



Tuesday, February 13
Saint Isidore Recreation Centre
Saint Isidore, ON

Wednesday, February 14
North Grenville Municipal Centre
Kemptville, ON



www.eontdairydays.com

EASTERN ONTARIO DAIRY DAYS 2024

The Eastern Ontario Dairy Days are organized by Dairy Farmers of Ontario through its Dairy Producer Committees in Ottawa-Carleton, Glengarry, Prescott and Russell, Frontenac, Dundas, Ottawa-Carleton, Stormont Grenville, Lanark, Leeds and Renfrew in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Event Coordinator

Blair Murray

**DFO Board Member, Region 3:
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and Renfrew**

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Stacey Bowles
Member Services Rep
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sbowles@gayleafoods.com

PROGRAM

FEB 13-14 | 9:30 AM-3:30PM



9:30 am	Registration Opens
10:00 am	Welcome
10:15 am	Western Canada Quality Milk Program pg.3 <i>Kelly Mauthe, Alberta Milk</i>
11:00 am	Dairy Cattle Welfare: Identifying a Sustainable Road Forward pg.7 <i>Dr. Marina vonKeyserlingk, University of British Columbia</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch - Visit Exhibits
1:10 pm	Milk Pricing Policy and Influences pg.21 <i>Kristin Benke, DFO</i>
2:00 pm	Taking Advantage of Cost Share Programs pg.24 <i>Pierre-Alain Blais (St-Isidore) and Norma Banford (Kemptville), OSCIA</i>
2:40 pm	Managing Dairy Herd Inventory pg.27 <i>Craig LeRoy, EastGen</i>
3:10 pm	Q & A
3:30 pm	Adjourn - Thank you to our sponsors pg.28

Kelly Mauthe, Member Services Specialist, Alberta Milk

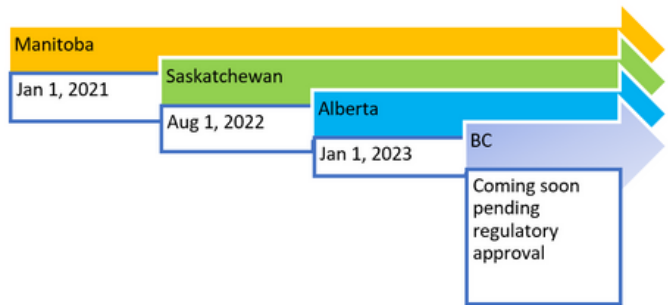


In 2006 Kelly became the milk quality specialist at Alberta Milk. He has been on the front lines of design and implementation of data gathering innovation (handheld devices, barcoding, gps integration), data validation and database design and contributed to the harmonizing for efficiency and ease of administration of the Western Milk Pool. He is responsible for milk quality policies, sample testing programs and milk measurement in Alberta, including quality penalties, the monthly quality bonus program and yearly quality awards. He is a member of the proAction Food Safety Technical Committee

Western Milk Pool Progressive Penalty Program

The Western Pool Milk Quality program has undergone change in 2023 to the PPP (Progressive Penalty Program) where every load matters in farm quality standards. Kelly will share Alberta’s experiences with this new approach.

Effective January 1, 2023, Alberta adopted the new Western Milk Pool Progressive Penalty Program (PPP). PPP is based on the principle that milk shipped from every bulk tank not meeting quality standards results in a financial penalty for the exact volume of substandard milk shipped.



The PPP provides for pay deductions, and licence suspensions and cancellations when a producer’s milk quality does not meet regulatory standards.

Frequency of Testing

The Western Milk Pool (WMP) strives to test every viable sample for bacteria, somatic cells, freezing point, and components. To maximize the number of samples available to be tested the WMP implemented lab testing for 6 days a week and enhanced the courier system to reduce sample turn around time.

Standards for Raw Milk – What triggers an Infraction?

Quality Area	Infraction Level	Test Frequency	PPP Deductions Applied if
Individual Bacteria Counts (IBC)	Over 121,000 cells/ml	Every qualifying bulk tank milk sample	Any individual IBC test is greater than 121,000 cells/ml
Somatic Cell Counts (SCC)	Over 400,000 cells/ml	Every qualifying bulk tank milk sample	Any individual SCC test is greater than 400,000 cells/ml
Freezing Point (FP)	Over -0.525°H or -0.507°C	Every qualifying bulk tank milk sample	Any individual freezing point test is <u>over</u> -0.525°H or -0.507°C

