

## **Partner Profile - Alberta Milk**

*Submitted by Karlee Conway*

### **Who is Alberta Milk?**

Alberta Milk is a non-profit organization that represents the province's dairy farmers. We are driven by grassroots representation and our board of directors and delegates are all licenced dairy farmers. We support dairy farmers in their work to produce safe, nutritious food in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way.

### **What Do We Do?**

We undertake a variety of activities that represent the interests of Alberta's dairy producers.

#### Marketing

From Calgary Stampede to Aggie Days, Alberta Milk is dedicated to telling the good stories of Alberta's dairy farmers and the nutritious benefits of dairy. We also work within Alberta's education system to help teach students about dairy nutrition and dairy farming practices.

#### Research

Our support of research and development is driven by the overarching purpose of ensuring the sustainability of milk production. Our dairy farmers value the importance of research and annually invest approximately \$400,000 into projects and initiatives focusing on animal care to reproduction to nutrition.

#### Transportation

Alberta Milk directs the sale and delivery of all raw milk, within the province of Alberta, which is sold to licenced dairy processors. Milk is picked up from each farm at least every second day and every load of milk is tested to ensure its high quality.

#### Extension

We believe the adoption of new information and technology is vital to continued improvements. Through workshops, articles, and conferences, we help share information to improve day-to-day operations on the farm.

#### Policy

Direction and policy for our dairy farmers is executed on a grassroots approach. Our board of directors and delegates, all whom are dairy farmers, establish policies to better support our producer body.

#### Government relations

We represent the interest Alberta's dairy farmers on municipal, provincial and federal jurisdictions. We do this by connecting with elected officials and sharing our concerns related to a specific issue.

## **What's New?**

### *New General Manager*

We are pleased to welcome Freda Molenkamp-Oudman as our new general manager.

Freda brings over 20 years of progressive experience and agriculture knowledge. She comes to Alberta Milk from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry where she was the assistant deputy minister of the strategy, planning and governance division. She replaced Mike Southwood who retired after 19 years.

### *High-Tech Dairy Facility to be Built in Alberta*

Dairy Innovation West (DIW) is a state-of-the-art facility which is the first of its kind in Canada. The technology will remove water from raw milk that will create concentrated components required by dairy processors to be used in a variety of dairy products. The facility will have the capacity to accommodate up to 300 million litres of milk per year.

A priority of this facility is to reduce the environmental impacts of transporting milk across the four western provinces. DIW will reduce trucking emissions by 50 per cent by reducing the volume.

### *Biosecurity Module of proAction®*

Through proAction, Canadian dairy farmers collectively demonstrate responsible stewardship of their animals and the environment, sustainably producing high-quality, safe, and nutritious food for consumers. On September 1, 2019, the latest farmer module to come into effect was biosecurity whereby farmers across the country implement best management practices to minimize or prevent the introduction of infectious disease agents.

This is the fifth out of six modules that provide proof to customers that our farmers work to ensure Canadian milk is high quality and safe and they work to continually improve animal health and welfare.

## **Contact**

Please go to [albertamilk.com](http://albertamilk.com) for more information about Alberta's dairy industry.  
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