

Partner Profile: Alberta Milk

Submitted by Alberta Milk

Alberta Milk is a non-profit organization that represents Alberta's 570 dairy producers. We are a proud producer-driven organization receiving our direction from an elected board of directors (11) and delegates (30), whom are all licensed dairy farmers.

Alberta Milk is funded through three mandatory membership assessments: marketing, consumer nutrition and education; production research; and administration. We operate a transportation network to truck raw milk, which is picked up every other day, to 22 milk processing plants in the province. Alberta's milk annual production is about 650 million liters produced by about 80,000 cows.

Together with each of the other provincial dairy producer groups and our national organization Dairy Farmers of Canada's (DFC), Alberta Milk recently adopted the **proAction** Initiative, which states "Canadian dairy farmers wish to collectively demonstrate responsible stewardship of their animals and the environment, sustainably producing high-quality, safe and nutritious food for consumers". The **proAction** Initiative will set national, third-party verifiable standards for six key areas:

- ✓ Milk quality
- ✓ Food safety
 - Livestock Traceability - *In progress, adoption by 2016*
 - Animal Care - *In progress, adoption by 2018*
 - Biosecurity - *In progress, adoption by 2020*
 - Environment - *In progress, adoption by 2022*

Our agri-environmental priorities/issues include:

- We encourage the adoption of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and environmental regulations governing confined feeding operations. We are members of the Policy Advisory Group of the Natural Resources Conservation Board which implements the Agricultural Operations Practices Act.
- We have completed a life cycle analysis, which shows Canadian farmers are doing well compared with other countries in terms of environmental impact.
- We are very engaged in the Land Use Framework process to ensure our input into future agricultural planning, policies and practices.
- Canadian dairy producers have two years of recognizing farmers with outstanding sustainability practices.
- We invest in research and promotion of greenhouse gas emissions reduction.
- Alberta Milk places a high priority on, and receives significant value from, its membership in AEPA and the Intensive Livestock Working Group. These two agencies substantially leverage Alberta Milk's commitment to environment stewardship and helps the agriculture industry do more together than we could on our own.
- The Canadian dairy industry has conducted a socio-economic analysis which includes a value commitment to society.
- Many dairy farmers in Alberta already have an environmental farm plan.

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