



President's message

The BC Milk Producers Association has had a busy year working on behalf of dairy producers in this province.

Earlier in the year, the recently launched Anaerobic Digestion Initiative Advisory Committee (ADIAC) organized a very successful workshop for government regulators and industry. At this workshop, ADIAC launched a very informative website, www.bcfarmbiogas.ca, containing progress to date as well as useful information for farmers interested in looking into this area.

In order to enhance communication and to coordinate activities on dairy research the BC Dairy Education and Research Association (BCDERA) was integrated into the BCMPA and is now known as the Dairy Education and Research Committee (DERC).

With a province wide concern over finding trained labour for dairy farms the Dairy Apprenticeship Steering Committee (DASC) continued its work to establish an apprentice-training program for milkers and herdsman. We anticipate this program, now called Dairy Pro BC, to get underway in early 2010.

With increasing public focus on animal welfare and transportation issues the BC Farm Animal Care Council was launched in 2009. Also this year the National Dairy Code of Practice was revised.

In our continuing efforts to be proactive in dealing with potential threats to the dairy industry we helped organize a well-attended workshop on Foot and Mouth Disease. The information from national and international experts was sobering indeed and emphasizes the need for surveillance. We are continuing to implement premises ID at the provincial level while cooperating on a national animal traceability system.

I am pleased to announce that a majority of BC milk producers are now registered on CQM. Food

Thank you Cornie



As you have probably already heard, Cornelis Hertgers has been elected to the BC Milk Marketing Board and as a result will be leaving the BC Milk Producers Association.

Cornie was a director on BCMPA since August 1997 and was the Association's

President from March 2004 to March 2008. While on BCMPA, Cornie had a very active role, participating in 14 different committees as the dairy representative, including BC Agriculture Council and BC Dairy Foundation. As Tom Hoogendoorn, President of Mainland Milk Producers puts it, "Cornie is a solidier of the industry". Cornie manages his farm 'Cordine Farms' with his wife Geraldine and sons David and Nathan.

Cornie will be leaving very large shoes to fill. We wish him only the best with his new appointment to the BC Milk Marketing Board where he will have the opportunity to continue to serve our industry.

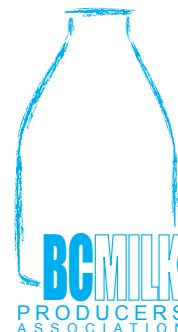
safety is a paramount concern of consumers and regulators. The voluntary participation of the BC dairy industry in a province wide food safety program like CQM is one way to assure consumers of the wholesomeness of our product.

We had staff promoting our industry at many fairs and exhibitions across BC this summer. A particular hit was the Mobile Dairy Classroom Experience where the public can actually see a cow being milked while hearing the story of milk production. This has been particularly effective at schools and in urban settings where children and adults don't know much about our industry. You can see our dairy classroom in action at www.dairyclassroom.ca.

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Climate change: what dairy farmers are doing

Source: Dairy Farmers of Canada

In an effort to further understand and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) on farms, DFC is proposing to work on determining the Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) for dairy products and establish the carbon footprint of dairy products in each country by using the same calculations and standards. DFC will be seeking government funds under the research cluster to perform this life cycle analysis. Knowing the life cycle of Canadian dairy products would allow the industry to identify critical points where it can reduce its environmental impact on water use, energy use and through material resources; therefore increasing efficiency.

Dairy cows and farm practices create emissions of three main greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. These gases primarily come respectively from manure storage and management, methane emissions from cows' rumination process and fuel used on the farm.

Certain strategies to lower GHG emissions on the farm are well known. They relate mainly to three sources of emission: cows, manure and land.

You can lower emissions from cows by improving the efficiency of milk production and feeding. Some options include processing grain to increase digestibility, improving grazing practices, improving the quality of forage and lowering the forage-to-grain ratio.

You can lower emissions from manure by capturing methane in storage facilities and converting it to be used as a source of heat and energy on the farm, or by processing manure in anaerobic reactors.

You can lower emissions from the land by reducing tillage intensity, avoiding soil compaction, improving production of grazing land and restoring permanent grass and woodlands or shelterbelts.

Since 2002, with the introduction of the 5-year Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program (GHGMP), DFC has encouraged dairy farmers to play a role in addressing climate change, by using the above recommended practices for on-farm mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. These practices can also lower costs on farms.

In the "Our Cows, Our Air" mitigation program (2002-2006), DFC sponsored research that demonstrated the benefits of changing diets to reduce methane emissions from the cow; covering the manure pit and other ways to mitigate GHG emissions.

DFC also participated in the Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) of On Farm Anaerobic Digestion of Dairy Manure, in partnership with AAFC, the University of Guelph, and the Government of Ontario. This project showed anaerobic digestion of dairy manure produces biogas which can be used for energy and can reduce on-farm GHG emissions by more than half.

