

Fact Sheet: Dairy Beef and the CQM Program

All Canadian dairy farmers are beef as well as milk producers, and, as such, produce safe and wholesome beef. In fact, dairy producers contribute an estimated 17% of the beef industry. The Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) program addresses on-farm food safety related to all aspects of a dairy farm. As a result, the program identifies raw cattle milk, dairy cattle (dairy beef, cull cattle, young stock and calves) and replacement cattle as products from a dairy farm.

Does the CQM Program include dairy beef?

Yes, in addition to milk, the CQM program includes dairy beef. Many of the Best Management Practices and one Critical Control Point directly address beef safety.

What are the food safety risks associated with dairy beef?

The three food safety risks associated with dairy beef are:

1. Chemical: e.g. antibiotic residues
2. Physical: e.g. broken needles
3. Biological: e.g. pathogenic bacteria

How do the CQM requirements address dairy beef?

Many of the Best Management Practices that relate to milk also relate to dairy beef, such as, medicines, chemicals and pesticides must be used properly to prevent residues in beef. Animals also have to be identified, and treated animals recorded, to ensure that milk and meat withdrawals can be checked and observed before shipping an animal. Some of the nutrient management requirements reduce the amount of manure on cattle hides, reducing the bacterial contamination of beef, and other requirements are related to properly managing feeds to prevent residues or pathogen transfer.

Shipping is the last point (a critical control point) when a producer can prevent cattle carrying chemical residues or broken needles from entering the human food chain. Checking records and following standard operating procedures for shipping ensures safe beef products.

Can dairy producers use the Verified Beef Production Program?

Some dairy producers operate a beef operation as well. If your market or buyer requires or finds the Verified Beef Production (VBP) program (www.verifiedbeef.org) beneficial, implementing the VBP program may be right for you.

Who can I contact for more information?

1. Your provincial producer association
2. Visit: www.dairyfarmers.org/cqm
3. Visit: www.verifiedbeef.org