



PATLQ

NEWSLETTER

68 - SEPTEMBER 2004

John E. Moxley Building · 555 Des Anciens-Combattants Blvd.
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec H9X 3R4

Important changes by April 2005

From milk recording to centre of expertise

Over the past several years, PATLQ has been striving to become a centre of expertise for dairy production. The next few months will bring significant improvements to on-farm services. In April 2005, at the FPLQ Annual Meeting, PATLQ shareholders will inaugurate the centre of expertise for dairy production, and its long-term objectives.

What this means to your daily life

In addition to our current- and always appreciated - services, and to better respond to the specific needs of *your* business, your centre of expertise will offer you a new, more specialized, "strategic" advisory service. As of this fall, five **Strategic Advisors** will join our regional teams. In collaboration with your advisor, their mission will be to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your farm. If needed, in cooperation with other key partners (management counsellor, veterinarian, engineer, etc.), they will recommend solutions to improve the future financial status of your business. Such interventions will be offered on an individual basis and in group sessions and workshops.

Additionally, a reorganization of our services and business practices this fall will lead to the following changes to the designation and assignments of our field staff:

- Our technical support agents will widen their area of action: **technicians** will supervise herds for milk recording purposes, while **data entry technicians** (current and new employees) will be equipped with computers in order to fulfill the data entry tasks, specially for larger herds and for clients requesting this service.
- This new formula will relieve our **advisors**, allowing them to concentrate on their advisory function, thus improving the value to the client. Clients will now access a wider array of options, better suited to their needs and all at an affordable cost.
- Lastly, in order to facilitate data transfer (to ATQ for traceability, to breed associations for registration and to CIAQ for auxiliary traits recording) and to ensure the highest credibility for genetic evaluation and the ongoing development of our dairy sector, ABC herds (without

advisory services) will now benefit from a monthly visit by a data entry technician.

For almost 40 years, PATLQ has played a major role in the Quebec dairy industry. Dairy production analysis has provided a concrete measurement of genetic progress, allowing for accelerated progress with each generation of cows. Our analysis also allowed for the creation a wide range of management tools: feeding management, dairy planning, UREELAB, VMEM, Analyses*, and so on. Furthermore, over time, PATLQ has built a database that is indispensable to our dairy industry. Shared with all your partners, this wealth of information is the basis of our collective expertise. More than ever, we can help you make the best business decisions when facing your future challenges. PATLQ has always closely followed your evolution: our future centre of expertise will now strive to precede it. With our strong network of specialists, we will make the difference for you, at your farm.

Bertrand Farmer, agr.,
General Manager



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Milk meter verification

For an increased reliability of milk weights

In order to ensure the reliability of dairy herd data, it was decided that when the comparison between total test day milk and bulk tank is over 120 (a 20% discrepancy), a verification of milk meters will occur. As with other meter verifications this is at the herd owner's expense. This procedure applies to all supervised or alternate herds, and is the first step in identifying potential problems in the herd. Should such a discrepancy continue other measures might be undertaken.

Your *Bulk Tank Comparison* appears on your *Data Entry: General Information*, in the section titled *Milk*

Milk Meter	
Accepted	2004 Mar 03
Bulk Tank Comparison	95
% ID Accepted	
% 1st Lact - Last Mth	100
% 1st Lact - 12 Mths	91

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Meter. The closer a value is to 100%, the better the quality of the data.

Don't forget your annual verification
Additionally, the line above *Bulk Tank Comparison* provides the date of your last milk meter verification. According to current standards your milk meters must be verified at least

once a year. If this verification is not done, your lactation records will lose their publishable status, having potentially serious consequences for your herd. Take the initiative: request a meter verification at least once every year prior to last meter verification date.

Together, we can improve the reliability of data gathered from supervised herds. This is the very foundation of the credibility of our entire industry.

Sylvia Lafontaine
R&D Agent,
responsible for Standards at PATLQ

Automated Milking Systems : soon compatible with Agri-Lacta

The most recent development in *Agri-Lacta* responds to a specific request from milking parlour owners. As of this Fall, your advisor will be able to download milk weights directly from milking parlour computer systems, translating into time saving, hence, added-value for the time spent at the farm by your advisor.

This innovation requires a specific software interface for each manufacturer. Beginning in September data transfer will be available for *WestfaliaSurge* systems. In the very near future, downloading will also be available for *De Laval* and *Boumatic* milking parlours. The software interface files can be downloaded from the PATLQ web site as they become available. For more information, please contact your advisor.

George Clyde
Manager,
Dept. of Information Technologies

PATLQ Board of Directors 2004-2005

Board members named by the Fédération des producteurs de lait (52% of shares)

Gilbert Rioux, President, St-Simon, Bas-Saint-Laurent
Luc Quintal, Vice-President, Varennes, St-Jean-Valleyfield
André Campeau, Board Member, Courcelles, Beauce
Chris Judd, Board Member, Shawville, Outaouais-Laurentides
Michel Robert, Board Member, St-Eugène-de-Guigues, Abitibi-Témiscamingue (named by CQRL)

Board members named by MAPAQ (24% of shares)

Yvan Savoie, agr., director of DIST (Dept. of Scientific and Technological Innovation)
Rodrigue Martin, agr., animal production advisor, DIST

Board members named by McGill University (24% of shares)

Humberto Monardes, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Roger Cue, Ph.D., Associate Professor



Welcome to Mr. **Chris Judd**, dairy producer from Shawville, new Board Member in 2004.



Heartfelt thanks to Mr. **Pierre Lampron**, dairy producer from St-Boniface, Mauricie, Board Member since 2001-2002, now leaving.