Penalty Amount

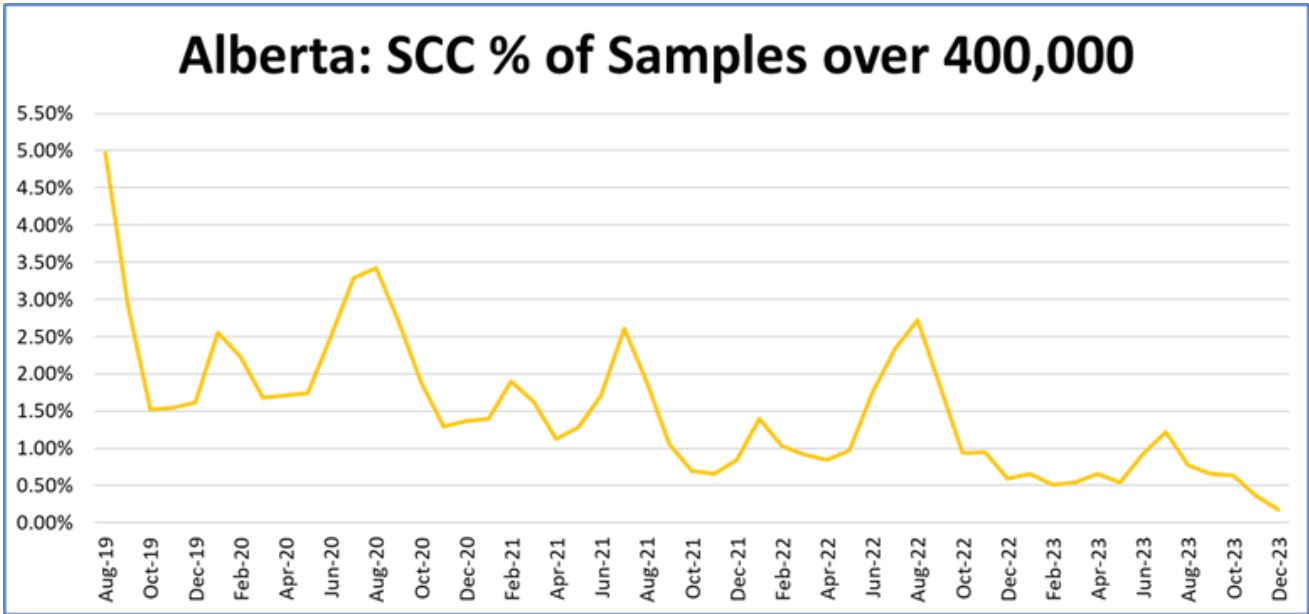
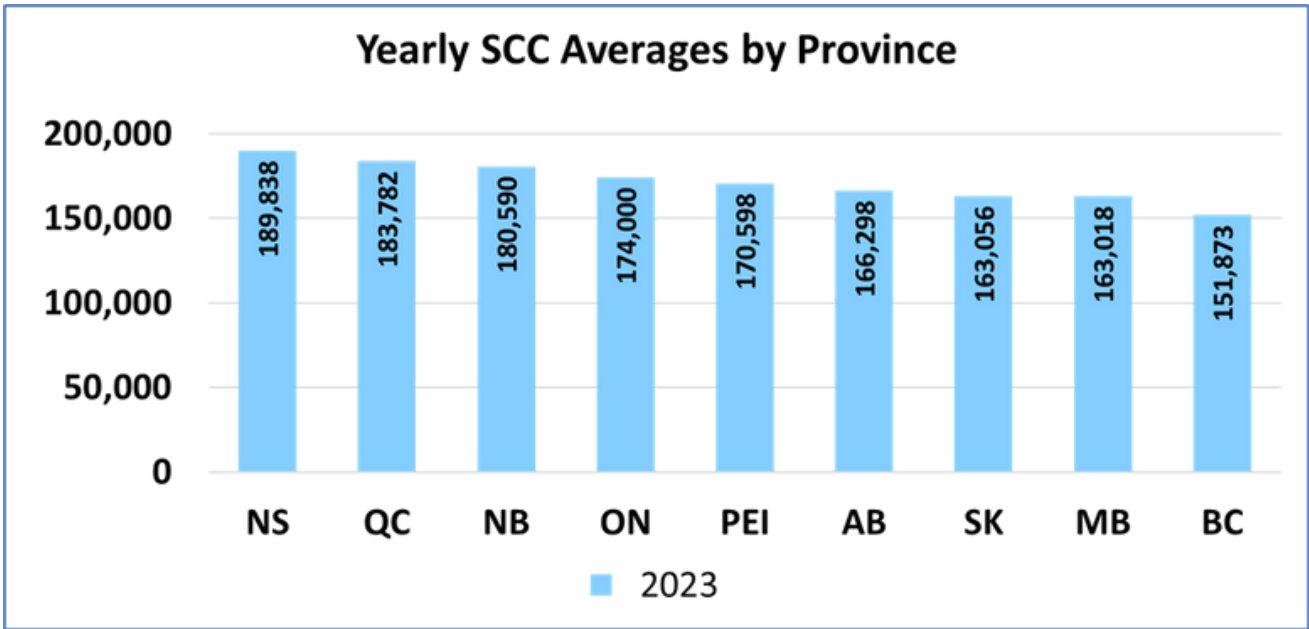
The WMP PPP has four penalty levels. Penalty rates increase based on how often a farm has marketed substandard milk within the last rolling 12 months:

WMP PPP Penalty Level	Penalty Amount	Number of Infractions (rolling 12 months)
1	\$5/hL	First 10 infractions (#1 – 10)
2	\$15/hL	Next 10 infractions (#11-20)
3	\$45/hL	Next 10 infractions (#21-30)
4	\$45/hL + Suspension	Next 1 or more infractions (#31 and up)

Every occurrence over 30 infractions in a rolling 12-month period triggers a penalty plus a suspension:

- a) 1st suspension (in the past 12 months) is minimum 6 days shut off – must get a sample into the lab for testing in that 6-day period to prove the issue is corrected.
- b) 2nd suspension (in the past 12 months) is minimum 12 days shut off – must get a sample into the lab for testing in that 12-day period to prove the issue is corrected.
- c) 3rd suspension (in the past 12 months) is minimum 24 days shut off – must make a request/appeal to the board in that 24-day period. Board may set conditions that must be met for pickups to resume or choose to cancel licence.