International Dairy Federation - World Dairy Summit 2009

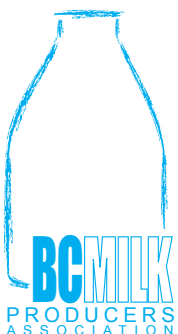
Source: Dairy Farmers of Canada

Staff members from DFC attended the International Dairy Federation (IDF) World Dairy Summit, September 17-23, in Berlin, where they attended presentations and monitored the activities of standing committees in which DFC has interest.

A topic which was greatly focused on the various IDF initiatives on sustainable development and climate change. IDF and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) are collaborating in order to evaluate the dairy sectors greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) impact. They are working together to develop a methodology for determining the Carbon Footprint of products using Life Cycle Analysis in order to mitigate climate change.

Richard Doyle, IDF President, is proud to be involved in such initiatives, which are leading the way in the dairy industry, and is enthusiastic about the new Declaration entitled the Global Dairy Agenda for Action, which outlines a 5-point commitment from the dairy industry to mitigating climate change.

Also discussed at the Summit were animal welfare and animal health technologies which help to mitigate disease; bacteria and hygiene control to ensure safe milk products; food additives; and food standards.



UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre update

By Jim Thompson, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

During 2009 the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre continued to develop its reputation as an international leading centre for dairy cattle education, research and technology transfer.

A highlight for the Dairy Welfare Group led by Dan Weary and Nina von Keyserlingk was a 5-year research grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council matching local industry dollars to support research on dairy cow health, management and well being. This group continued their commitment to producer education outreach giving more than 50 presentations locally and internationally.

The Animal Reproduction Group continued their leading work on improving Ovsynch timed insemination pregnancy rates in cows by exploring different hormone treatments and feed protein levels. The group also investigated differences in fertility between heifers and multiparous cows by evaluating embryo quality.

Scientists working in the Energy and Nutrient Recovery Group who received a patent this year for their technique to isolate phosphorous from municipal waste are adapting this technique to recover phosphorus from dairy cattle waste. The Group plans to set up a demonstration plant at the Dairy Centre in 2010.

The Centre's teaching and research programs were strengthened in 2009 by completion of a building containing laboratories, walk-in refrigerator and freezer rooms, student offices plus a fully equipped 60-person conference room. The room is available to dairy industry and other groups.

Graduate students are responsible for performing much of the research at the Dairy Centre. To provide a more comprehensive program to students and the dairy industry, the Centre is hiring a new faculty member to expand the dairy cattle reproduction program.

Research productivity at the Dairy Centre depends upon the number of students housed on-site. On-site housing cannot meet the requirements of students needing to work at the Centre. To address this crisis the Centre has the goal to raise approximately \$1.6 million to construct housing for 32 students. Individuals or organizations interested in more information about the Centre and its programs are encouraged to contact: Jim Thompson, Director, UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre (jim.thompson@ubc.ca)

CQM program reaches a new high point

More than half of BC dairy farms are now registered

By Carla DeGroot

Winter is here, the ground is frozen and it's a great time to finish up any paper work that may be sitting on your desk idling.

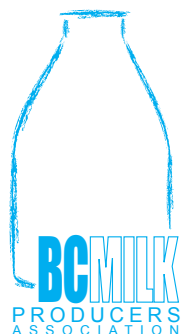
Over 53% of BC producers have made it to the last step of the CQM program, or are waiting for a validation. That means that more than half of the farms are already there. Of the remaining farms, over 80% are working their way through the steps and we are expecting to register them by middle of next year.

Of all farms in BC, approximately 8% have not shown any interest in the program. It's easy to get there, if you are interested. Remember, once your farm is registered on CQM you are eligible for your quality bonus. Please call Carla DeGroot at 604-293-2390 or send an email to cdegroot@bcmilkproducers.ca to let us know when you are ready to join.

Foot and Mouth Disease workshop

By Rick Van Kleeck, P.Eng. Coordinator - Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative

On October 27-28, 2009 the Centre for Coastal Health facilitated the British Columbia Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Forum and Workshop funded by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia. The event was by invitation and saw a wide variety of stakeholder groups in attendance. Attendees were from the CFIA, BCMAL, Municipal Government, emergency responders, the dairy/cattle/sheep/goat/poultry industries from within and outside of BC, and veterinarians. There were over 100 participants that took part in the event. The purpose of the event was to discuss ways to reduce the chance of FMD entering into BC, increase communication between all stakeholders, and develop a set of recommendations to address the current gaps in our control strategy. A final report arising from the Forum and Workshop will be available to the general public in the New Year.



