



proAction[®] Implementation

Welcome to proAction

Welcome to Dairy Farmers of Canada's (DFC) proAction Initiative, an on-farm quality assurance program that groups six programs under one umbrella:



Milk Quality is addressed in provincial regulations. DFC was instrumental in reducing the somatic cell count regulatory limit to 400,000 cells/ml in 2012.



Food Safety (formerly Canadian Quality Milk, or CQM): the food safety program has been implemented on farms across the country. It is based on the principles of HACCP.



Animal Care: the program is based on the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle and includes an assessment of animal-based measures.



Traceability: the program is based on the 3 pillars of premises identification, animal identification, and movement recording and reporting.



Biosecurity: the program has been developed and is based on preventing the introduction into, and spread of disease within, a herd.



Environment: the program is under-development. It includes the required completion of an environmental farm plan (EFP).

DFC has Technical Committees for each program, composed of subject-matter experts and farmers. These committees report to the proAction Committee, which is largely composed of farmers. The proAction committee reports to the DFC Board of Directors. Recommendations on content and program direction are then brought to DFC Delegates for approval. Farmers are, and have been, involved at every level; everyone has worked diligently to develop practical programs.

Implementation Timelines

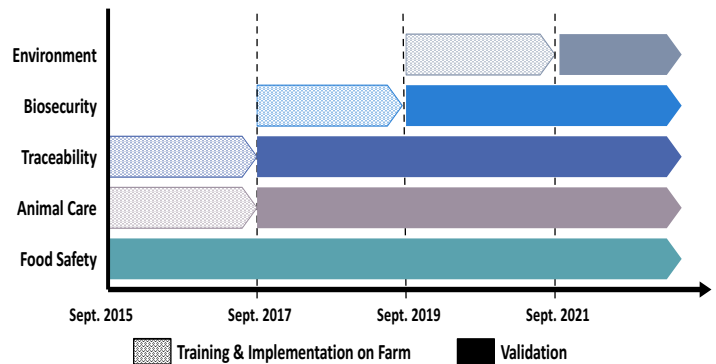
Each element of proAction has been developed and is being implemented in a staged approach so that farmers have adequate time to learn about the requirements and implement them on their farms.

Animal Care and Livestock Traceability are being launched together. The final program materials were published on September 1, 2015, which launched the training and communication phase to farmers and stakeholders. Since that time, farmers have been learning about program requirements, training staff and adjusting their practices, as necessary.

As of September 2017, the Animal Care and Traceability requirements will be incorporated into the food safety validation checklist. Farms that are due for a validation will also be evaluated on their conformance to the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability requirements.

The **Biosecurity** program has been developed and was tested on-farm in a pilot project in 2016. Training materials for farmers and veterinarians will be ready for Fall 2017. Biosecurity will be incorporated into the validation process in September 2019.

Following a pilot project of the draft requirements in 2016, the **Environment** program was divided into two phases. Training for the first phase will start officially in September 2019, and the program will be incorporated into the validation process in September 2021. Phase 2 is under discussion and would be included in validations beginning in September 2023.



A Farmer's Quick Guide to Implementation

You can follow these steps to implement the proAction program on your farm:

- 1 Attend a training session** and/or download the materials from the proAction website (www.dairyfarmers.ca/proAction): your Provincial Producer Association will be offering different opportunities for you to learn about the proAction program (e.g. workshops, kitchen meetings).
- 2 Train your farm workers:** train your staff on how proAction will impact their roles and responsibilities on the farm. You could have them attend the training sessions offered in your province as well.
- 3 Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Corrective Action Plans (CAPs),** as required by the program. You should develop these together with your farm workers and ensure that everyone understands the SOPs and CAPs related to their areas of responsibility on the farm.
- 4 Start keeping the records** that are required by the program. Note that some requirements are as of September 1, 2017, not just as of the day of your validation.
- 5 Implement the requirements:** go through the Farmer Self-Evaluation Questionnaire in the Workbook to evaluate which requirements you already meet and which requirements you do not. Then, implement any requirements that you do not fully meet.
- 6 Contact your Provincial Producer Association for assistance:** If you have any questions, please contact your Provincial Producer Association, as needed.
- 7 Undergo a validation:** when you are due for your regular food safety validation **from September 2017 onwards**, proAction requirements will be incorporated as outlined above. Once you meet the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability requirements, your CQM registration will be changed to proAction registration.
- 8 Maintain registration status and the program requirements:** As with CQM, you will be subject to annual evaluation activities for proAction, such as self-declarations and validations, to verify you are maintaining the requirements on your farm, and working towards continuous improvement.

Visit the proAction website
for more information

www.dairyfarmers.ca/proAction