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proAction Reminders

During farm visits we are often asked questions about proAction. Here are some of the topics we get asked about the most.

Food Safety:

Water Tests - Normally milk truck drivers collect a water sample for testing from the milk house annually. This service is done as a courtesy by DFO and results are posted on the producer dashboard of the ontario.milk.org website. Occasionally, these samples are not collected or are unavailable at the time of proAction validations. If this is the case, producers are responsible for submitting a water sample to their local Public Health Unit themselves to get the results required by the food safety portion of their proAction validation.

Animal Health Declaration - This document is required both by proAction and for Grade A inspection in Ontario. Please ensure that you have an up-to-date version available at all times as DFO Field Service Reps (FSRs) may ask to see it. This is especially important now that Lactanet has taken over doing the proAction validations and FSRs typically perform inspections unannounced or with little time for preparation.

Animal Care:

Dairy Code of Practice - The 2009 version of the Canadian Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle is currently under revision. Many of you submitted feedback during the recent public comment period - Thank You! It is anticipated that the final version of the Code will be released in 2023. After this, we expect proAction to adjust some of the Animal Care requirements to match the new Code. Keep in mind that many of the areas of concern such as calf housing are accompanied by phase in dates and all efforts will be made to ensure that requirements are backed by science and feedback from producers about feasibility.

Traceability:

Everyone should now be submitting traceability event data to the DairyTrace database. If you are having trouble with this, please don't hesitate to let us know! Currently only two on farm data software programs are capable of sending information directly to dairyTrace: DairyComp and Uniform Agri. Otherwise information must be submitted manually online, on the app or by phone/email/fax. The customer service department at DairyTrace is extremely helpful. They can be reached at 1-866-558-7223.

Biosecurity:

Biosecurity Risk Assessment Questionnaire (RAQ) - Dairy farms need to complete a RAQ with their herd vet every 2 years. It is designed to help identify areas on the farm that are highest risk for disease entry or spread within the farm.



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Disease Events Records - On farm health records need to include documentation of certain disease events in both cows and calves, regardless of whether or not the animal received treatment. These are: pneumonia, lameness, diarrhea, mastitis, abortion and death. These particular diseases are of high concern from a biosecurity perspective as they have causative agents (bacteria, viruses etc) that are contagious between animals and farms. Tracking these events may help with early intervention and prevention of further spread of disease.

Environmental Sustainability:

Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) - One of the main requirements for this module is to have an EFP. Ontario Soil and Crop is the organization that administers these free 2-day courses and while they were paused during COVID restrictions, in-person courses are once again underway. Attendees must be vaccinated to attend the course as per the Ontario Soil and Crop registration rules. If, at the time of your validation, you have not been able to attend an EFP course due to the lack of course availability or due to registration requirements for vaccination, you will be given a MAJOR on your proAction violation. You will need to show that you have registered for a course in order to avoid proAction penalty BUT you will have until your next Self Declaration (1 year later) to complete it. It is anticipated that by this time, vaccination requirements will have been lifted or other methods of obtaining the EFP will have been implemented.

Environmental Questionnaire - All producers are required to complete an Environmental Questionnaire on-line. This questionnaire can be found at the same place that your SOPs are located (dairyproaction.ca). It takes about 15 minutes to complete. If you require assistance getting this done, please let us know and we can help you.

Need further advice preparing for your proAction validation or self-declaration? We are happy to help! Just ask your herd vet or call the office to book an appointment.

Heartland Animal Hospital of Drayton

We are pleased to announce that the Heartland Animal Hospital of Drayton has officially moved to our NEW LOCATION at 89 Wellington Street South, across from the Drayton Freshmart. We ask that you monitor your inventory carefully. Please phone in medication orders to be delivered at your routine herd health visits whenever possible, as there will be a very limited supply of large animal medications kept in stock in Drayton.

We would also like to welcome Dr. Rich DeVos to the Heartland Vets team as he continues to provide veterinary care to his herd health clients, but now with Heartland.

Dr. Kelly Barratt, DVM



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Covid-19 protocols

With the presence of Covid-19 in Ontario, our team is taking additional precautions during our farm visits, as highlighted below, to help mitigate the spread of this disease in our community. We have chosen to continue strict precautions as we move through Ontario's phased reopening. Please be aware that as this pandemic develops, we may have to adjust our procedures in response.

Veterinary farm visits

- Once on farm, we will try to maintain a distance of at least six feet from people wherever practically possible
- Care will be taken to wash and disinfect hands and contacted tools and equipment before re-entering our vehicle
- A mask will be worn whenever practically possible, especially in closed air spaces or when physical distancing is not possible. We would like our clients to do the same while we are on farm.

Technician farm visits

- Techs will continue to assist veterinarians as necessary. The same precautions as above will apply
- Technicians will continue to provide services, such as dehorning, but we ask that no farm personnel are in the immediate vicinity during their visit

Clinic procedures

- Our clinic will remain open, but business hours may be subject to change
- Clients will be met at the door by one of our customer care representatives
- Purchases will be set out at the door
- Laboratory samples will be received at the door

If you have experienced any Covid-like symptoms or have had exposure to someone with symptoms, we urge you to please notify us before your next vet visit so we can take the appropriate precautions.

We thank you for assistance in helping us continue to provide veterinary care while considering the health of yourselves and our staff.

Stay healthy!

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* Purchase through a Canadian veterinary clinic between March 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022. The deadline for proof of purchase submissions is May 31, 2022. Up to 10 redemptions per farm.