First ever BC Dairy Industry Conference a huge success

By Nadia Shah

The first ever BC Dairy Industry Conference was a great success! On November 25, 2009 producers from every region of the province gathered at the beautiful Pan Pacific Hotel, located in the heart of downtown Vancouver. The conference offered dairy producers, processors, transporters and other dairy industry friends, the opportunity to learn, socialize and network. The conference kicked off with an evening reception overlooking the harbour. Guests sampled hors d'oeuvres and enjoyed refreshing beverages while mingling with new friends and catching up with old ones.



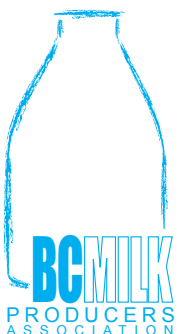
President of BCMPA, Dick Klein Geltink, welcomes guests to the BC Dairy Industry Conference.

The conference theme, “An Overview of the World Wide Dairy Situation”, was chosen with the purpose of giving everyone a sense of the global dairy scene during these troubling economic times. It also provided participants with an opportunity to share views and ideas. The panel of speakers included: Richard Doyle, President, International Dairy Federation; John Core, CEO, Canadian Dairy Commission; Jacques Laforge, President, Dairy Farmers of Canada; a special video presentation by Chris Galen, Sr. Vice President, Communications of the National Milk Producers Federation of America; Philippe Jachnik, International Affairs Counselor,



President of BC Dairy Foundation, Bouwe Miedema, directs a question towards the speaker's panel.

Conference attendance surpassed the expectations of the planning committee, with over 350 guests in attendance.





The speaker panel (left to right): Joanne Bills, Jacques Laforge, Philippe Jachnik and John Core.

Cross Industry Centre for the French Dairy Sector from France; and Joanne Bills, Manager Strategy and Knowledge, Dairy Australia. Speaker presentations were followed by a panel discussion, door prizes and the BC Milk Marketing Board AGM.



The Honourable Steve Thomson spoke at the opening of the grand banquet.

The grand banquet began with a cocktail reception in the foyer of the hotel. The Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, presented awards of appreciation to Ron Barker, Ministry staff for 25 years, and Jim Byrne, staff of the BC Milk Marketing Board for 13 years, for their long service to the industry.

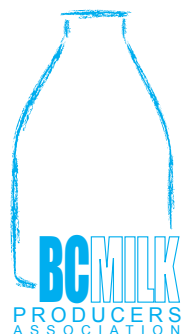


Richard Doyle, President of International Dairy Federation.

The event concluded with the BC Milk Marketing Board fall producer meeting the following morning. Producer attendance at the conference exceeded expectations with a total of 125 farms represented and over 270 producers and farm guests in attendance. The BC Dairy Industry Conference made history by doubling producer participation at the BC Milk Marketing Board AGM. A special thank you goes out to everyone who attended the first ever BC Dairy Industry Conference and to everyone who helped make it such a memorable event.



Zahra Abdalla-Shamji presenting the BC Milk Marketing Board Fall Producer update.



Environmental Farm Plan Program update

By Dave Melnychuk, P.Ag., Environmental Farm Plan Coordinator



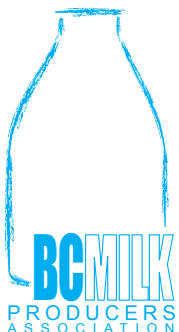
The following is a brief outline of the EFP program for the dairy sector in the Fraser Valley and North Okanagan covering the period from April 1, 2009 to the present.

Participation by dairy farmers did not substantially commence until late spring early summer, pending official announcement of the start of the EFP program under the new Federal/Provincial agreement on agriculture - Growing Forward.

Since April 1, 2009 15 dairy farms have completed the environmental farm plan and 30 dairy producers accessed the financial portion of the program to implement 41 on-farm projects (beneficial management practices -BMPs) directed at addressing environmental issues and farm management practices. The total value of these on-farm projects amounted to over \$4.0 million with the EFP program contributing 30% to 100% for each project.

The most common BMP involved improved manure storage facilities (20 projects). Other types of on-farm projects funded by the EFP program include: improved fuel storage, manure treatment (solid liquid separator/ bedding maker) and anaerobic digestors. Under the present agreement, a producer has to initiate a nutrient management plan (NMP) as a condition of accessing program cost share funds for improved manure storage, manure equipment and manure treatment. To date 20 dairy producers have completed or are in the process of completing a nutrient management plan for their operations. The EFP program provides 100% funding, up to \$1,000, to complete an NMP.