EASTERN ONTARIO DAIRY DAYS 2024



NOTES

LOOKING FOR HELP DEFINING YOUR

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 INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR BULL CALVES.



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Nicole Clement
Director of Agriculture
613-791-1731
nicole.clement@rbc.com



Tracy Young
Senior Relationship Manager
613-203-4770
tracy.young@rbc.com



Scott McCaig
Relationship Manager
289-830-2712
scott.mccaig@rbc.com



Blair Mahoney
Relationship Manager
819-576-3106
blair.mahoney@rbc.com



Hayden Cox
Relationship Manager
705-491-6794
hayden.cox@rbc.com



Marianne Sears
Relationship Manager
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(01/2024)

Dr. Marina von Keyserlingk, Professor NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Dairy Cattle Welfare, University of British Columbia



Dr. Marina von Keyserlingk (Nina) is a Professor and NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Animal Welfare at The University of British Columbia. Her interdisciplinary approach to research has focused on identifying measures and ways of improving the lives of animals under our care. She is also among the first in her field to combine experimental and qualitative methods when addressing animal welfare issues.

She has received many awards for her outstanding achievements as an international leader working in the field of sustainable food animal production. She has published over 350 peer reviewed scientific papers and is a frequent and enthusiastic speaker for academic and professional audiences both nationally and internationally.



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Animal Welfare Program

Faculty of Land and Food Systems

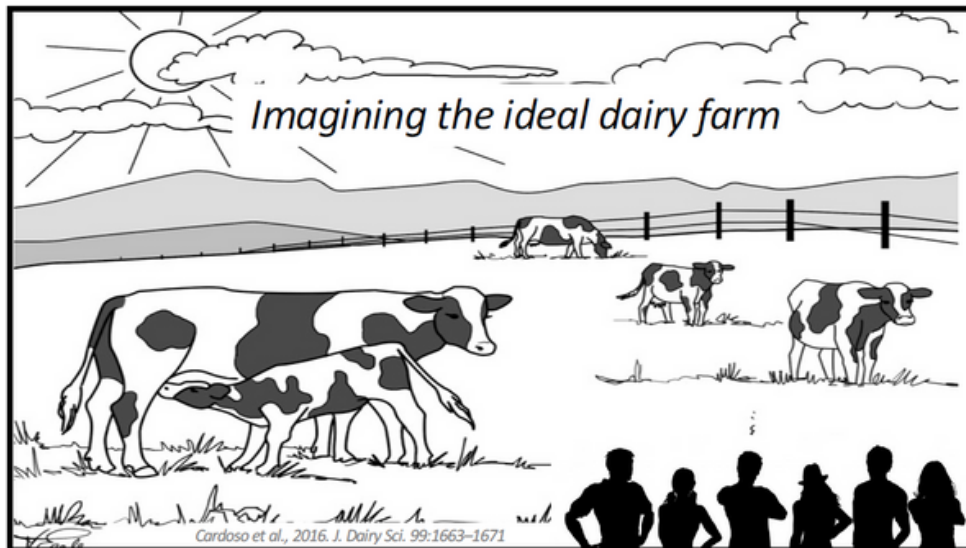
Cattle Welfare: Identifying a sustainable road forward - The case of cow-calf separation

Marina (Nina) von Keyserlingk and Daniel M. Weary
nina@mail.ubc.ca and danweary@mail.ubc.ca

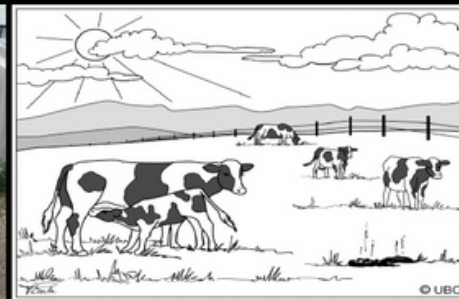


The plan

- What is the public's vision of the dairy industry?
- Cow calf separation – reasons cited justifying the practice
- The available evidence
- What are the options?
- A call for research!



The Great Divide



An ad agency's vision of what they think resonates with core values of milk buyers.

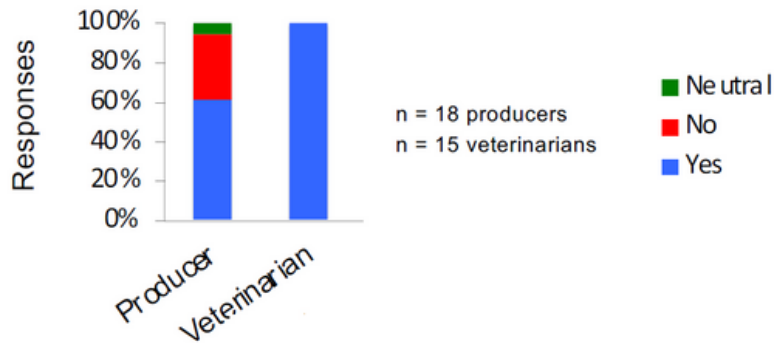


Some reasons used to justify separation

1. Early separation is thought to increase financial profits, given that this practice allows the harvest (and sale) of milk that calves would otherwise drink.
2. Colostrum feeding and calf health thought to be improved when calves are separated
3. Milk let-down is thought to be facilitated by separating the calf.
4. Mother-infant bond develops slowly in the hours and days after calving, early separation is thought to minimize the distress response for both the cow and calf.

