



Saskmilk

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From the Chair's Desk

I would like to take a moment to mention a few things of importance this Fall.

We are amid an election for two Saskmilk Board of Director's positions. I would like to encourage all producers to cast your ballot. The election process has been streamlined this year with the availability on-line voting. If you prefer traditional voting this is also still available. It is your opportunity as producer/members to have a hand in who our future policy makers will be.

Further into the month, from October 24th to 26th, is when our Fall Producer Meetings are scheduled. It is a time when producers can give input and ideas into current and future policy. The Board wants to hear your thoughts. Please make a point to attend if you can. There has been a lot of work done transitioning towards a more harmonized Western Milk Pool. (WMP). We will be presenting "Where We Are At" with the Western Milk Pool transformation. It will start to show the direction and some of the timelines of the projects that are underway at WMP. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on some of these exciting initiatives.

We hope to see many of you at the producer meetings. They are a great chance to interact with the directors of SaskMilk and other producers from our province.

Matthew Flaman

Important Dates

- October 21 - SaskMilk Election Voting Closes at 5:00 p.m.
- October 24 - Swift Current Producer Meeting
- October 25 - Warman Producer Meeting
- October 26 - Balgonie Producer Meeting



Mental Health Spotlight

How to Help Someone Struggling With Their Mental Health

By Lesley Kelly, Farmer and Co-Founder of the Do More Agriculture Foundation

It can be hard to see someone go through a hard time, and even harder when you are unsure of how to help them. We want to reach out, but worried we will say or do the wrong thing. So we tend to steer in the direction of caution and at times, not do anything.

It's a tough spot. These are hard and challenging conversations. You want to dig and ask so you can help, but at the same time, you want to respect their privacy and autonomy. The good news is there are ways to do both and also increase the likelihood of the conversation going as smoothly as possible.

Here are some tips for having a caring, respectful check-in with a friend, neighbour or loved one you are worried about:

Before the conversation:

Decide how you will approach the conversation. The best way to broach the subject depends on the person and will help you decide whether to approach the conversation in a delicate or direct way.

Bring up the conversation when the person is most comfortable. As long as there is no immediate danger of harming themselves or others, consider starting the conversation in a positive and relaxed setting and environment. If the conversation starts in the heat of the moment, when tensions are high and when they or yourself feel angry, it may be overwhelming for them and could hinder the likelihood of them opening up and talking about their struggles. Try and find a quiet place such as going for a drive, catching up over coffee, going fishing, or taking a walk.

Starting the conversation:

Start the conversation by telling them that you have noticed changes (changes in behavior, routine, their usual self) and describe these changes. Then share that you are worried about them and ask what is bothering them. Here are some suggestions:

I've noticed you haven't been going out lately. Is there anything you'd like to talk about?

You don't seem yourself lately. What's going on?

I've noticed you've been late coming to the farm. Is everything okay?

Keeping the conversation going:

The most important thing you can do after you've opened up the conversation is to listen and show understanding rather than give advice. Comments such as "what happened next" and "tell me more" can reinforce you are paying attention. Phrases such as "I'm here for you" and "you're not alone" let's them know you are supportive.

You don't have to know or have all the answers. Let them know you are thankful that they have talked to you about what they are going through, that you understand how hard it is to talk to someone about how they are feeling and reassure them that they have taken a positive step.

Encourage the person to get help. Proceed with this step gently. It can be hard to articulate exactly what someone needs when they are struggling. Here are some great prompts to encourage a person to get help:

Ask: What have you done in the past that has helped you manage in similar situations?

Ask: How would you like me to support you?

You could say: "When I was going through a difficult time, I tried this.... You might find it useful too."

You could say: "It might be helpful to connect with someone who can support you. I'm happy to help find the right person to talk to."

Watch out for signs of suicidal thoughts so you can get emergency help. If they talk about taking their life, acquired the means to do so, changes in their normal routine in a way that worries you, begins to behave recklessly or gives away their belongings, they may be considering suicide. Now is the time to act and speak up. Don't be afraid to ask the person if they are feeling suicidal. If they say yes, help them contact their family, and get them to the emergency room if you can, or call the National Suicide Prevention line at 1-833-456-4566 for guidance.

If they say they don't have suicidal thoughts and you are unsure and worried, you may need to make a judgment call and take the above measures.

After the conversation:

Check in regularly. People who are struggling often need support over the long haul. Send a text, leave a voice-mail and show them there are people in their life who care.

Support them through the process by being patient and compassionate and these other suggestions:

Have realistic expectations. Recovery doesn't happen overnight.

Lead by example. Encourage a healthy lifestyle like eating better, avoiding alcohol and drugs, exercising and leaning on others for support.

Encourage activity. Invite them to join you in uplifting activities like going out to a movie or having dinner at their favorite restaurant.

Support can be shown and felt in a variety of other ways too:

Clean their place, truck, and equipment

Cooking them food

Running errands for them

Accompany them to the doctor or professional support

Offer them a place to stay

Help them with administrative tasks

Make them a care package

Offer to help them with their livestock

Take care of yourself. Caring for someone close to you can be challenging and often can be an isolating experience. During this time, it is important to look after your own mental health and wellbeing to provide the support and care that your friend and family member need.

