

Our contest for September !

Results for Quiz Number 12

The drawing was made on August 13 from several hundred entries. The winners are: **Daniel Lamy** of Yamachiche (advisor: *Simon Smith*) and **Bertrand Lévesque** of St-Pacôme (advisor: *Yvan Lizotte*). Each won a \$50 credit on PATLQ services. Congratulations to all participants!

The correct answers were:

Question 1

Among the nine members of the PATLQ Board of Directors, how many are dairy producers ?
b) 5

Question 2

In the last ten years, the average yearly production per cow in Quebec has increased by about:
b) 1200 kg

Question 3

Among the following causes, which one is not directly related to profitable production ?
d) Quebec region

Question 4

When a herd reaches both goals of age at first calving at 24 months and weight after calving of 580 kg, net revenue (\$/cow/year) is above the provincial average by: d) \$383

Here is Quiz Number 13 !

Answers can be found in the *Rapport de production 2002*, or by consulting your advisor. Two \$50 credits on advisory services will be drawn on October 20, 2003.

Question 1

Why use the **VMEM** service (**VSMT**, in French) ?

- a) In order to prevent financial losses due to poor milk quality
- b) To improve my herd's udder health
- c) To evaluate the need to invest in my barn or equipment
- d) Because this impartial service is provided by a specialist
- e) All of these answers

Question 2

In the Fall, the ration of pasturing heifers still needs supplementation.

True or False ?

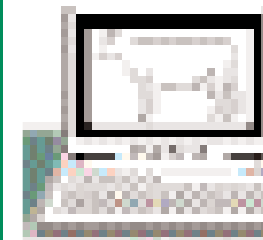
Question 3

Somatic cell count is higher between July and September. Among the four following reasons, find the one that does not apply.

- a) Hot and humid temperature boosts microbial contamination
- b) Milking hours and practices are perturbed because of the harvesting extra workload
- c) More cows are at the end of their lactation, due to increased demand for autumn milk
- d) Longer photoperiod affects microbial proliferation

Entries must be received prior to **October 17, 2003**. Please send to the attention of Julie Charlebois, PATLQ, 555 boul. des Anciens-Combattants, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec H9X 3R4 — Fax: 514-398-7963 – E-mail: jcharlebois@patlq.com (You may enter by E-mail. Just write in the subject box "Quiz - 13", followed by your herd number, and give your answers and full name and address as your message).

----- ✂ -----
Coupon-réponse – Quiz N° 13 - September 2003
 Answers : 1 : _____ 2 : _____ 3 : _____
 Name : _____ Herd Number : _____
 Address : _____
 Tel : _____ Fax : _____
 E-mail : _____



PATLQ

NEWSLETTER

64 - SEPTEMBER 2003

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Holstein Picnic 2003

High spirits triumph over the rain !

Under an unpromising sky, thousands of dairy producers met at Saint-Hyacinthe on July 12 and 13 for an outstanding two-day **Holstein Quebec Picnic**. Fortunately, the site of *Ferme Maskita*, with its long paved lanes, comes in handy on a rainy day. High spirits did the rest !

As every year, there was a lot of action at the PATLQ exhibit. Advisors present at the site had a chance to talk with hundreds of clients. Our visitors had a shot at a new golf game called the "Cow-Putt" and winners earned a credit on our new electronic registration service for Holstein calves. Golf enthusiasts of every age did wonders !

Saturday night, under the big tent, 800 people enjoyed a tasty barbecue. Mr. **Marcel Groleau**, Vice-President of **FPLQ** (PATLQ's main shareholder), took time to reaffirm the solidarity of dairy producers with their centre of expertise.

Once more, with the contribution of our partner **Tru-Test**, a draw for two

milk meters was made at the conclusion of the week-end. Both winners were present and received their prizes on the spot. Thanks to all participants !

Thanks to everyone involved in this great event: *Club Holstein of Saint-Hyacinthe, Holstein Québec, Ferme Maskita, CIAQ, Jardins Daniel A. Séguin, ITA de Saint-Hyacinthe* and the *Faculté de médecine vétérinaire*. They all gave visitors a warm wel-

come. Also, thanks to the hundreds of dairy producers who came to say hello, and to many PATLQ staff members who readily gave their time for the animation and the organization of this great week-end. The sunshine was in our hearts!

See you next year!

Ann Louise Carson, agr.,
 Business Development Director



Congratulations to the winners of the two Tru-Test milk meters! Left to right, Raymond Castonguay, development agent, region Les Érables, Denis Ménard, winner from Ferme Ménardise, Verchères, Robert Beaumont, winner from Ferme Robrimont, St-Pierre-de-Montmagny and Bertrand Farmer, General Manager of PATLQ.

Holstein registration / Permanent ID (ATQ) PATLQ's on-line service gains popularity !

Your PATLQ advisor can now process your permanent ID requests to ATQ as well as your animal registrations to *Holstein Quebec* via the Internet. Good-bye fastidious chores, late entries and associated penalties !

**Many producers already enjoy
 this convenient service.
 Want to join them ?
 Just have a word with your advisor !**

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27th Symposium on dairy cattle

Learn more about the links between nutrition and breeding

You are concerned about the breeding of dairy cows? You wish to know more? Join the **27th Symposium on dairy cattle** in Saint-Hyacinthe, October 30th. Organized every year by the **CRAAQ (Centre de référence en agriculture et agroalimentaire du Québec)**, this Symposium is a golden opportunity for a quick intensive survey of cutting-edge research.