Flower and Weary, 2003. Anim. Welfare 12:339-348
Meagher et al. 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 5765-5783

“Should dairy calves be separated from the cow within the first few hours after birth?”



Ventura et al., 2013. J. Dairy Sci. 96: 6105 – 6116

Barriers to change



Barriers to change

- Perception that limited social contact is better for the calf (reduce disease) and the cow (concern that mastitis will become an even bigger challenge)
- Lack of knowledge on any positive effects of contact
- Perception that we lack practical methods for housing cows and calves together
- Concerns regarding declines in milk production
- Operational concerns such as increased labor, safety issues

Ventura et al., 2013. J. Dairy Sci. 96: 6105–6116

Neave et al., 2022. J. Dairy Sci. 105: 453–467

Three big questions of cow-calf rearing:

Effects on health, production and behaviour?



A systematic review of the effects of early cow calf separation on dairy cow and calf health

Records identified by Web of Science
(n=126)

↓
After screening, addition of papers from
reference sections, etc. (n=63)

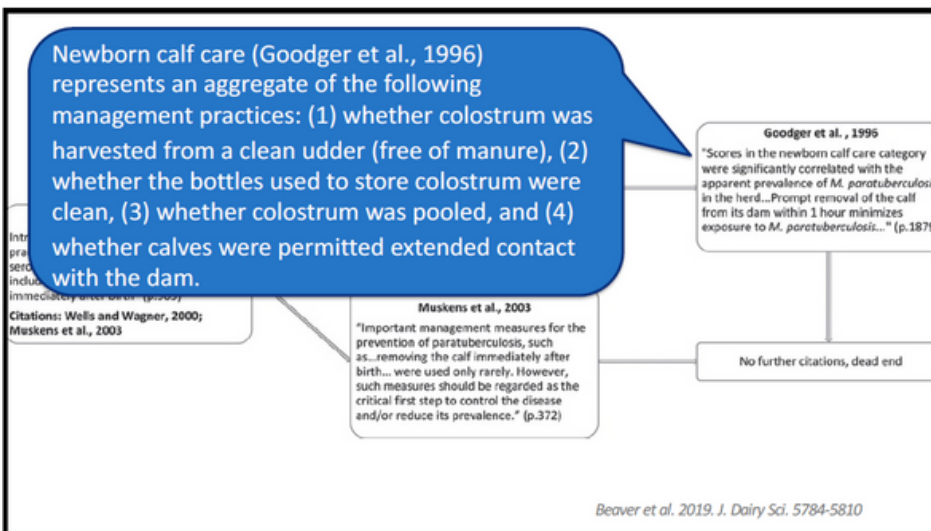
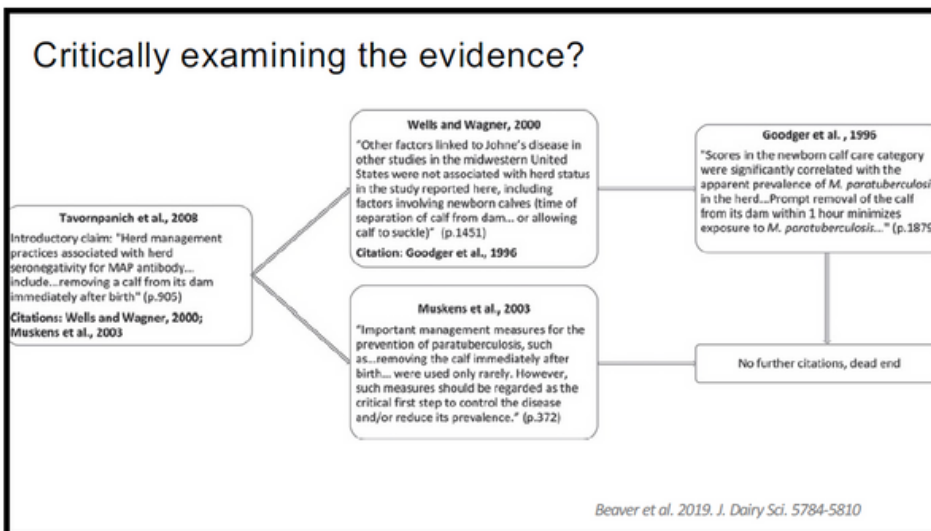
↓
Calves: scours (n=12), crypto (n=9), Johne's
(n=13), immunity (n=9), mortality (n=9)
Cows: mastitis (n=18)

Beaver et al., 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 5784-5810

Effects of a prolonged suckling period on calf and cow health

	Positive	Mixed	Negative
Calf			
Scours	6	5	1
Cryptosporidiosis	2	5	2
Pneumonia	1	2	0
Immunity	3	2	4
Mortality	6	2	3
Johne's disease	1	12	0
Cow			
Mastitis	11	7	0
Other conditions	?	?	?