These are guidelines for further awareness about mental health and should not be used as a diagnosis or treatment plan. If you need assistance, please contact your doctor, a mental health professional or visit the [Do More Ag resources page](#).

The Do More Agriculture Foundation is the national voice and champion for mental health in Canadian agriculture and is changing the culture of agriculture to one where all producers are encouraged, supported, and empowered to take care of their mental wellbeing. Producers are among the most vulnerable when it comes to mental health issues. By collaborating with the entire industry and those working to address the state of mental health in Agriculture, we can and will make a substantial impact.

SaskMilk Fall Donations

Once again, SaskMilk has stepped up to the plate to help those in need. As in previous years, Saskatchewan dairy farmers are showing their support of local organizations who work tirelessly to assist those in our province who need it most. Milk, as a staple in so many homes and families, is in constant demand and organizations are grateful for the support that SaskMilk provides.



Continuing with the support over the summer months, SaskMilk has donated to both the Saskatoon and Regina Food Banks to assist them in purchasing milk for their clients. A \$5,000 donation to the Saskatoon Food Bank in September supported their Milk Month initiative and a \$15,000 donation to the Regina Food Bank will ensure that milk can be in the

hampers of families with children and pregnant women. In addition to this, to support local food banks in smaller communities, SaskMilk has donated \$10,000 to the Food Banks of Saskatchewan.

In Regina, SaskMilk has donated \$10,400 to Carmichael Outreach to fund their milk program for the year. Carmichael Outreach, who just relocated to a new location in Regina, deeply appreciates the donation from SaskMilk and recognizes the need for the nutrition milk provides for the families that use their services.

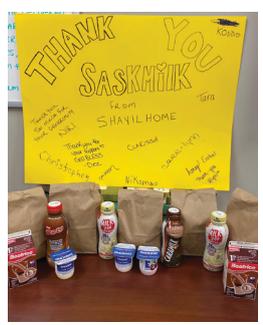


Souls Harbour Rescue Mission, also located in Regina, was the recipient of \$6,400 from SaskMilk for milk purchasing for their daycare and the Shayil Program. The SHRM daycare, Green Earth Daycare, provides milk to the children that attend and is able to send home milk with families. The Shayil Program at SHRM is a year long residential addiction treatment program for women and their children.



Finally, SaskMilk once again donated to the Friendship Inn. The Friendship Inn serves both breakfast and lunch to those in need 365 days a year. During

Covid, and with the need to limit contact between people, the Friendship Inn also began providing bagged meals for people to take on the go. Due to the success of this initiative, the bagged meals have continued even after Covid restrictions were lifted. The Friendship Inn, its staff, and volunteers work tirelessly every day to serve meals - serving approximately 200-350 meals each day at breakfast and between 400 and 700 meals for lunch. SaskMilk is proud to support this organization and cover their "Milk Mondays" with a donation of \$14,300.



50 years
of celebrating
agricultural leaders
& innovators

Saskatchewan
AGRICULTURAL
Hall of Fame



Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame 50th Anniversary & 2022 Induction Ceremony

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame honours agriculture leaders in the province who have made significant contributions to the welfare and improvement of Saskatchewan Agriculture and the life of the farm family.

November 12, 2022
4:00 to 9:00 pm

The World Trade Centre
Prairieland Park

503 Ruth Street West, Saskatoon, SK

The November 12th Ceremony will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame and honour the 2022 inductees.

2022 INDUCTEES

Jim Bessel ● Margaret Crowle (posthumous) ● Jack Dawes
Leslie Hill ● Jeffrey Schoenau ● Mark Silzer

DRESS: Semi-formal

TICKETS: Adults \$65 | 10 & under \$32.50



TO REGISTER ONLINE:
visit www.sahf.ca
or scan this code

To pay by cheque contact Pamela Warren:
pamela.warren@agwest.sk.ca or 306-975-1939

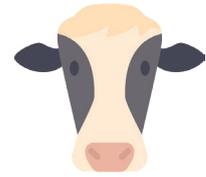
Cancellations on or before
October 31, 2022 will receive a
refund minus a \$10 admin fee.

Registration is being
managed by Ag-West Bio





Who Should I Call?



Who at the SaskMilk office should producers call?
Here's a handy guide!

FOR	CALL	AT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship Requests • Donation Requests • Dairyanna's Costume and Events • School Milk Program • Nutrition Resource Ordering 	Anita Medl	306-721-9483
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quota Exchange and Private Quota Transfers • Leases • Transfer Credits • Security Applications • Projections for production • Name Changes • Designation of Signing Authority • Monthly production numbers for producers 	Bev Solie	306-721-9488
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Milk Program • Marketing Activities 	Chelsea Wilcoxon	306-527-0753
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producer statements • Banking info for direct deposit of milk pay • Milk pick-up issues -variances in volumes, planning to quit shipping, etc. 	Darlene Weighill	306-721-9491
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Farm- licensing, facilities, equipment, driveways, yards, animal care • Lab testing results • Pro Action- Food Safety (CQM), Animal Care, Traceability, Biosecurity, Environment • Extension services 	Tina Leverton	306-721-9486
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly milk prices paid to producers • Provincial & National production updates 	Doug Miller	306-721-9485
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Farm- licensing, facilities, equipment, driveways, yards, animal care • Bulk truck drivers- licensing, complaints/issues • Bulk tank calibrations • Rayner Dairy Centre & Research • Environment and Regulatory 	Chris Pinno	306-721-9494
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskMilk Portal Assistance 	Jenn Buehler	306-721-9492
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media or news stories or if you have been contacted by any media agency or reporter • Trade agreements, international trade updates • DEAP policy/program enquiries • Research enquiries or proposals 	Joy Smith	306-721-9482
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media enquiries (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) • Website enquiries • Newsletter advertising • Dairy Conference 	Julie Ell	306-721-9493