The theme for this year, « A question of reproduction », reflects the industry's great preoccupation of the moment. Among several not-to-be-missed conferences: *Nutrition, Feeding and Reproduction*, presented by **Jean Brisson**, agronomist,

Special Advisor on **PATLQ's** R&D Team. Completed by a very extensive article in the proceedings, this presentation provides an impressive panorama of current knowledge on the subject.

Specialized Training Sessions for Groups 2003-2004

Furthermore, our clients will be pleased to know that the course *Feeding and Reproduction* will be back this November in our *Specialized Advisory Group Services* program. Offered for the first time last year in both one-day and two-day format – the latter in partnership with **CIAQ, CABs** and



AMVPQ (Association des médecins vétérinaires praticiens du Québec) –, this training session was praised by several hundred dairy producers from all regions. For 2003-2004, three new courses have been added, bringing the total to 16. **PATLQ's** specialized training sessions are available all winter throughout Quebec, based on requests by local dairy producers. Course descriptions can be found on our web site www.patq.com, or by asking your advisor.

PATLQ Board of Directors

Two new representatives for 2003 2004

For the year 2003-2004, two new representatives join the **PATLQ** Board of Directors. Mr. **André Campeau** replaces Mr. **Gilbert Perreault** as a Director from **FPLQ** and Mr. **Rodrigue Martin** replaces Mr. **Jacques Olivier** as a Director from **MAPAQ**. Our deepest thanks go to Mr. Perreault and Olivier for their generous contribution in the last years, and we give an enthusiastic welcome our new collaborators !

The new Board of Directors is comprised of: Dairy producers and **FPLQ** Directors: **Gilbert Rioux**, President, **Luc Quintal**, Vice-President, **André Campeau**, **Pierre Lampron**. Dairy producer designated by **CQRL**: **Michel Robert**. **MAPAQ** representatives: **Yvan Savoie**, Director of *Innovation scientifique et technologique*, **Rodrigue Martin**, agr., special advisor for dairy production, *Direction de l'innovation scientifique et technologique (DIST)*. **McGill University** representatives: **Roger Cue**, Ph.D., Associate Professor, **Humberto Monardes**, Ph.D., Associate Professor.

To assist in your compliance to the new milk quality standards

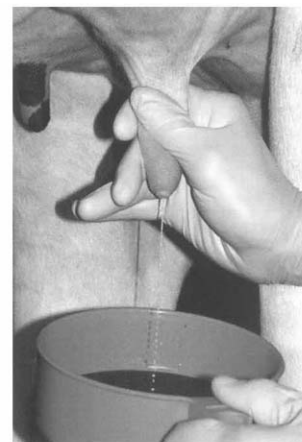


Photo ITA La Pocatière

Once a year, ask for a **VMEM Visit**
Verification of Milking
Equipment and Methods

Technical Column

Each cow is unique

By Jean Brisson, agronomist - R&D-Nutrition Team, **PATLQ**

Dairy production means working with animals. This is a far cry from an assembly line. Each cow in the herd is unique, whether by colour pattern, conformation, behaviour or production potential. It goes without saying that the balance of the ration must reflect the specificity of each cow or group of cows.

We sometimes hear the question: **Should my feeding program take breed into account?** The question is quite legitimate, since there are obvious differences between breeds, in body weight as well as milk production and composition (% fat and protein). A cow giving milk at 3.2% protein surely has different nutritional needs than a cow at 4%.

Does this mean that we should have a version of the **Ration'L** feeding program for each breed? Fortunately no, since for each parameter considered by the program, the variation between individual cows is greater than any variation encountered between breeds, whether you consider body weight, milk production, protein or fat content, etc. So, a Jersey cow weighing 450 kg, yielding 25 kg of milk at 5% fat and 4% protein will get tailor-made feeding recommendations, which will be quite different from those for an Ayrshire cow weighing 560 kg, yielding 30 kg of milk at 4% fat and 3.3% protein.

It is obvious that **body weight is a major factor**, since it dictates the potential dry matter intake, the rate of passage of solids and liquids through the rumen, the microbial protein production and the maintenance requirements. **Milk composition is another key factor**, since energy and protein requirements are directly linked to fat and protein content. What will happen if I feed a cow giving milk at 4% protein with the ration balanced for a cow

with milk at 3.2% protein? It is obvious that her nutritional requirements will not be met. Her persistence will probably be under expectations. She will tend to put up more fat than average. She may leave the herd sooner...

True, feeding costs tend to be higher for cows giving high-protein milk. However, with the component-based payment system in effect since 1992 in Quebec, high-protein milk is paid at a higher rate. This can mean a difference of several dollars per hectolitre. For an accurate calculation, please consult your advisor, who will be glad to help.

It is true that milk composition varies from breed to breed but, as stated earlier, it also varies greatly from cow to cow within any breed. Some Holstein cows give milk at 2.8% protein, while others give 4.5%. Some Jersey cows give milk at 5% protein, while others give 3.5%. This shows why it is so useful to have milk analysed on a cow-by-cow basis. This allows feeding programs to be adequately fine-tuned, whatever the breed of the subject or group. Thanks to the flexibility of **Ration'L** and his personal expertise, your advisor can make feeding recommendations that will help each cow – and each breed – to produce to full potential.

To know more about the features of each dairy breed, please contact the various **Breed Associations**. Contact is easy through the **Laitoile** web site (www.laitoile.com).



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