Effect of New Technologies Introduction on Canadian DHI

ICAR Chile - 2016

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CanWest DHI
Overview of Dairy industry & DHI in Canada
New Technologies & Testing Initiatives
Benefits
  – For Farmer
  – For DHI
  – For Industry
Summary
70% of Canada’s milk production

- 11,500 dairy farms
- 960,000 dairy cows
DHI in Canada
Canadian DHI Milk Analysis Labs
DHI Statistics

• 8,500 DHI herds (~75% enrolment)
• 710,000 DHI Cows
• >90% Holstein breed

Herd Demographics:
• Herd sizes ave: 60 -175 cows (by region)
• Milking Parlour: 25 – 90% (by region)
Agenda

• Overview of Dairy industry & DHI in Canada

• **New Technologies & Testing Initiatives**

• Benefits
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• Summary
The Milk Sample

A big part of what we do as DHI is related to the milk sample and what we do with it!
Milk Testing has Changed
Milk Testing has Changed
Evolution of Milk Testing

Electronic Instrument Technologies opened the door...

- Fat
- Protein
- Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
- Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN)
Evolution of Milk Testing

ELISA and PCR Technologies added opportunities...

Health & Disease Testing through...
- Serum/blood
- Tissue
- Manure
- Eventually... Milk!
Evolution of Milk Testing

More recently, renewed Research & Development in Electronic Technologies...

– BHB, Ketosis
– Free Fatty Acids
– Differentiated SCC
Tremendous Progress in Testing Technology
# New Testing Services

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Next ???

New Testing Services
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• Summary
Benefits

For dairy farmers, additional testing through the milk samples is **easy!!!**

“Samples are already being collected, so it doesn’t get any simpler.”

“The milk test is both handy and cost effective.”

“We really like the convenience.”
Benefits

For dairy farmers...

– Cost effective: lab analysis cost is usually similar, but...
  • No sample collection costs
  • No shipment costs

– Results in DHI data base
  • Linked with existing cow data for full picture of situation
  • Enhanced reports or E-file
  • Historical reference
Benefits

For Canadian DHI...

Provides the opportunity to do more with the 6.5 million samples per year, that are arriving at our labs.
Benefits

For Canadian DHI...

- Value added
  - Adds value to core business
  - Differentiates from on farm technologies
- Profitable business
  - VERY efficient
    - No additional collection or shipment costs

Has helped maintain and grow farmer participation in our programs!
Benefits

For our Dairy Industry as a whole...

- Improved overall health & productivity
  - Without milk tests, many farmers would not test at all

- Data bank
  - Genetic Improvement
  - Disease Surveillance
Agenda

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• New Technologies & Testing Initiatives
• Benefits
  – For Farmer
  – For DHI
  – For Industry
• Summary
A big part of what we do as DHI is related to the milk sample and what we do with it.

New Technologies is allowing us to extract greater value and information from that sample.
Summary

• This has resulted in several new analysis services.
## New Testing Services

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Summary

• Which is producing a win-win situation for dairy farmers, DHI organizations and the entire dairy industry.
Thank You!