Quota Exchange

The market-clearing price established for the October 2022 Quota Exchange was \$41,500.00.

The next Quota Exchange will be held on November 15, 2022. All offers to sell and bids to purchase quota through the Quota Exchange must be submitted by midnight, November 6, 2022. SaskMilk recommends that offers and bids be submitted well in advance of the deadline date to ensure adequate time for corrections, if necessary.

When making bids on the Quota Exchange, the price on offers to sell quota is the minimum price that the producer is prepared to accept for that quota. Only if the market-clearing price is equal to or greater than the producer's minimum price will that producer qualify for participation in the Exchange. Conversely, the price on offers to purchase quota is the maximum price that the producer is prepared to pay for that quota. Only if the market-clearing price is equal to or less than the producer's maximum price will that producer qualify for participation in the Exchange. The clearing price is set at the price where the smallest difference exists between the accumulated volume offered for sale and the accumulated volume bid to purchase. The results of the Quota Exchange are outlined in the following table.

OCTOBER 2022 QUOTA EXCHANGE RESULTS

Market Clearing Price per kilogram of butterfat	\$41,500.00
Daily Kilograms offered to Purchase	37.50
Kilograms offered to Sell	97.61
Kilograms sold	32.50
Number of Producers	
- offered to purchase	7
- purchased quota	6
- offered to sell	5
- sold quota	2

OCTOBER 2022 QUOTA EXCHANGE CLEARING PRICE RESULTS

Price (\$/daily kg b.f.)	No. of Sellers	Cumulative Sellers	Daily Kgs b.f. offered for sale	Cumulative sales	Cumulative Sales less Cumulative purchases	Cumulative purchases	Daily Kgs b.f. offered to purchase	Cumulative bidders	No. of buyers
\$40,000.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	-37.50	37.50	5.00	7	1
\$41,000.00	1	1	20.00	20.00	-12.50	32.50	0.00	6	0
\$41,100.00	1	2	22.20	42.20	9.70	32.50	0.00	6	0
\$41,500.00	0	2	0.00	42.20	9.70	32.50	5.00	6	1
\$42,500.00	0	2	0.00	42.20	14.70	27.50	5.00	5	1
\$43,000.00	0	2	0.00	42.20	19.70	22.50	10.00	4	1
\$43,100.00	1	3	5.00	47.20	34.70	12.50	0.00	3	0
\$43,500.00	0	3	0.00	47.20	34.70	12.50	5.00	3	1
\$44,000.00	0	3	0.00	47.20	39.70	7.50	2.50	2	1
\$44,500.00	0	3	0.00	47.20	42.20	5.00	5.00	1	1
\$45,000.00	2	5	50.41	97.61	97.61	0.00	0.00	0	0

TRANSFER CREDIT SUMMARY REPORT

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS TRANSFER IN	# OF PRODUCERS TRANSFER OUT	TOTAL KGS OF BUTTERFAT
September 2021	28	28	17,706
October 2021	31	31	16,159
November 2021	21	21	10,059
December 2021	18	18	15,526
January 2021	12	12	7,006
February 2021	7	7	5,438
March 2021	7	7	3,799
April 2022	8	8	6,341
May 2022	13	13	8,245
June 2022	15	15	13,566
July 2022	29	29	23,847
August 2022	36	36	28,537
September 2022	33	33	29,762

PRIVATE TRANSFERS PROCESSED

MONTH	DAILY KILOGRAMS
September 2021	1,694.55
October 2021	85.16
November 2021	0.00
December 2021	0.00
January 2022	0.00
February 2022	0.00
March 2022	0.00
April 2022	0.00
May 2022	0.00
June 2022	185.52
July 2022	350.00
August 2022	157.13
September 2022	0.00

**OVER QUOTA (OVER 5 DAYS)
REPORT BY MONTH**

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS	KGS BUTTERFAT
September 2021	4	369
October 2021	9	2,599
November 2021	10	1,353
December 2021	29	957
January 2022	24	419
February 2022	21	1,270
March 2022	40	2,208
April 2022	31	1,262
May 2022	22	1,360
June 2022	4	152
July 2022	6	990
August 2022	3	99
September 2022	1	27

SUMMARY REPORT OF CREDITS SEPTEMBER 2022 - 148 PRODUCERS

DAYS	# OF PRODUCERS	POSITIVE CREDITS ACCUMULATED (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
+ 5	1	150
0 to + 5	11	4,114
TOTAL	12	4,264
DAYS	# OF PRODUCERS	NEGATIVE CREDITS ACCUMULATED (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
-15	4	3,826
-10 to -15	50	152,658
-5 to -10	53	87,457
0 to -5	29	17,758
TOTAL	136	261,699

