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New Members of Alberta Milk

Source: Daria Taylor, Human Resources Specialist

There is always a great excitement when new staff start in our office. While we are always so sad to see someone leave (we are just a big family after all), we enjoy welcoming new members to our team as they bring so much – a different perspective, new energy, and vibrancy to the office. We are happy to welcome Cory Peterson and Forrest Evans to Alberta Milk.

Filling the finance assistant position, Cory graduated from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology with his Business Administration Diploma in Finance. He has worked as a



customer service representative in the banking industry since graduation. This summer, Cory tried his hand at milking the cow at our display at the Calgary Stampede. Although he was not able to milk faster than a farmer, he is eager to learn more about the dairy industry.

Forrest is our new policy analyst. He just submitted his thesis for Masters of Economics at Queen's University and has a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences as well. Forrest worked as an environmental consultant for a couple of years before going back to school to study economics. Forrest will be taking on the challenges of policy work as well as working with Sherrie in assisting producers with their quota management inquiries.



Johne's Disease Initiatives Across Canada

Source: Adapted from the Canadian Animal Health Coalition

As Alberta dairy producers continue to make a united commitment to managing and decreasing the level of Johne's disease (JD), it is important to know that efforts like the Alberta Johne's Disease Initiative are being made across Canada. Here is a quick look at our neighbors' Johne's disease activities across Canada:

- *Atlantic Johne's Disease Initiative* has 53 per cent of producers enrolled.
- *Quebec Voluntary Paratuberculosis Prevention and Control Program* has been in place since 2007 and consists of an initial risk assessment and management plan, followed by annual verification of the implementation of the management plan and environmental or milk testing to measure herd prevalence.
- *Ontario Johne's Education and Management Assistance Program* has

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reported that over 50 per cent of Ontario herds and over 90,000 cows have been tested. Importantly, the Program has identified and aided in the culling of the heavy Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis (MAP) shedders.

- *Saskatchewan Dairy Herd Health and Screening Initiative*. The initiative is in development and will include MAP testing of bulk milk and environmental manure samples, veterinary training, dairy herd risk assessments and management planning are key components.
- *Manitoba Johne's Disease Initiative* uses a risk management approach provided via the herd veterinarian. Past testing found 68 per cent of herds had one or more positive environmental test.
- *Alberta Johne's Disease Initiative* is at 48 per cent participation and has found that 27 percent of herds had one or more positive environmental test results in the first year.
- *British Columbia Johne's Disease Initiative* has recently received Growing Forward funding for 2013-14 to continue validations of lab diagnostics and to conduct MAP and BVD testing on beef and dairy farms. The latter is done in conjunction with on-farm JD risk assessment and a best management plan.
- *Canadian Cattleman's Association* provides disease information and best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of the disease.

In support of increasing global knowledge of the bacteria that causes JD, an annual MAP researchers meeting was established. This year will be the 5th Annual MAP Researchers Meeting will be held October 11-13, 2012 in

Banff. Following is a sample of recent Johne's disease and MAP research studies:

- Economic analysis of MAP vaccines in dairy herds.
- Crohn's disease and MAP: The need for a study is long overdue.
- Heat treatment of colostrum on commercial dairy farms decreases colostrum microbial counts while maintaining colostrum immunoglobulin G concentrations.
- Suspicion of MAP transmission between cattle and wild-living Red Deer (cervus elaphus) by multitarget genotyping.
- Examples and suggestions for the control of MAP in European cattle.
- Examination of milk filters by real-time PCR as a herd-level indicator of the presence of MAP in dairy herds.
- Reactions to a vaccination against MAP and its side-effects on milk goats.

Alberta Milk is pleased to provide updates on current Johne's research projects, findings and provide direction for future studies as part of our support of the Alberta Johne's Disease Initiative.

The Alberta Milk Dairy Conference and Annual General Meeting

November 20 - 22 in Calgary. Deadline to register is October 19.

Go to albertamilk.com or contact Kim at 780-577-3325.



milking
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