Beaver et al. 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 5784-5810



EASTERN ONTARIO DAIRY DAYS 2024



A systematic review of the effects of prolonged cow-calf contact on behavior, welfare, and productivity

Records identified by Web of Science (n=283)

↓

After screening, addition of papers from reference sections, etc. (n=53)

↓

Acute separation (n=4), Social behaviour (n=12), Abnormal behaviour (n=8), Later responses to stress/novelty (n=8), Other behaviour (n=4), milk yield (n=22), calf growth (n=22)

Meagher et al. 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 5765-5783

..and on performance and behaviour

	Positive	Mixed	Negative
Calf			
Weight gain: during nursing phase	16	10	3
Weight gain: after separation	1	5	6
Weight gain: final weight	9	5	0
Acute separation response	1	0	3
Social behaviour	9	1	1
Abnormal behaviour	9	2	0
Response to novelty	3	4	4
Cow			
Milk production: during nursing phase	7	2	6
Milk production: extended beyond nursing	3	11	0

Meagher et al. 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 5765-5783



What are our options?

Will compromises be endorsed by the public?



Modified/furnished/enriched cages

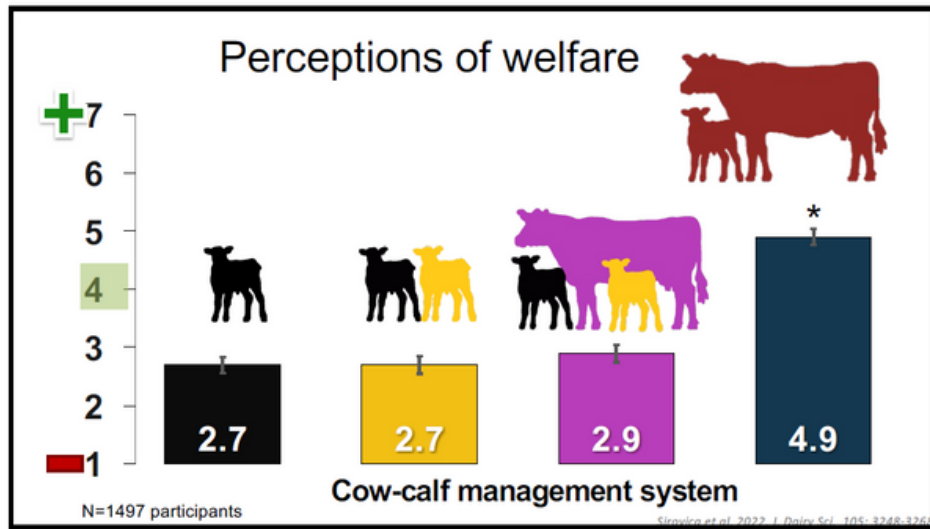
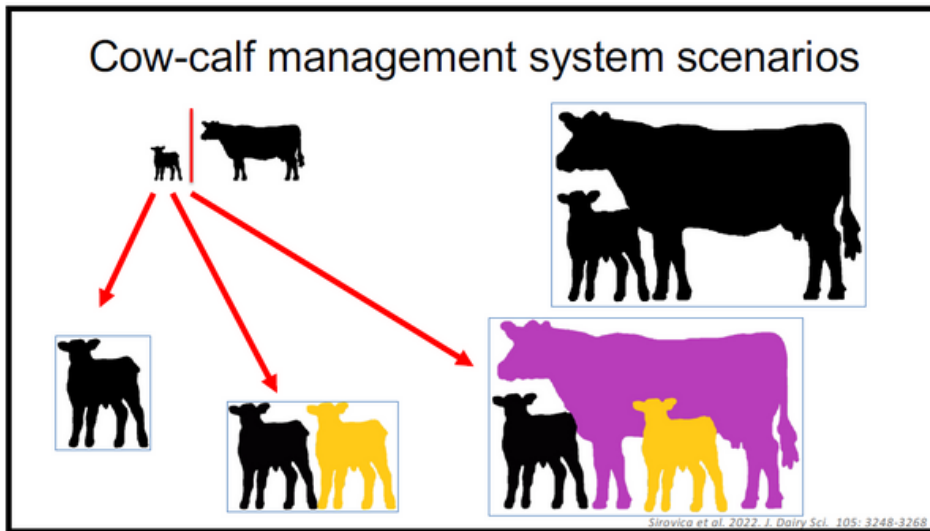


Foster cow systems

Public perceptions:
Dairy cattle welfare in different cow-calf management systems



Sirovica et al. 2022, J. Dairy Sci. 105: 3248-3268



"I do not think separating a new born from their mother is acceptable, neither is isolating a baby or any animal. They deserve an acceptable life." (Individual)