LOST OPPORTUNITY REPORT

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS	LOST OPPORTUNITY (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
September, 2021	2	972
October, 2021	1	63
November, 2021	2	442
December, 2021	3	1,624
January, 2022	2	800
February, 2022	2	264
March, 2022	4	619
April, 2022	3	503
May, 2022	4	700
June, 2022	4	1,143
July, 2022	3	656
August, 2022	2	340
September, 2022	4	1,570

WEIGHTED AVERAGE COMPONENT TESTS & PRICES SEPTEMBER 2022

COMPONENTS	AVERAGE TEST	PRICE PER KILOGRAM CLASS 1 TO 5
Butterfat	4.1534	19.616781
Protein	3.2447	2.954212
Other Solids	5.8566	0.818339

The average butterfat price received per kilogram was \$23.08

Milk Sale Revenue	\$22,235,857.95	Quality Bonus: WMP Quality Bonus 0.001705 SaskMilk Quality Bonus 0.001857 Total Quality Bonus Rate for September 2022 0.003562 per litre
WMP Revenue/<Expense>	\$911,917.70	
Total Revenue	\$23,147,775.65	



WestGen Education Award

Four Education Awards of \$2000 each are available. Western Canadian post-secondary students that have completed at least one year of college/university and are pursuing agriculture-related or veterinary studies are eligible to apply.

An eligible applicant:

1. Must be a WestGen member, or son/daughter of a WestGen member
2. Must not have won the WestGen Education Award in previous years
3. Must provide proof of enrollment at a post-secondary institution in an agriculture or veterinary related field
4. Must provide official transcripts along with their completed application

Selection is based on demonstrated involvement in the Canadian dairy and/or beef industries, youth program participation and achievements, sustainable farming contribution, academic achievement, and future career plans. All information and the application can be found on WestGen's website under the 'Community' tab.

Direct link to application:

https://westgen.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/18113433/2022_Education-Award-Program_Interactive.pdf



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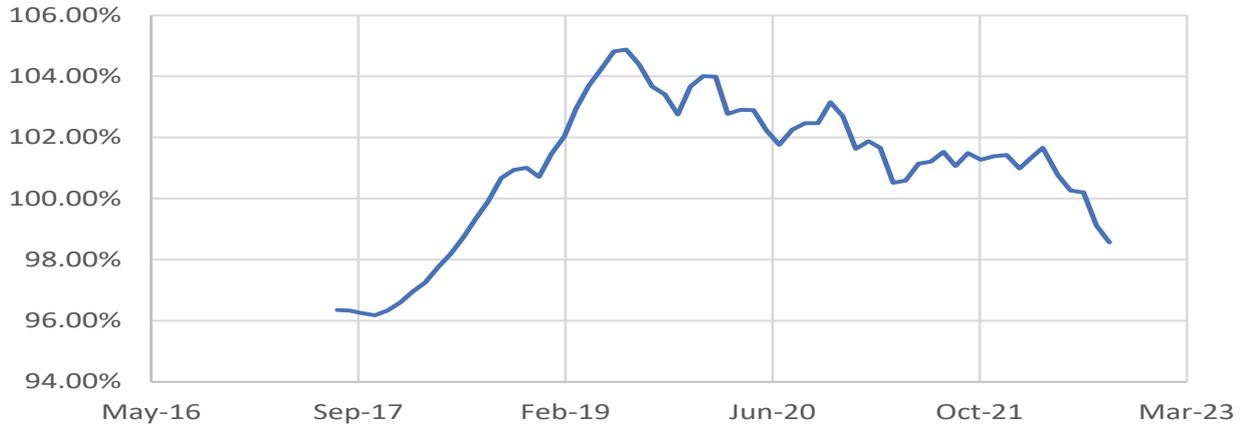
	(1) Monthly Total Production Kgs of bf	(2) Total Monthly CDC Quota Allocation Kgs bf	(3) Monthly Over or (Under) Production Kgs bf col. 1 - 2 = 3	(4) Lower Flexibility Limit -2.00% Kgs bf col. 8 * -1.5%
Sep-21	1,029,716	1,103,381	(73,665)	-249,697
Oct-21	1,077,007	1,086,342	(9,335)	-248,425
Nov-21	1,043,347	1,098,648	(55,301)	-248,838
Dec-21	1,067,341	1,082,184	(14,843)	-247,717
Jan-22	1,057,865	1,007,352	50,513	-246,682
Feb-22	959,825	881,385	78,440	-247,027
Mar-22	1,036,299	1,039,126	(2,827)	-245,626
Apr-22	983,864	951,694	32,170	-244,016
May-22	1,006,347	1,032,925	(26,578)	-245,384
Jun-22	970,863	961,671	9,192	-245,906
Jul-22	992,625	1,012,296	(19,671)	-245,213
Aug-22	1,007,224	1,084,446	(77,222)	-246,829
Sep-22	991,361	1,133,418	(142,057)	-247,430

In September, Saskatchewan had a monthly CDC allocation of **1,133,418 kilograms** of butterfat. Saskatchewan production was **-142,057** of butterfat under and cumulatively over by **943,289 kgs** of butterfat. On a percentage basis, Saskatchewan is **7.64%** above our CDC allocation flexibility limits based on the Continuous Quota model. The -2.00% lower flexibility limit is in effect.

