

Biosecurity Factsheet

What is proAction?

proAction® is a national quality assurance program for Canada's dairy industry, led by Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) and supported by the dairy association in each Canadian province.

The program has six modules:

- 1 Milk Quality
- 2 Food Safety
- 3 Animal Care
- 4 Livestock Traceability
- 5 Biosecurity
- 6 Environment



The objective of proAction is to develop and implement one integrated program that establishes standards and guidelines for on-farm practices for all Canadian dairy farms.

With proAction in place, Canadian dairy farmers assure all members of the agri-food value chain (processors, retailers and consumers) that all milk in Canada is responsibly produced, safe and of high quality.



High quality Canadian milk is safe and responsibly produced.





The Biosecurity Module

Beginning in September 2019, all Canadian dairy farmers will need to comply with the requirements under the biosecurity module of proAction.



The biosecurity module is made up of **7 requirements**, which Canadian dairy farmers must implement on their farm.



Farmers are encouraged to consult with their herd veterinarian as they work towards implementing the requirements on their farms.

Why Veterinarians?

Veterinarians are well suited to be coaches for their clients in the implementation of the biosecurity module.

More specifically, veterinarians:

1. Are experts in animal health.
2. Are trusted advisors that visit the farm on a regular basis.
3. Have made the commitment to lifelong learning and professional development for animal health.



The Role of Veterinarians within proAction

- Be knowledgeable about the program and provide on-farm guidance as part of professional services.
- Conduct on-farm Biosecurity Risk Assessment Questionnaire (RAQ) with farmers every two years.
- Collaborate with farmers on reduction, elimination, and/or management of biosecurity risks.



What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity is a series of practices designed to prevent, reduce, or eliminate the introduction and spread of infectious disease (viral, bacterial, parasitic) among livestock. It is a strategic and integrated approach aimed at identifying the critical control points through which disease could enter and/or spread within the farm.

The Role of the proAction Validator

- For consistency, validators receive formal training from, and are regularly evaluated by, DFC.
- Visit farms and assess compliance with proAction requirements.



7 BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE



Nº	REQUIREMENT	Non-	EXPLANATION/REQUIRED ELEMENTS
1	Conduct Biosecurity Risk Assessment Questionnaire (RAQ) with veterinarian once every 2 years.	Major/Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity RAQ questionnaire must be completed once every 2 years. • Validator verifies RAQ has been conducted within previous 24 months.
2	Must record specific disease events for cows and calves	Demerits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record COWS with the following signs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Abortion, lameness, mastitis, diarrhea, pneumonia, death • Record CALVES with the following signs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pneumonia, diarrhea, death • Farmer must record the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The disease event > Date > Cattle ID
3	Must establish and implement an SOP* for vaccinating against specific diseases of concern	Major/minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with veterinarian to establish vaccination program in keeping with Herd Health Management Plan. • IF vaccination is practiced, SOP must document: products, group of animals, and other info required for the vaccination program. • IF vaccination is NOT practiced, SOP must state this specifically (farmer must have an SOP).
4 and 5	Must establish and implement two SOPs* to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases. These SOPs relate to when a farmer is change animals to cattle: 1. Adding new animals to the herd. 2. Bringing animals that have had contact with other animals back to the herd.	Major/minor	<p>SOPs must state that the farmer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests health info (i.e. vaccination, hoof trim, housing) on all incoming cattle (new additions). • Designates an appropriate area for all incoming cattle. • Observes and examines new additions at least daily. • IDs and trains staff responsible for animals to cattle monitoring. • Responds to any abnormalities. • Performs the actions that must be taken for new cattle prior to introduction into the home herd (such as confirmation or pregnancy or reproductive status, hoof trimming, vaccination, testing, etc.).
6	Must establish and implement an SOP* to prevent the introduction of infectious disease by family, employees, farm visitors, and service providers.	Major/minor	<p>SOP must list biosecurity measures for visitors and service personnel to follow, depending on the level of risk that each visitor could pose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require all visitors and service personnel put on clean clothing and overshoes, clean boots (washed and disinfected) or disposable boots prior to entering the production area. • Designate area for the disposal of disposable coveralls, boots and gloves. • Provide and maintain a washing station (hands, boots) for use prior to entering the production unit.
7	Have visible biosecurity signage at major access point.	Major/minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage must be posted at the major access point and visible from the main parking area.

*SOPs conducted in consultation with the herd veterinarian

pro **Action**™



Growing Forward 2 

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

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