



July 27, 2010

Dairy Farmers of Ontario Update

There are a number of updates regarding quota and programs to provide to dairy farmers. Details on these updates follow:

1. One per cent Quota Increase on August 1st

The P4E Quota Committee recommended that quotas be increased one per cent August 1, 2010. All provinces approved the increase. The quota increase to Ontario producers is all non-saleable. The non-saleable quota per cent starting with the August 2010 exchange is 1.345 per cent.

2. Increased Inhibitor Testing at Plants

It is the responsibility of producers to ship milk that does not contain inhibitors. DFO has recently increased funding for inhibitor testing at processing plants to ensure that milk does not contain inhibitor residues before being unloaded for processing into consumer products. Processor testing will routinely include beta lactam, as well as sulfa and tetracycline-based veterinary drugs. National and provincial testing programs routinely test for drug residues in addition to beta, sulfa and tetra-based drug residues.

Producers who cause a load to be rejected due to an inhibitor residue are liable for the losses and costs and are subject to a penalty if their sample of milk and the load sample are officially positive. A producer sample will also be randomly selected each month and tested for a broad spectrum of veterinary drug residues. Producers are required to follow label directions and obtain a prescription from their veterinarian if treating off label. Ensure you follow your veterinarian's written prescription, including withdrawal periods, for all off-label drug treatments.

3. Load Rejection Temperature and Related Farm Requirements

The Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission (FPMC) approved, in principle, a request made by the Ontario Dairy Council to be able to reject loads of milk that are greater than 6° Celsius when arriving at a processing plant.

To ensure that loads are not rejected for temperature, DFO has asked the FPMC to revise regulations that will require Bulk Tank Milk Graders to reject a farm bulk tank of milk that is greater than 10° C at the time of pickup.

Producers are asked to take action to ensure that their milk is cooled to 4° or 5° C at the completion of the last milking before milk pickup. If loads of milk are rejected because they are greater than 6° C, DFO will review bulk tank temperature regulations and may require that the bulk tank rejection temperature be lowered in the future.

4. Iodine Testing to Commence

All provinces will be providing their producers with an annual iodine test over the next three years for management purposes. Testing is targeted to start in fall 2010. DFO will report test results to producers. Producers should consult their nutritionist and veterinarian if results are greater than 500 micrograms per litre. Producers with test results greater than 500 will be provided an automatic information test six months following the original test. For more information, review the iodine article in the July 2010 issue of *The Milk Producer*.