(5) Upper Flexibility Limit 1.25%	(6) Cumulative Over or (Under) Production with limits	(7) Cumulative Over or (Under) Production with limits (%)	(8) Rolling 12 Month Total Quota
Kgs bf	Kgs bf		Kgs bf
col. 8 *1.0%		col. 6 / 8	
156,061	895,958	7.18%	12,484,861
155,266	886,623	7.14%	12,421,264
155,524	831,322	7.06%	12,441,914
154,823	863,573	6.97%	12,385,871
154,176	914,086	7.41%	12,334,091
154,392	992,526	8.04%	12,351,337
153,516	989,699	8.19%	12,281,295
152,510	1,038,027	8.51%	12,200,780
153,365	1,030,990	8.40%	12,269,194
153,691	1,040,182	8.46%	12,295,292
153,258	1,020,511	8.32%	12,260,629
154,268	943,289	7.64%	12,341,450
154,644	801,232	6.48%	12,371,487

- (1) Monthly Production in Saskatchewan
- (2) Total Monthly Quota = Class 1 sales + Monthly MSQ + Carry Forward
- (3) Difference between the monthly production (1) and the total monthly quota (2)
- (4) The Lower Flexibility Limit is -2.00% of Rolling 12 Month Total Quota (9)
- (5) The Upper Flexibility Limit is 1.25% of Rolling 12 Month Total Quota (9)
- (6) Previous Month Cumulative Over or (Under) Production + Current Monthly Over or (Under) Production (capped at lower or upper limit if applicable)
- (7) Equal to Column (6) expressed as a percentage basis within the flexibility limits
- (8) Total Monthly CDC Quota Allocation for the previous 12 months

SK Milk Production SK Position



Beta-lactam Drug	Detection Level† (ppb*)	US Safe Level or Tolerance / Canadian MRL (ppb*)	Sulfa Drug	Detection Level† (ppb*)	US Safe Level or Tolerance / Canadian MRL (ppb*)
Amoxicillin	3.1	10 / None	Sulfadimethoxine	4.7	10 / 10∞
Ampicillin	7.7	10 / 10	Sulfamethazine	7.7	10 / 10∞
Ceftiofur and Metabolites^	53	100 / 100	Tetracycline Drug	Detection Level† (ppb*)	US Safe Level/ Tolerance / Canadian MRL (ppb*)
Cephapirin	14	20 / 20	Chlortetracycline	54	300 / 100
Cloxacillin	7.4	10 / None	Oxytetracycline	66	300 / 100
Penicillin G	2.2	5 / 6&	Tetracycline	21	300 / 100

† Positive at least 90% of the time with 95% confidence.

* parts per billion or ng/mL

^ Ceftiofur parent drug sensitivity is approximately 1/2 that reported in the table.