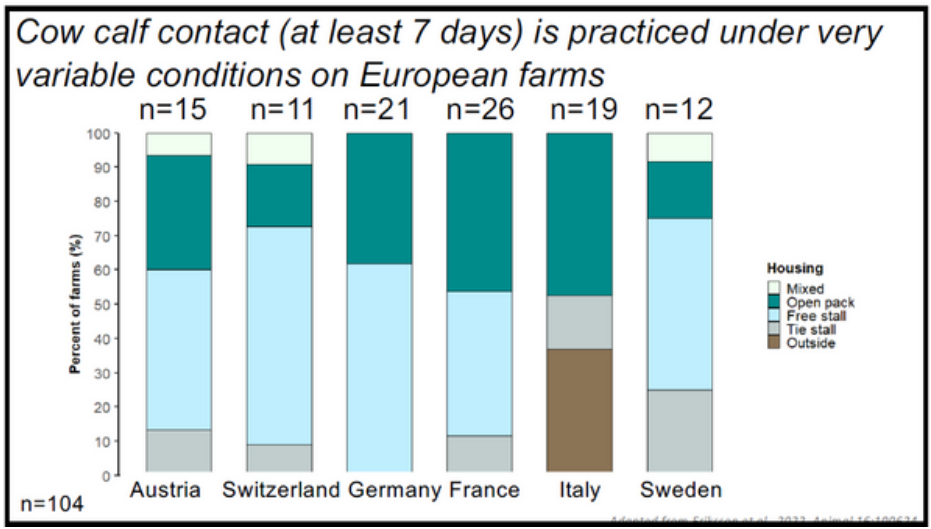
"Physically the calves are being taken cared of, but emotionally the separation of the calf from its mom is not okay in my opinion." (Foster)

"It seems morally wrong to separate a baby from its mother so soon in order to profit from the mother. Perhaps it is simply wrong to willfully break up families of sentient mammals?" (Group)

"A newborn calf should be fed by his mother; why another cow?" (Foster)

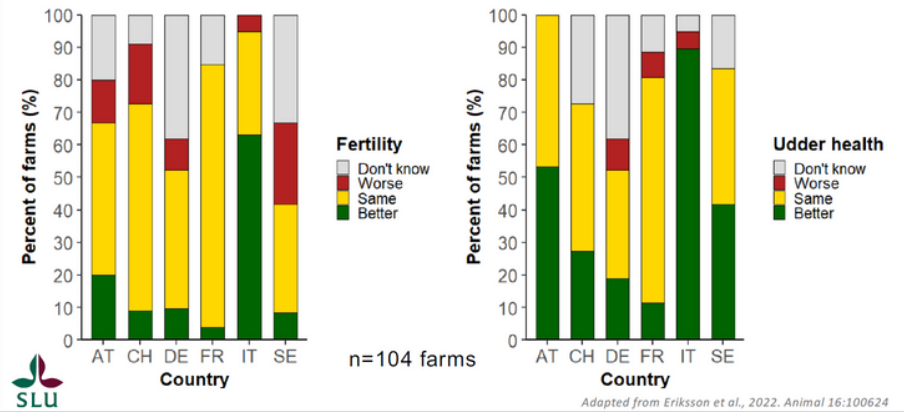
"It seems fair. Mother and baby cow get to stay together, farmer gets milk, mother has enough left for baby hopefully? Win-win situation." (Contact)

Sirovica et al. 2022, J. Dairy Sci. 105: P3248-3268

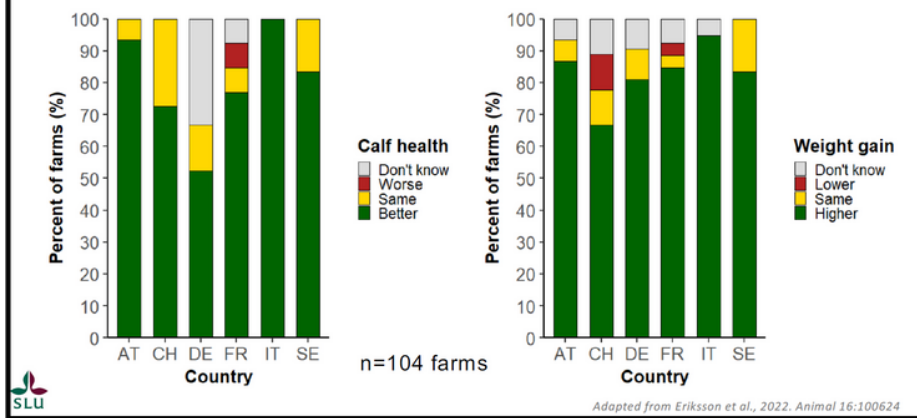


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The majority of farmers perceived fertility and udder health to either be improved or stay the same after transitioning to CCC



Almost all farmers believed calf health to be improved after transitioning to a CCC system



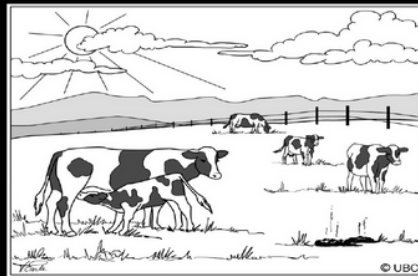
What next?

- Is partial daily contact sufficient to meet the welfare needs of both cows and calves? How long should they have contact?
- Should the calves also be provided an alternative milk source such as via an automated feeder ?
- How do we reduce weaning distress? Should milk weaning and separation from the dam occur simultaneously or at different times?
- What are the impacts of prolonged CCC on transition cow health, milk yield, estrous cyclicity and conception rates?