Technical Column

Feed Analyses

What is the best time to take a sample?

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



Results for PATLQ infrared feed analyses are, and have always been, available in 24 hours. Let's take advantage of this quick turnaround time.

For hay (uncovered bales)

We must do everything possible to prevent hay from heating in the barn. Without heating, there will be very little change between pressing time and the moment it is fed to the cows. As a matter of fact, only dry matter will have increased from 79-80% to stabilize around 86-88%. So, you may take a sample either at harvest time or feeding time, at your convenience.

For hay silage and corn silage

Whether we talk about wrapped round bales, or about vertical, bunker or stack silos, fermenting forage will change over time. The fermentation process means that microbes in the silage will use some of the nutrients (sugars, starch, protein) and turn them into acids. According to the way the fermentation proceeds and its duration, the silage bulk will undergo more or less significant transformations.

Results presented in Table 1 speak for themselves. In case 1, the microbes utilised close to 40% of hemicellu-

lose and close to 70% of available sugars, the effect of which has been a concentration of lignin and cellulose. This explains why ADF increased by more than 25%, while NDF decreased by 4%. In case 2, changes are far less drastic, with ADF increasing only by 7% and NDF not decreasing, but increasing by 6%.

Since it is possible to get results in 24 hours, we consider it is more advisable to take a silage sample when fermentation is complete, that is, when the temperature of the silage bulk returns to ambient temperature.

For any question, please contact your advisor.

In order to learn more, why not register for a training session on silage conservation? This fall, PATLQ is offering its 4th season of specialized advisory services for groups. Silage conservation is one among several topics on the list. The 2004-2005 schedule will be posted on our web site at www.patlq.com towards the end of October. You may also contact your advisor.

Silage	Orchard Grass and Red Clover		Timothy, Alfafa and Clover	
	At harvest time	After fermentation	At harvest time	After fermentation
Parameters				
Dry Matter (%)	28.3	27.8	32.1	30.7
Hemicellulose (%)	31.2	19.5	15.0	15.7
ADF (%)	33.5	42.4	31.7	33.8
NDF (%)	64.7	61.9	46.8	49.5
Crude Protein (%)	15.0	15.1	15.2	15.8
Soluble Sugars (%)	10.6	3.2	10.7	5.4
pH		4.6	5.6	4.3
Lactic Acid (%)		2.3		9.7
Acetic Acid (%)		2.7		1.9
Butyric Acid (%)		1.1		N/d

Table 1. Effect of fermentation on the composition of two forages stored in bunker silos (Leduc R. et al., Colloque sur les Plantes fourragères, 1998)

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Milk Analyses for Payment

Transition to fresh milk a fine success

This past June, after two years of groundwork, milk analyses for payment evolved from potassium-dichromate preserved samples to fresh milk samples. This change harmonizes the analyses across Canada, which given our quota system, allows for greater equity among producers. Eliminating this toxic preservative is also good news from an environmental standpoint.

The transition to fresh milk called for a new double-seal vial, sampling, cold-storage and shipping process, an extension to our building, new lab equipment and a new tailor-made data transfer software. In short, a very tight logistical challenge. Not to mention that the average sample deliveries to the lab climbed from 20,000 to 130,000 every month!

Done at the request of our majority shareholder, the Fédération des producteurs de lait, this major change would not have been possible without active cooperation from PATLQ staff (laboratory, programming, facilities man-

agement) as well as our partners at FPLQ and dairy plants throughout Quebec. Congratulations and many thanks to one and all for your contribution to this fine success.

Brian Corrigan, Laboratory Manager



Analyses for payment using fresh milk: PATLQ laboratory now receives 130,000 samples per month.

Our contest for September ! - Results for Quiz N° 16

The drawing took place on August 12 from among several hundred entries. The winners are: **Romarc Holsteins inc.**, of Plessisville (advisor: *Martin Côté*) and **Ferme Paulémie inc.**, of St-Thuribe (advisor: *René Brulotte*). Each won a \$50 credit for PATLQ services. Congratulations to all participants!

The correct answers were: Q-1 : b) • Q-2 : b) • Q-3 : a) and e) • Q-4 : according to your SCC Report - Management List.

Quiz N° 17

Answers can be found in this bulletin. You may also ask your advisor for help. Two \$50 credits for advisory services will be drawn on October 25, 2004.

Question 1

Your forage was analysed at harvest time (dry harvested, unwrapped square or round bales). When the time comes to calculate the ration, you will have to make an adjustment for:

- a) Protein
- b) Dry Matter
- c) ADF
- d) All these answers

Question 2

Silage fermentation means that microbes use a part of available nutrients (sugars, hemicellulose, etc.). This process has an impact on ADF, which will have a tendency to:

- a) decrease
- b) increase
- c) have no effect

Question 3

For higher accuracy, it is advisable to analyse your silage once fermentation is complete:

- a) False
- b) True

Question 4

For the PATLQ laboratory, the transition to fresh milk for payment analyses means that the number of samples received at the lab went from 20,000 to:

- a) 100,000
- b) 110,000
- c) 120,000
- d) 130,000 samples per month

Entries must be received **prior to October 22, 2004**. Please send to the attention of **France Lauzon**, PATLQ, 555 boul. des Anciens-Combattants, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec H9X 3R4 -- Fax: 514-398-7963 - E-mail: quiz@patlq.com (You may enter by E-mail. Just write in the subject box "Quiz - 17", followed by your herd number, and give your answers and full name and address as your message).

Reply Form – Quiz N° 17 - September 2004

Answers: 1 : _____ 2 : _____ 3 : _____ 4 : _____

Name: _____ Herd Number: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____