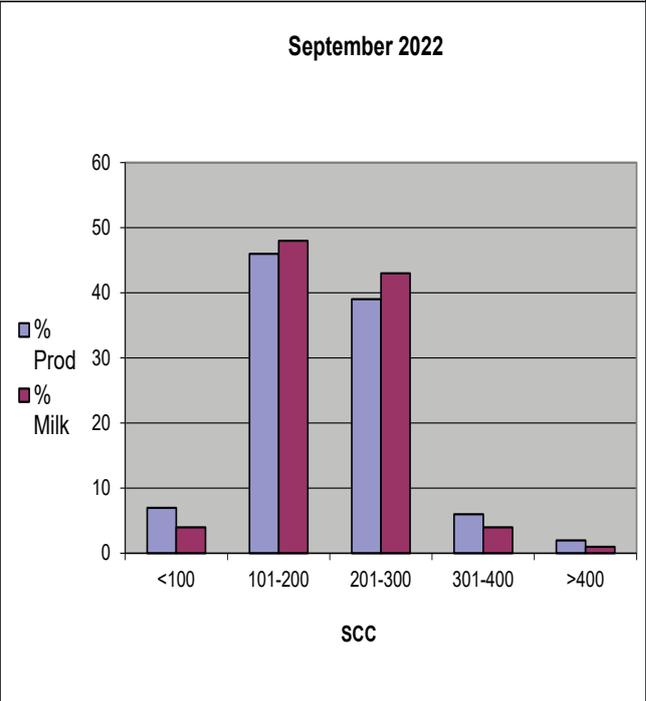
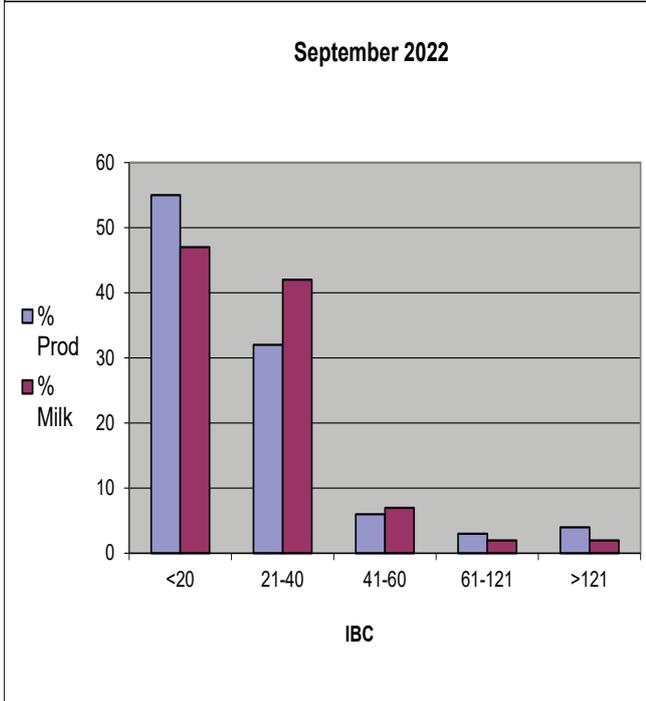
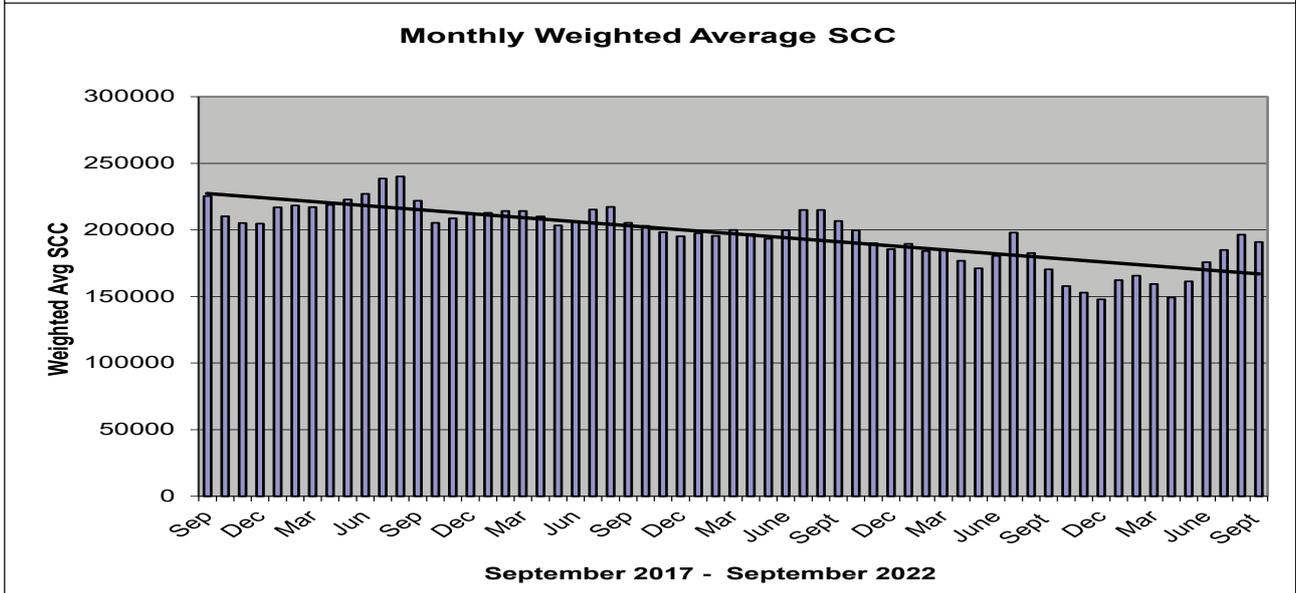
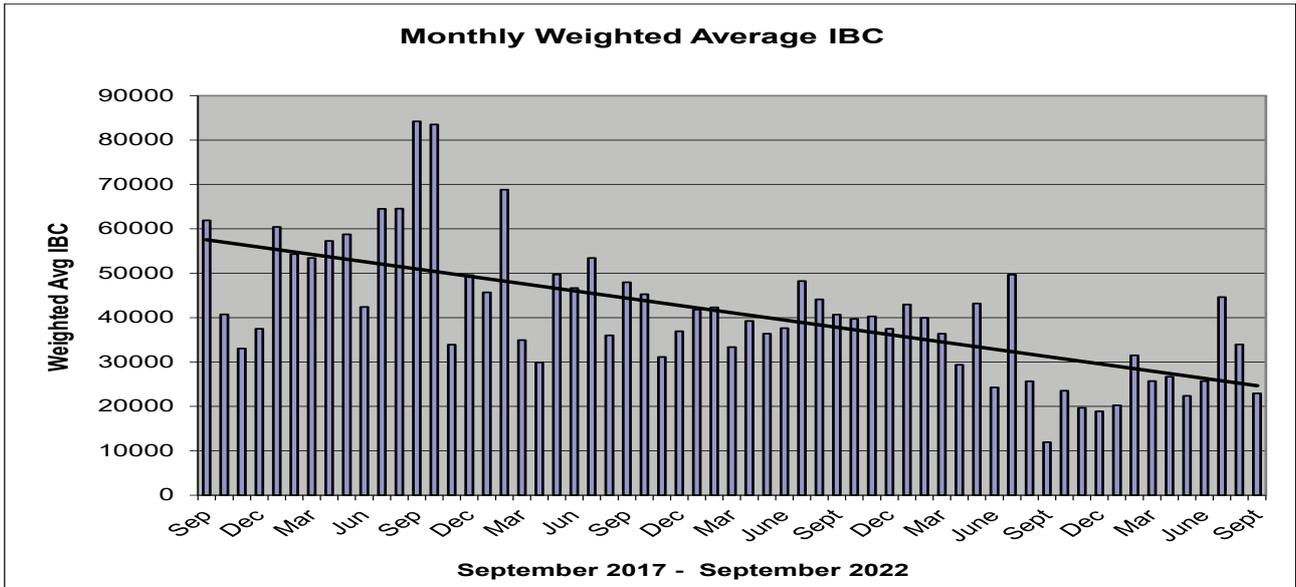
& Canadian MRL for penicillin G is 0.01 IU/ml, equivalent to 6 ppb.

∞ Canadian MRL for sulfa drugs are singly or in combination with other MRL listed sulfonamides.

Test stations are located at the following locations:

REGION	LOCATION	CONTACT
Star City, SK	Star City Colony	Reuben Tschetter, 306-921-9381
Emerald Park, SK	Warman Veterinary Services	86 Great Plains Rd, SK S4L 1C9 Phone: (306) 347-9995

Charm tests strips and Charm testers are now available for purchase through SaskMilk. Agrifoods is now carrying SNAP test kits for tetracyclines as well as beta lactams. For further information contact: SaskMilk 306-949-6999.



SaskMilk Board Activities

October/November

October 17 & 18	WMP Meeting
October 19 & 20	CMSMC
October 24 - 26	Producer Meetings
November 15	SaskMilk Board Meeting

In the Community

Check out these SaskMilk events!

October

October 1	Cultural Connections – India Night - Regina
October 21	Regina Teachers' Convention – Regina

November

November 4 – 5	Saskatchewan Nurse Practitioner Conference - Saskatoon
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SaskMilk's sponsorship of Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation supported 750 cheer crates that were distributed to families over the Thanksgiving weekend. Each crate contained a 4L jug of milk and a block of cheese.

September Quality Bonus

To get the quality bonus producers must have:

Monthly Average:

IBC - <= 30,000/ ml, SCC- <= 250,000/ml

FpT- lower than -0.525°Hortvet

No positive inhibitors

*represent # of months the quality bonus has been received

101115806 SASKATCHEWAN LTD.*****	DOWNIE LAKE CHURCH COLONY*****	HUTTERIAN BRETHREN CHURCH OF LAJORD*****	LAKEVIEW HOLSTEINS LTD.*****	SEPTEMBER SUN ACRES LTD.*****
ADIT FARMS INC.*****	EAGLEWOOD HOLDINGS LTD****	HUTTERIAN BRETHREN CHURCH OF QUILL LAKE INC.*****	LEYENHORST, ALBERT & HEATHER*****	SIERRA HUTTERIAN BRETHREN*****
ARTLAND DAIRIES INC*****	EARVIEW COLONY*****	HUTTERIAN BRETHREN CHURCH OF SOUTHLAND INC.*****	MAIN CENTRE DAIRY FARM*****	SIMMIE HUTTERIAN BRETHREN CHURCH*****
BAILDON HUTT BRETHREN INC.*****	EATONIA HUTTERIAN BRETHREN INC*****	HUTTERIAN BRETHREN CHURCH OF STAR CITY INC.*****	MARFAY FARMS LIMITED*****	SMILEY HUTTERIAN BRETHREN*****
BALGONIE HOLSTEINS LTD.*****	ELL'S DAIRY FARM 2010 INC.***	HUTTERIAN BRETHREN CHURCH OF TWIN CREEK INC.*****	MCGEE COLONY*****	SPRING LAKE COLONY*****
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A **STARS** flight nurse demonstrates how an isolette is positioned in the helicopter. Isolettes, or incubators, are used to carry infant patients to urgent-care hospitals. Although **STARS** air medical crews accompany these patients on missions, it's specialized teams that provide care.

SMALLEST PATIENTS REQUIRE COMPLEX CRITICAL CARE

MULTIPLE AGENCIES WORK TOGETHER TO HELP FRAGILE BABIES

It takes a Herculean effort to save the tiniest patients. Missions involving premature babies and sick infants are not only logistically complicated, but caring for those born or living in remote areas also requires specialized teams that are often long distances away.

At **STARS**, we do everything we can to facilitate care for these delicate patients.

“The kids are counting on us to get this right,” said Cindy Seidl, lead clinical officer at **STARS**. “If we help even one child, then it’s the right thing to do.”

Several recent **STARS** missions highlight the successful partnerships between **STARS** and health-care systems on the Prairies.

In one case, a **STARS** transport physician was picked up at his home by ground ambulance, and driven to an airport to board a fixed-wing ambulance to meet a very sick mom-to-be with a premature baby on the way at a small rural hospital.

While Dr. Josh Bezanson was en route to the small-town hospital, a **STARS** helicopter picked up a specialized neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) team from Edmonton’s University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) and flew it to the pregnant mom.

“This was a sick baby and a super sick, high-risk mom,” said Dr. Bezanson. “She was in a rural hospital in imminent labour, and the situation required specialized care. Everyone was very anxious for mom and baby, so we had to get there as quickly as possible.”

To accommodate the NICU team, an isolette and all the medical equipment and supplies required for the mission, our **STARS** crew had to first empty the helicopter.

“Everything from our stretcher to all the adult-sized equipment and supplies was offloaded to make room for the team and a 400-pound isolette,” said **STARS** flight nurse Krista Hartmann, who was also on the mission. “Everything has to come out.”



“This is a great example of how multiple teams can come together with a shared focus on patient first and ensure the child received the care needed in the quickest possible manner.”

— CINDY SEIDL | **STARS** lead clinical officer



Kelsey Penner
STARS flight nurse.

Dr. Bezanson said the initial plan was to fly mom and the NICU team from the rural hospital to UAH by plane so she could give birth there. That way, if she gave birth along the way, he and the NICU team would be there to assist both mom and baby.

But the baby had other plans and was delivered not long after all the medical crews, including Dr. Bezanson, arrived at the rural hospital.

The baby was just 28 weeks old and extremely fragile.

Ten medical professionals assisted with the labour and delivery, said Dr. Bezanson. “This could have been devastating. Instead, with the rural physician leading the way and a neonatologist on the line, this small rural hospital was essentially a major centre.”

Once the newborn and mom were stable, they were transported to the airport by ground ambulance and then flown by critical-care fixed wing, staffed by Alberta Central Air Ambulance, to UAH.

“It worked out well for mom, and she never had to be separated from her baby, which is the case sometimes,” said Dr. Bezanson. “All of the critical care resources she needed that day were available.”

A few weeks before, a similar mission took place in Saskatchewan, only with a slightly older patient.

A 42-day-old infant in a rural community near Saskatoon needed a pediatric intensive-care transport team. Upon receiving the request, our helicopter from the Saskatoon base was on another mission and fixed-wing Saskatchewan Air Ambulance

was similarly tasked with another call. Due to a very high volume within the city, ground EMS was also looking at a delayed response.

The critically ill infant was running out of time.

Seidl said there was no choice but to find a way to help, so a decision was made to send a **STARS** helicopter from Regina to Saskatoon, to pick up the pediatric transport team and take them to the child.

As in the case with the NICU patient, the helicopter was reconfigured to accommodate the PICU team.

The pediatric transport team was picked up from Royal University Hospital and flown to the rural community to take care of the critically ill child.

“This is a great example of how multiple teams can come together with a shared focus on patient first and ensure the child received the care needed in the quickest possible manner,” said Seidl.

Both missions were coordinated by the **STARS** Emergency Link Centre in Calgary. The emergency communications specialists facilitate every **STARS** mission by connecting callers, conferencing in physicians, tracking the helicopter’s location and working with first responders to make sure there are secure landing zones for **STARS** to land.

It’s that coordination, coupled with the expertise of the medical teams, that often makes the care feel seamless for patients and their families, said Dr. Bezanson.

“We can train for these scenarios, but in reality, these are no-notice events, and everyone has to be ready to respond with speed and skill.” *

Classified Ad Service

SaskMilk offers a free classifieds service as part of its newsletter. Anyone wishing to place an ad is welcome to contact the SaskMilk office at (306) 949-6999 or info@saskmilk.ca. All negotiations will be independent of SaskMilk. Please note that ads will be posted in two issues and will then be removed unless SaskMilk is notified otherwise.

Reminder!

The deadline date for Quota Transfer, Quota Exchange, and 10% Transfer Limit Exemptions is the 6th of each month

Your Quota Transfer, and 10% Exemption Applications must be received on or before the 6th of the month in order to be effective the 1st of the following month

Quota Exchange forms must be received in the SaskMilk office on or before the 6th of the month for that month's Exchange.

Volunteers Needed

As a matching sponsor of STARS' Thursday Dec. 1st, daily 50/50 at the Canadian Western Agribition; SaskMilk has the opportunity to volunteer selling 50/50's throughout Agribition.

Volunteer positions include selling 50/50 tickets for the time slots of 10am-2pm, 2pm-5:30pm and 5:30pm-10:00pm (at end of the rodeo).

To sign up, please visit this link: <https://signup.com/go/ZRBDZXS> and email info@saskmilk.ca for a volunteer form.

SaskMilk Board of Directors

Matthew Flaman

Chair

(306) 537-9634

flamanmj@gmail.com

Gordon Ell

Vice-Chair

(306) 535-1922

gt.ell@sasktel.net

Blaine McLeod

Second Vice-Chair

(306) 631-8053

rb.mcleod@sasktel.net

Albert Leyenhorst

(306) 230-0154

albertleyenhorst@gmail.com

Jessica Lovich

(306) 201-7362

j_simanton@hotmail.com

Tom MacKenzie

(306) 352-2292

tommymilk@icloud.com

Jake Mitchell

(306) 860-8328

jmitchsask@outlook.com

Anthony Nienhuis

(306) 221-1598

nienhuis@sasktel.net

Leonard Wipf

(306) 491-0432

leonard.countryclover@gmail.com