With funding from:



Present status:

1. BMP funds allocated for 2009/2010 were fully committed by October 30th; therefore BMP applications will no longer be accepted in this fiscal year. New monies for BMPs are expected to be made available on April 1, 2010.
2. Financial grants for on-farm environmental improvements range from 30% to 60% depending upon the specific on-farm project. For instance: grants for manure treatment is 30% of the project cost to a maximum of \$30,000; grants for farmyard runoff control is 50% to a maximum of \$20,000; grants for riparian initiatives such as exclusion fencing, stream crossing, shelterbelts and buffers is 60% to a maximum of \$20,000; grants for improved storage of fuel, pesticides and fertilizers is at 30% although the maximum has been reduced to \$3,000 per project in this category.
3. The overall farm cap for on-farm grants remains at \$70,000.
4. For the remainder of this fiscal year BMP funding is fully committed but funding will continue to be available to support environmental farm planning and nutrient management planning.

For more information, on how to access the EFP program to complete environmental farm plans and nutrient management plans contact: Dave Melnychuk at 604 812-3276 or davidmelnichuk@telus.net.

DairyPro^{BC}



The Dairy Production Technician Apprenticeship is in its final stages of development. Please stay tuned for more updates as we get ready to launch this exciting new program, now called DairyProBC.

New website and brochure for the Mobile Dairy Classroom Experience

By Nadia Shah

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Mobile Dairy Classroom Experience website. With the click of a button teachers and event coordinators can request a dairy classroom visit, find dairy related sources and watch a video on the dairy classroom. The website is complete with an active calendar that indicates when the classroom is available for a visit.



Mobile Dairy Classroom Experience brochure



www.dairyclassroom.ca



Mobile Dairy Classroom Experience website

In addition to the website, BCMPA will be releasing a Mobile Dairy Classroom Experience brochure. This one-of-a-kind brochure is innovative in design, informative and fun! Dairy classroom brochures will be provided to teachers, event coordinators and anyone who is interested in booking the Mobile Dairy Classroom Experience.

Requests for visits have been pouring in from all over the province and we have received lots of positive feedback from teachers, event coordinators and audience members. Next year will be a very busy year for the classroom crew so keep an eye out for us at a school or event near you.

Pacific Agriculture Show is just around the corner!

January 28-30, 2010

Back again for another successful year.

The 2010 trade show is shaping up to be one of next year's premier agricultural events with more exhibitors than ever anxious to show their products.

Along with the trade show at the PAS will be the popular B.C. Dairy Expo.

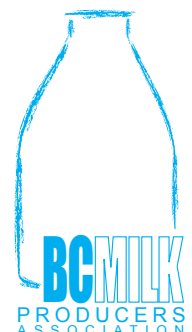
The Pacific Agriculture show is the place to not only see state of the art agriculture equipment and ideas, but also to meet old friends and make new acquaintances.

So come along and keep an eye out for Delilah, the fibreglass cow, at the BCMPA booth.

New look for BCMPA website

The BC Milk Producers Association is re-launching their website. For several months we have been working to revamp our website due to unforeseen service interruptions with our old providers. While the website may look different it still contains all the useful content you expect. Its new and improved look makes searching the website and downloading information much easier. We encourage everyone to visit our site and we hope you enjoy the new look.

www.bcmilkproducers.ca
Industry news... online!



The BCMPA website has been redesigned to make it easier to navigate. Look for the new site in early 2010 at www.bcmilkproducers.ca.

Our participation in national and trade matters has been lead by Wally Smith who is also vice president of Dairy Farmers of Canada. Although progress on WTO has slowed to a crawl we have been active in defending BC interests in the new Agreement on Internal Trade and any other issues that may impact supply management.

In 2009 we dealt with three provincial agriculture ministers. Sadly Minister Stan Hagen passed away in the spring to be replaced by Ron Cantellon. Following the provincial election in May we were pleased to welcome Steve Thomson, former Executive Director of BC Agriculture Council, to the position of Minister of Agriculture and Lands. Your association keeps regular contact with the Minister to ensure that dairy issues are well understood.

The year culminated with a very successful dairy conference that we organized jointly with BC dairy Foundation and BC Milk Marketing Board. This had to be one of the best conferences in the country with international speakers explaining the world

dairy situation. Of the 415 individual attendees there were 125 farms represented. Reports from attendees were overwhelmingly positive and we hope to see this event repeated.

This fall our past president Cornelis Hertgers was elected to the BC Milk Marketing Board. Congratulations Cornie and thank you for all of the tireless effort that you have put into the BCMPA over the years.

As president I thank my Board of Directors for all of their time and effort over the past year. Also, thank you to our dedicated staff for all of you good work.

On behalf of the Board and staff I wish all of you a very happy Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Best Wishes



Dick Klein Geltink
President
BC Milk Producers Association

Questions? Comments?

Your feedback is always welcome

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*The BC Milk Producers Association
staff and board of directors wish you a Merry
Christmas and a prosperous New Year.*

