tea, China is taking everyone’s obsession with cheese to a new level.

The drink is so popular in Asia that consumers are lining up to wait literally hours for cheese tea, made with cold fruit or green tea and topped with either a sweet or salty fluffy cream cheese.

Food blogger Ethan Wong even witnessed huge crowds waiting outside the HeyTea shop in China for up to three hours. Its popularity has sparked other cheese tea shops to pop up in Malaysia and Taiwan where store owners are taking advantage of this food craze.

The Asian drink has even made its way over to North America with a bubble tea stand testing the market in Queens, New York, by serving cheese tea. It hasn’t quite reached Canada yet, but when it arrives here, you should know there’s a specific etiquette to drinking cheese tea if you want to fully experience its complex flavours.

While tea baristas will offer you straws, it’s frowned upon if you actually use it to drink the tea. You’re also not supposed to use it to stir the tea and cheese together either. Instead, if you’re adventurous enough to try this concoction, you’re expected to drink the tea straight from the side of the cup tilted at a 40-degree angle.

You’re more than likely to end up with a thick cream cheese mustache, but drinking it this way allows you to get two layers of flavour—the rich cream cheese froth followed by the refreshing, flowery cold tea. Using a straw would only pick up the tea, leaving the best part floating behind in the cup.
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