



Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians /
Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Bovins
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Ms. Caroline Emond
Executive Director
Dairy Farmers of Canada
21 Florence Street
Ottawa ON
K2P 0W6

Dear Ms. Emond,

The Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (CABV) / Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Bovins (ACVB) wishes to express support for the Dairy Farmers of Canada proAction® Initiative. We understand that Dairy Farmers of Canada delegates will be voting on the producer criteria of four of the proAction modules (Animal Care, Biosecurity, Traceability and Environment) at DFC's Annual General Meeting next week.

As you may know, we supported the introduction of the Canadian standard of Somatic Cell Count (SCC) limit at 400,000 cells/ml. Our members were pleased to get involved at the provincial and farm level, developing practical solutions to udder health issues and developing education courses and risk assessments.

A few of our member veterinarians are still actively involved with the Technical Committee of Canadian Quality Milk (CQM), another module of proAction. We fully recognize the benefits of the CQM program in promoting the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics thereby enhancing the production of safe milk and meat. We wish to congratulate DFC in recently meeting all of the requirements of the CFIA Food Safety Recognition Program with its CQM adhering to the technical HACCP principles in promoting safe food at the farm level as defined by the *Codex Alimentarius*. CABV/ACVB is pleased to have contributed to the CQM program.

Development of the Animal Care Assessment module has been rigorous. Much time and effort has been spent to develop an on-farm assessment that is credible, cost-efficient, consistent and comprehensive. Dr. Josh Lindenbach and Dr. Danielle Fournier-Levesque are Canadian dairy veterinarians that have had the pleasure of serving on the DFC proAction Animal Care Technical Committee and have kept us abreast of the progress of the development of the Animal Care Assessment model. It is our sincere hope that dairy veterinarians will become an integral participant in the Animal Care module of proAction, including involvement in the animal care education and assessment of dairy herds. We look forward to assisting in the provision of practical and affordable solutions to animal care issues.

We feel that the proAction Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP), completed on each farm and overseen by a veterinarian, will be an excellent approach to reducing and mitigating risks for animal health. Biosecurity software designed to simplify the on-farm risk assessment is under development and we look forward to further collaboration with its authors to make the on-farm biosecurity assessment efficient and comprehensive while at the same time be user-friendly.

Finally, we understand that this initiative will become mandatory to all dairy farmers in Canada. We are fully aware of the extensive work that Canadian dairy farmers do every day to comply with existing regulations and standards and, through proAction, to go the extra step to prove they are responsible, sustainable and innovative food producers. We admire their level of dedication. Canadian dairy veterinarians consider it an honour and a privilege to work with our dairy farm clients.

CABV/ACVB looks forward to continuing to work in collaboration with DFC, its members and dairy farmers. We believe that together we can help improve the health and welfare of the Canadian dairy industry. The proAction® Initiative, a proactive and comprehensive animal health and food safety program based on continuous improvement provides the solid foundation and framework towards that goal.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Henry J. Ceelen', is positioned above the typed name.

Henry J. Ceelen, DVM
CABV/ACVB President

The Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (CABV) / Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Bovins (ACVB) represents approximately 600 veterinarians from across Canada who have a specific interest in bovine health and production medicine. The Board is composed of thirteen members who are also representatives on the Boards of Canada's four regional bovine associations: Atlantic Bovine Practitioners Association (ABPA), l'Association des Médecins Vétérinaires Praticiens du Québec (AMVPQ), Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners (OABP) and the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (WCABP).