



## DAIRY FARMERS OF ONTARIO

### Animal Care and Welfare

Dairy Farmers of Ontario is the legislated authority to license all dairy farmers in the province of Ontario to produce and market milk.

DFO is governed by a Board of Directors who are licensed dairy farmers elected by licensed dairy farmers.

DFO requires that all dairy farmers ship safe, high quality milk from healthy cows and suitable farm premises. Farms that meet this standard are classified as Grade A.

DFO provides the resources and appoints a Director responsible to the Minister of Agriculture to administer the provincial Raw Milk Quality Program for the provincial government. Responsibilities include the inspection of licensed dairy farm premises, administration of the provincial raw milk testing program, inspection of tank-trucks used to transport milk, and certification of Bulk Tank Milk Graders who pick up the milk from licensed farms for transport to processors licensed to process milk.

Regarding milk being marketed from healthy cows, DFO's policy statement with respect to animal welfare and care is: *"DFO expects that dairy farmers licenced to produce and market milk provide humane care and handling according to the Dairy Code of Practice. DFO promotes compliance with the Code of Practice through education and extension, inspection and cooperative efforts with stakeholders and Farm and Food Care Ontario."*

Ontario Regulation 761 requires that only milk from healthy cows is offered for sale and requires that animals receive appropriate care. Fieldpersons appointed by the Director determine if appropriate animal welfare and care is provided during farm inspections. Farm inspection frequency is risk based and conducted at least bi-annually. Frequency increases based on previous farm inspection findings and test results being within the regulatory standard.

In addition to farm inspections, each licensed dairy farmer must provide a declaration signed by the licensed dairy farmer and their veterinarian annually. The declaration is to indicate that appropriate care is provided by the producer, that appropriate animal welfare is evident and that appropriate animal care is provided. The provision of the annual declaration is also required under Ontario Regulation 761.

Additional information regarding the provision of appropriate animal care can be found on the DFO website at [www.milk.org](http://www.milk.org) under the 'Farmers' menu. A copy of the declaration form that must be provided annually is attached to this document.

Prepared by the Director of Regulatory Compliance – December 2013.



### Cattle Health and Veterinary Medicine Use Declaration

DFO Licence No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on DFO Licence \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Producer \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### VETERINARIAN DECLARATION

As of this date, I have visibly observed the general health status of the cattle in this herd and found them to be healthy, or receiving satisfactory care and treatment for routine health conditions. I have verified that this producer has in place a system for identifying treated and sick cows and for preventing milk from these cows from entering the producer's bulk tank(s).

I have reviewed and discussed the use of veterinary medicines with \_\_\_\_\_, the person responsible for the use of veterinary medicines for this herd. I have advised this person that veterinary medicines must always be used according to label directions, unless a licensed veterinarian who has a valid vet-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with the producer and the producer's herd has provided written directions to do otherwise.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Veterinarian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### PRODUCER DECLARATION

As a DFO licence holder, I acknowledge that I am responsible for and that I do maintain an ongoing relationship with a licensed veterinarian for animal health and advisory services and I agree that veterinary medicines will always be used according to label directions, unless a licensed veterinarian who has a valid vet-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with me has provided written directions to do otherwise.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Producer's Name *(please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Producer's Signature\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*\* Where the licensed producer is a corporation, I have authority to bind the corporation.*