



# 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** (Canadian Quality Milk): the CQM program has been implemented on farms across the country, and it is based on the principles of HACCP



**Animal Care** the program has been developed and is based on the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle.



**Traceability** the program has been developed and is based on 3 pillars: premise identification, animal identification and movement recording and reporting.



**Biosecurity** the program is under-development and is based on preventing the introduction into and spread of disease within a herd.



**Environment** the program is under-development and is based on reducing environmental risk in manure storage, nutrient management, water management and farm inputs.

The DFC has Technical Committees for each program. These committees report to the proAction Committee, which is mostly composed of farmers, which in turn reports to the DFC Board of Directors who brings recommendations to the DFC Delegates. Farmers are involved at every level and everyone has worked diligently to develop practical programs for farmers.

## Implementation Timelines

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

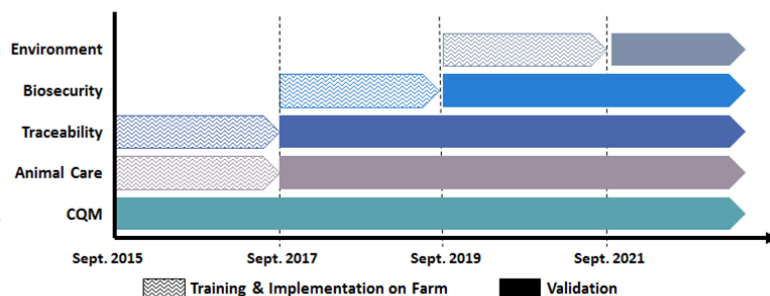
**Animal Care and Livestock Traceability** are being launched together. The final program materials were published on **September 1, 2015**, which launched the training and communication phase to farmers and stakeholders. Farmers have two years to learn about the programs, train staff and adjust their practices, as necessary, to meet the programs' expectations.

In September 2017, the Animal Care and Traceability requirements will be incorporated into the CQM validation checklist. From September 2017 on, when farms are due for a CQM validation, their conformance to the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability requirements will be evaluated as well.

The **Biosecurity** and **Environment** programs are under development, and on-farm pilots are planned for early 2016.

DFC is planning to start the training phase of the **Biosecurity** program in **September 2017**, and then incorporating Biosecurity into the validation process in September 2019.

The **Environment** will follow two years later, with training for farmers starting in **September 2019**, and then incorporation into the validation process in September 2021.



## 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](http://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.
- 5 Implement the requirements:** go through the Producer Self-Evaluation Questionnaire in the Workbooks to evaluate which requirements you already meet and which requirements you do not meet yet. 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 CQM 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](http://www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction)