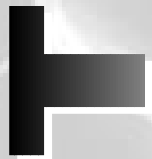
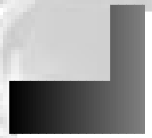
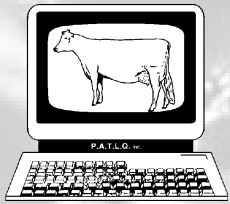


Newsletter

Pavillon John E. Moxley • 555, boul. des Anciens combattants, Ste-Anne de Bellevue Québec H9X 3R4



THE CANADIAN MILK RECORDING BOARD (CMRB) ADOPTS NEW RULES

Adapting to changes and in consultation with Canadian milk industry stakeholders, CMRB has adopted new rules. The federal subsidy (given to herds participating in genetic evaluations) contributed to maintaining rigid "Official" milk recording with too many rules. The elimination of this subsidy, along with decreasing provincial support, forced CMRB to revise its way of doing things.

Rigid rules met industry stakeholders' specifications (Breed Associations, Artificial Insemination, Genetic Evaluation). Under CMRB's new philosophy, milk recording becomes a management tool at the disposal of Canadian Dairy Producers. From now on, milk recording agencies will offer management services and note the events surrounding data collection on test day. Gone is their role as policeman. Gone are the "Official" and "Owner Sampler" designations. They are replaced by the rules defining a "Supervised Test". In general, such a test closely resembles what's currently called an "Official test".

Industry partners expressed their needs. Breed Associations established conditions under which lactation data would be published in the Herd Book. The herd must meet the following conditions:

- 1 – A minimum of 10 tests per year with at least 5 Supervised tests with milk samples,
- 2 – Supervised and non-supervised tests must alternate.

Also, the cow must have a minimum lactation index of 95 for protein.

The following are changes to CMRB rules as applied by PATLQ since January 1st, 1998:

There is no obligation to :

- 1 – Identify 20% of the herd, (however, identification of newly enrolled cows and fresh cows is mandatory)
- 2 – Register all animals
- 3 – Do retests – but check tests remain
- 4 – Have a rotation of milk testers
- 5 – Maintain a 17 – 50 day test interval
- 6 – Sign a Test Refusal Form

For more information, please consult your advisor.

**PATLQ applies the rules as defined by
CMRB and the Breed Associations**

THE REFERENCE LABORATORY



The Reference Lab. plays a key role in terms of milk analysis by PATLQ. It fulfills many functions, of which the preparation of standard samples and the validation of payment analyses are central.

The preparation of standardized samples consists of analyzing samples coming from farm and industrial bulk tanks. The analysis provides results for fat, protein, lactose and total solids. PATLQ uses these samples to standardize the automatic infrared analyzers. Note that the Reference lab. uses official chemical analysis methods as recommended by the International Dairy Federation. By the way, PATLQ's Reference Lab. is the only lab of its kind in Quebec certified by the Canadian Standard Association.

The second function is to check the accuracy of results from the infrared analyzers and to compare them to those obtained from the Reference Lab. To do so, random samples are taken from the line and analyzed for a second time by the Reference Lab.

On top of the functions already described, the Reference Lab. offers various services to the dairy industry. Selling standardized milk and cream samples and the chemical analysis of fat, protein, lactose and total solids of certain milk products are but a few examples.

In the near future, other services such as the analysis of true protein and caseins, will be available. These represent continued efforts from PATLQ to be ever more financially self-reliant while offering a quality service at the lowest possible cost to customers.

NEW OPTIONS ...

In order to better serve you or to lower your costs, PATLQ offers 3 new "Supervised Test" options:

Alternate tests:

a minimum of 5 "Supervised Tests" alternating with 5 "Unsupervised Tests"

Pre-scheduled test:

the test has to be scheduled at least 7 days in advance (a timer is required)

3XAP tests:

milk recording done on 2 out of the 3 milkings (a timer is required)

For more information, please consult your advisor.

COURSES ON FEEDING...

A CONTINUED SUCCESS

With 41 presentations and close to 1 000 registrations since last October, the feeding courses offered by PATLQ represent a huge success. Their popularity reflects the strong demand expressed by 69% of respondents on the last survey about which services to offer.

For more informations, contact your advisor or call 1-800-266-5248.

"THE COSTS ARE MINIMAL ..."



Mr. Yvon St-Pierre and Mr. Carol Beaulieu

Mr. Yvon St-Pierre with his family and employees operate "Ferme Cotopierre" in Ste-Odile, Rimouski. The 85 cows of this 200 head herd produce an average of 8 911 kg of milk, 363 kg of fat and 306 kg of protein (projected BCA of 209-226-225). Yvon expresses his satisfaction with the hourly rate introduced

more than a year ago. Here is what he says "The hourly fee has enabled me to make substantial savings by improving my efficiency at milking time. It also allows us to take the time we see fit, with our advisor Carol Beaulieu, to analyze and go over all the information available before making decisions.

The counselling costs are minimal when compared to what we gain from it. As far as we are concerned feeding recommendations from *RATION'L* are very important and we follow them carefully. Even if I have to be away because of my involvement with Holstein Québec (Provincial Director) and with CIAQ (Director), I leave with peace of mind because feeding and management of the herd are planned and taken care of."

"I find that the extension work provided by all PATLO's advisors plays an important role in the field. They contributed in no small way to the development of both dairy production and breeding in Québec. Even when adapting to changes making milk recording primarily a management tool, let's make sure to keep the reliability of data and the credibility associated with it".

PATLO WINS...!

For the third year in row, this time thanks to its "Total Performance Index" (TPI), PATLO wins the Innovation Contest for the 1998 edition of "Le Salon de l'agriculteur". This tool, available to PATLO's customers, enables them to measure their herd's performance against that of other herds of the same breed in the province.

The use of a percentile ranking system for each item makes the results easy to interpret. PATLO will publish the annual data in March. The producer will receive his TPI through his advisor. The select few achieving a TPI of 99 will receive a certificate from PATLO as proof of their outstanding performance.

Talk to your advisor about it.

COME AND FEEL THE DIFFERENCE...

The 1998 Holstein Convention team invites you to three eventful days from March 18 to 22. Come and visit farms in the area and exchange ideas with breeders on different techniques (feeding, management, shelter, etc.). Right on Four Points Sheraton's premises in Laval, those attending will be able to visit different booths. Getting their passport stamped at each could win them a lawn-mower (Aesculap). Mrs. Pascale Tremblay's presentation will cover different topics like national identification, registering via the Internet, conformation and genetic reports. Giant screens and simultaneous translation will make it easy for everyone to under-

stand and see each presentation.

Early in the afternoon of the 20th, the "Vente élite – Convention Sale" will offer the best animals from the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. The day will end with the President's maple sugar party at the world renowned "La sucrerie de la montagne". The food, the dance, the ambiance will make it an evening that you will not soon forget.

On the 21th, come and exchange opinions with other

producers from across Canada during the Holstein Association's general meeting. The Association will honour the Master Breeders during a cocktail hour. A banquet and dance will close the event. PATLQ's participation in this event is one more way to thank its clients. Everyone involved in organizing this Convention has at heart the continued improvement of dairy cattle.

Don't miss this occasion to feel the difference... We hope to see you there.

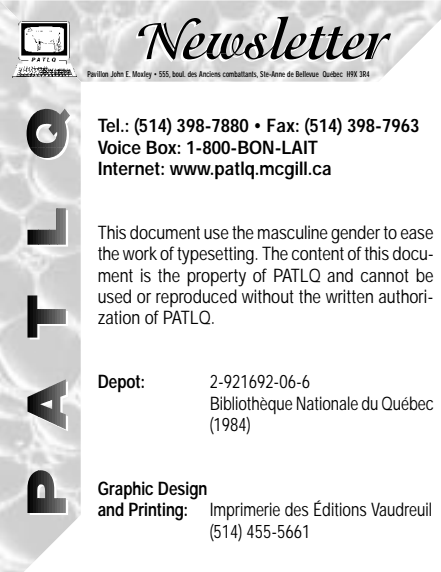
READ PATLQ NEWS

RIGHT FROM OUR WEBSITE

From now on, you can read PATLQ News on PATLQ's website. As soon as possible, we will add the four previous editions. Come and visit us at

www.patlq.mcgill.ca

More than 8 000 visitors to the site confirm its usefulness as a source of information to both its customers and industry stakeholders.



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