A key component to developing workable cow calf contact systems will be to engage with farmers that are already managing their herds this way – what can we learn from them?



Remember the dairy industry is constantly evolving...



...embracing change takes courage but can also bring opportunity.



NOTES



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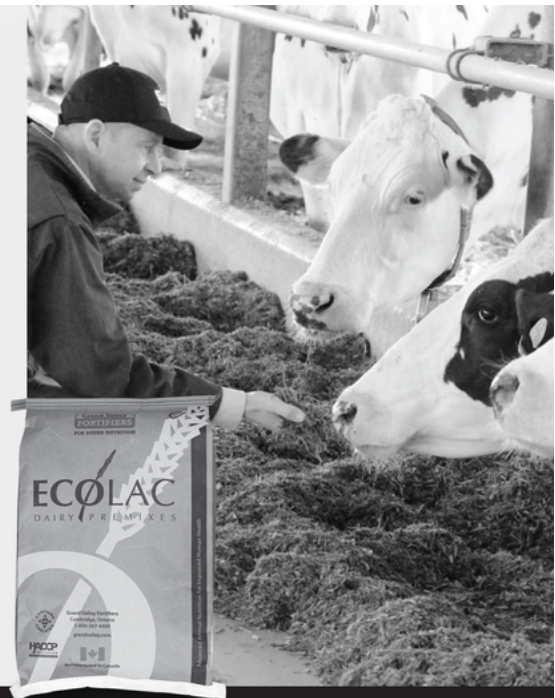
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DAIRY FARMERS OF ONTARIO

Kristin Benke, Chief Business Officer, Dairy Farmers of Ontario



Kristin Benke joined DFO in 2008 and has worked in a variety of areas of the organization during her time with DFO. She was promoted to the position of Chief Business Officer at DFO in December 2021, and is currently responsible for economics and policy, quota, and billing and payment. She obtained her bachelor's degree at Queen's University in Economics and has a master's degree in economics from the University of Guelph

Milk Pricing and Policy

Pricing

- National Pricing Formula = 50% of the variation in Cost of Production + 50% of the variation in Consumer Price Index (inflation) = Price Adjustment in %
- National Pricing Formula applies to milk sold in Class 1 – 4 annually.
 - Class 1 – 4 cover 89% of national butterfat production and 76% of national SNF production
- Dairy Industry Stakeholders (producers/processors/grocers/restaurant/consumer) can request the Canadian Dairy Commission review the results of the formula and apply a different pricing result.
- In 2024, the pricing formula result of 1.77% will apply, but has been delayed to May 1, 2024, instead of February 1, 2024.

SNF Ratio Policy

- The policy was changed on August 1, 2023 to reduce the tier 2 price to better reflect the revenue for solids-not-fat produced above 2.0. These components are used for the production of dairy ingredients, and animal feed. The impact of the decrease in tier 2 price is an increase in the Tier 1 price for components.

EASTERN ONTARIO DAIRY DAYS 2024

- The following table is an example of this impact for August 1, 2023

		Old Policy (\$/kg)	New Policy Effective Aug 1, 2023 (\$/kg)	Difference (\$/kg)
Tier 1 Price	Butterfat	\$13.15	\$13.32	+\$0.17
	Protein	\$10.82	\$10.96	+\$0.14
	Other Solids	\$0.90	\$0.90	\$0.00
Tier 2 Price	Protein	\$2.46	\$1.72	-\$0.74
	Other Solids	\$2.46	\$0.63	-\$1.83

Production and Market

- Processor demand has been strong in P5 through the fall and to start 2024. Its unusual to have such strong demand in January and February
- Butter stocks increased by 2,613 tonnes in December to 27,363 tonnes. The target stock level is 35,000 tonnes for July.
- There have been some shifts in market demand. P5 quota has increased by 1.0% in 2023 compared to 2022. A new forecast is being developed based on more recent trends.

NOTES

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Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) Programs and Cost-Share Opportunities

Pierre-Alain Blais (St-Isidore) & Norma Banford (Kemptville)



Pierre-Alain Blais has been a bilingual customer representative and workshop facilitator for 6 years for the OSCIA. Among his duties in Eastern Ontario, he assists producers with cost-shared funding programs offered by OSCIA and facilitates training workshops offered by the Association in both official languages. These workshops include the Environmental Farm Plan - which a large majority of dairy producers have participated in with Pierre-Alain over the past few years - as well as webinars on livestock biosecurity, delivered by a qualified veterinarian.



Norma Banford is a Client Services Representative with the OSCIA. She delivers workshops and works individually with clients to assist in sharing learning opportunities for cost share programs in Eastern Ontario. She presents to local organizations and associations on cost share opportunities and is looking forward to discussing these programs with us. The value of these programs resonates with her personally as her roots are in the dairy world as her family growing up had a large registered dairy herd. After a federal government career she returned to the farming community for her retirement.

