

Milk Recording Workshop

Whose milk is in the vial?



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

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ICAR Conference 2019
Prague, Czech Republic

A man in a green and white plaid shirt stands in the foreground, looking towards a large, modern farm building with a brown roof and multiple skylights. The building is reflected in a body of water in the foreground. The scene is set during dusk or dawn, with a soft, hazy sky. The Lactanet logo is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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CANADIAN NETWORK FOR DAIRY EXCELLENCE





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Agenda

- Demographics of AMS in Canada
- Sample Collection
- Cow - Vial link
- Main issues with Cow – Vial link
- Future Plans for Improvement

AMS herds in Canada

820 AMS herds - 97,825 cows on Milk Recording

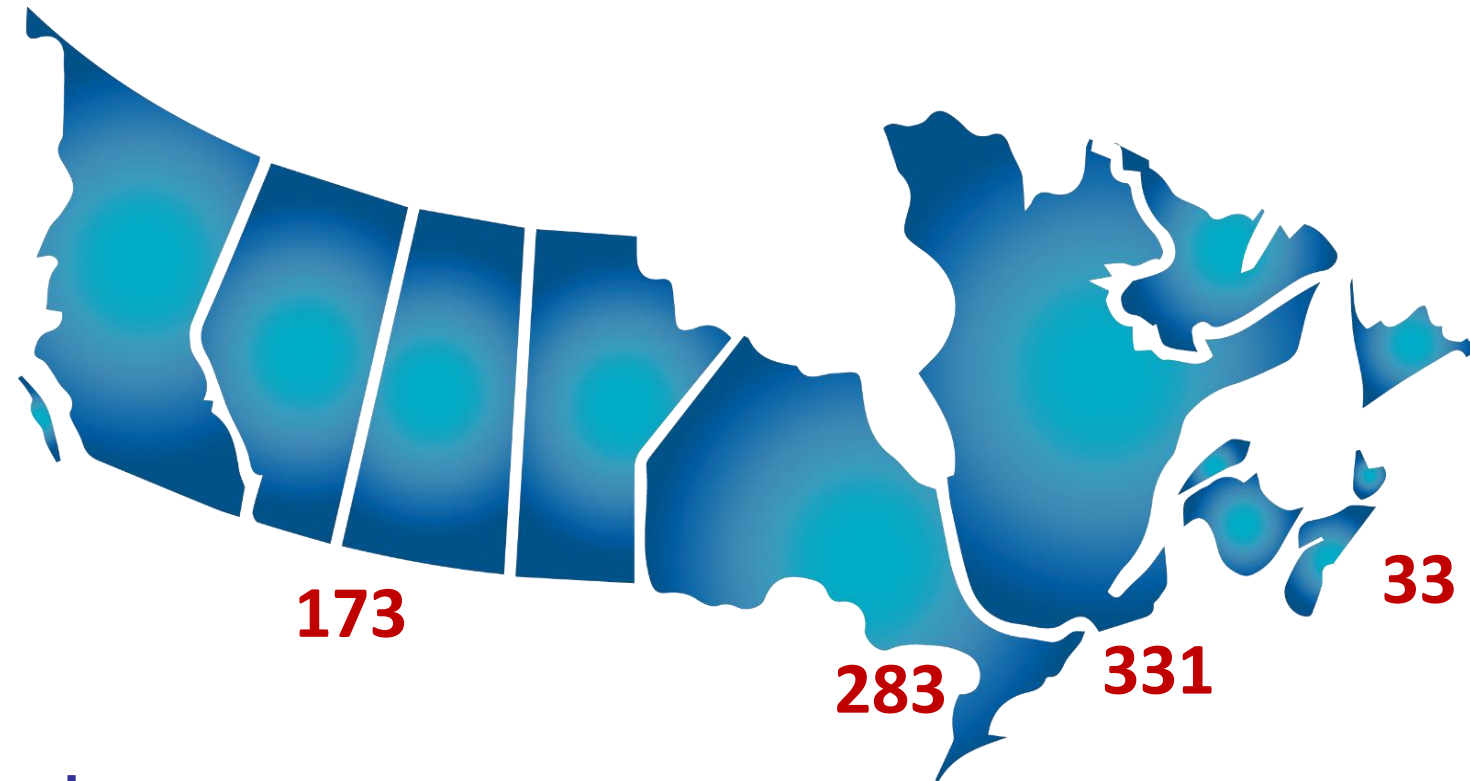
11.2 % of our customers (14.8% of cows) and growing

Avg herd size ~ 119 cows = 2 boxes

Largest herd ~ 1600 cows - 30 boxes

Market Share ~ 55% to 65% of AMS herds

Lower compared to conventional milking systems = 72%+



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Sample Collection



Sample Collection

- 70% of customers rent samplers from us
- 50% of customers set up sampling themselves
- Samples are collected from a single milking

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Cow – Vial link

Two systems of vial ID:

West:

Vials with pre applied non specific barcode (cap or side). Vial is linked at the farm to a specific cow via entry or scan by MR staff



Cow – Vial link

East:

Pre printed barcode that is specific to a farm/cow and applied to a vial at the farm



Cow – Vial link



Cow – Vial link

For AMS:

- Use/Rely on the AMS 'sample report' that indicates which cow was sampled in which of the sampler position #
- Report is printed/viewed on AMS software screen, and barcode is entered/scanned to cow ID in MR staff laptop or cow ID label is applied to corresponding vial

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Cow – Vial link

Potential issues:

- Cow ID within AMS box is very good – no issues
- Rest of process is open to human error
 - » Reading sample report correctly
 - » Keying/scanning/applying labels correctly
 - » 50% of time, busy farmer does this process vs trained MR staff
 - » Some cows are not sampled, and can throw sample order out of sequence if not paying attention

Cow – Vial link

Process can have human error – focus is to minimize.



Cow – Vial link

Best Management Practices:

- Specialized, well trained AMS MR field staff

Cow – Vial link

Training of MR staff and customers.



Cow – Vial link

Best Management Practices:

- Specialized well trained AMS MR field staff
- Observe & confirm first 2-3 cows being sampled
- Use of a secondary report – has cow order and is time stamped as to when each cow was milked
- Write cow ID on label/vial when removing from sampler
- Put vials in boxes in same order as out of the sampler

Cow – Vial link

Observation...

Some of the issues surrounding cow & sample ID are not unique to AMS systems, could be in parlours as well.

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Cow – Vial link

Future Plans for Improvements:

- Ongoing training of MR Staff & Customers
- Built in vial barcode reader in samplers, that auto links with cow ID in AMS software...?
- Etransfer of sample report info...?
- AMS operation/software improvements...?

Don't skip any cows, or clearly list cows that were skipped and not sampled



Merci!

Questions?