January 30, 2024

The **Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership** (Sustainable CAP) was launched in April 2023, enabling OSCIA to continue providing programming to support Ontario's farming community. OSCIA delivers both cost-share funding programs and workshops and webinars under Sustainable CAP Farmers can register for workshops at: www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/workshops-webinars/

- **Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)** workshops continue to be offered as 2-day, in-person workshops and 1-day Renewal Workshops. There is also an electronic workbook option for those who are looking to renew it in their own time. Early in 2024 a virtual webinar option for EFP completion will be developed as an alternative way to complete the EFP. OSCIA is developing a virtual delivery option for the EFP targeted to launch in late spring 2024. The virtual option will allow farmers to participate online in a workshop facilitated by an OSCIA Workshop Leader.
- Commodity specific Biosecurity workshops are offered as well. General Livestock, Poultry, Crops and Horticulture, and Bee Biosecurity programs run in both online webinar and in-person workshop formats.

In 2024 there are a few cost-share opportunities already announced that could be utilized by dairy farmers, information can be found at: <https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/cost-share-programs/>

EASTERN ONTARIO DAIRY DAYS 2024

- The **Nature Smart Climate Readiness Program** is currently accepting applications. Nature Smart helps support nature-based solutions to store and capture carbon, mitigate the impacts of climate change, improve water quality and contribute to biodiversity on farms. This program involves a competitive bid process for projects that support conservation or restoration of grasslands, wetlands and riparian buffer zones. The total cost for a project must be identified, with farmers making a cost-share funding request (bid). The first intake of this three-year program allows retroactive costs back to April 1, 2023, through to March 31, 2024. No closing date has been announced yet. Information is available at: <https://programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org/program/?cat=nature-smart-climate-readiness-program>.
- **On Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)** program encourages farmers to adopt best management practices (BMPs) that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases, specifically in nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing systems. These activities also provide other environmental benefits such as improved biodiversity and soil health. Farmers can apply to Intake 3 of OFCAF between February 13, 2024, at 9am to February 27, 2024, at 5pm. To claim for this program, farmers must participate in a Knowledge Sharing Event (KSE) related to their project BMP. The eligible invoice and KSE participation dates for projects approved during this intake are January 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025. Since this program supports the implementation of a practice on applicable acres, the practice must be implemented in order for the cost-share to be paid. No extensions will be granted as this program ends in March 2025. Information is available at: <https://programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org/program/?cat=fonds-daction-pour-le-climat-a-la-ferme,on-farm-climate-action-fund>.
- The **Species at Risk Partnership on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL)** program funds conservation actions focused on supporting 12 target Species at Risk. The next intake for SARPAL opens May 14, 2024, at 9am and will close when the budget is fully allocated. Eligible invoice dates are from April 1, 2024, to December 15, 2024.
- The **Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP)** allows agricultural landowners to undertake habitat creation, enhancement and protection best management practices (BMPs) that support species at risk. The intake for this program opens April 1, 2024, and will close when the budget is fully allocated. Eligible invoice dates are from April 1, 2024, to December 15, 2024. Information is available at: <https://programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org/program/?cat=species-at-risk-farm-incentive-program>.

EASTERN ONTARIO DAIRY DAYS 2024

- As part of the Sustainable CAP, the **Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program (RALP)** launched in 2023. Intake 1 opened in October 2023 and is anticipated to close in early 2024. RALP is a funding program to support farmers in making their agricultural lands more productive and resilient. It supports projects in the categories of Natural Grassland Establishment, Perennial Biomass and Warm Season Pastures, Reduced Tillage, Tree and Shrub Plantings, Water Retention Features and Wetlands. A second intake of this program is expected to open in late spring, 2024.
- The **Biosecurity Enhancement Initiative** is delivered directly through OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs), but OSCIA delivered biosecurity webinars are strongly recommended when applying for funding. The Biosecurity Enhancement Initiative supports the areas of reducing animal health risk, traceability, plant health, and pest management. OMAFRA’s intake opened September 19, 2023, and will be open until January 6, 2025. Details can be found on <https://www.ontario.ca/page/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership#section-1>

Sign up to the **OSCIA Programs Mailing List** to receive email notifications on program launches and intake announcements as they are made:
www.ontariosoilcrop.org/subscribe-to-our-programs-mailing-list/

If you have questions, please visit www.ontariosoilcrop.org/contact/ to find local and regional SCIA contacts, as well as Client Services Staff to assist you if you have any questions about the programs offered by OSCIA.

NOTES

Craig Leroy, Dairy Solutions Specialist, EastGen



Craig LeRoy has a BSc(Agr) in Animal Science from University of Guelph and a Masters in Population Medicine from OVC. As Dairy Solutions Specialist he is an on-farm consultant partnering with clients to improve profitability of their herds by finding reproductive and genetic based solutions. Craig will share how to manage herd inventory for better efficiency and profit for your dairy.

Managing Dairy Herd Inventory

Inventory management plays a large role in a herd’s profitability. It is not only important to create the right number of replacements but also create the right replacements. Though the price of fresh cows has increased, the price of raising a heifer significantly increased as well (\$3,521 to \$7,207 Lactanet, 2023). Knowing your costs and the markets that are available to sell surplus animals to can help you make informed decisions for your business. Setting your herd’s goals and sticking to a plan are key to making genetic progress for your operation. Developing a breeding strategy using tools such as sexed semen, beef semen and genomic testing can increase your herd’s genetic gains significantly. Selecting the right dairy bulls that best fit your herd is important for genetic gains but so is selecting the right beef bulls. Making sure you are creating the beef cross calves that the growers and consumers are demanding will create higher profit for the whole value chain.

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