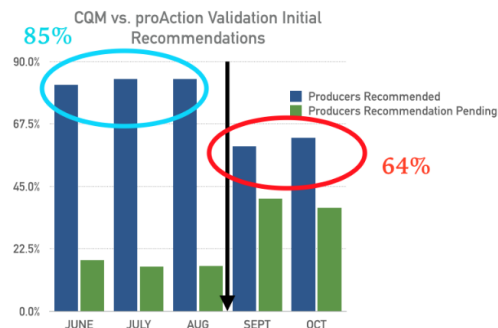


# DAIRY NEWSLETTER

## ProAction Validation Updates and News

Since September 2017, all on farm CQM validation visits have assessed producers Grade A and CQM requirements, as well as all of the requirements for the Animal Care and Traceability modules of ProAction. So how has it been going?



Prior to September, 85% of producers “passed” their initial CQM validation visit.

Unfortunately, since September, only 64% of Ontario producers have had a successful validation the first time around, and must be re-visited or provide additional records, prior to receiving a recommendation for validation result.

### What are the most common reasons why producers aren’t passing their initial validation?

- Incomplete or un-edited Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Incomplete or un-edited Corrective Action Plans
- Incomplete Treatment Records
  - Missing entire entries (ie. Dehorning calves, or reproductive hormone usage)
  - Missing data from entries (ie. Milk and meat clear dates have not been written down)
- Incomplete TTR Alarm Records

Let’s investigate some of these issues further:

#### Standard Operating Procedures:

As a reminder, all farms must update their Standard Operating Procedures for milking and cleaning procedures, if there are any changes, on the ProAction website (<https://www.dairyproaction.ca/login.aspx>)

The Animal Care module includes 4 new SOPs that also must be completed using the online wizard. Many of these SOPs require you to make farm-specific edits, which producers are failing to do. These include:

- **Calf Feeding and Colostrum Management**
  - SOP must state what type of colostrum you use and ideally would state your calf feeding strategies (ie. Bottles vs. Robots; volumes; age at weaning etc)
- **Animal Health Practices**
  - Pain management must be provided at the time of dehorning and castration!
  - SOPs must be edited to state what drugs are used for pain management and who is responsible for performing the tasks.
- **Euthanasia**
  - SOPs must state who is responsible for euthanizing animals and what approved method is used.
- **Shipping Cattle**



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### **Corrective Action Plans: Down Cows**

All farms require a Corrective Action Plan for dealing with Downed Cows as part of the Animal Care module.

*There is no wizard or template for this record and no minimum required elements, however there must be enough information in the plan to allow your FSR to understand what you would do and who you would call if a cow goes down on your farm.*

This record can be hand written with your other Corrective Action Plans (CQM Record 16) or you can type it in the SOP wizard online in the “Corrective Action” section.

### **Incomplete Treatment Records**

All treatments with a milk AND/OR a meat withdrawal must be entered into an on-farm treatment record. This includes recording the following treatments, that often are overlooked:

- Calf dehorning (Lidocaine meat w/d = 5 days; Anafen meat w/d = 1 day; Metacam meat w/d = 20 days)
- Reproductive hormone usage, including all OvSynch, CIDRsynch and other programs (Fertiline meat w/d = 7 days; Lutalyse meat w/d = 2 days; EstroPlan meat w/d = 1 day)  
\*\*Note: Estrumate and Bioestrovet do not have any withholding period, therefore if these products are used individually and according to label, no recording is required as per the CQM program. Recording is still recommended for good farm management record keeping.\*\*
- Vaccinations for cows and calves (meat withdrawal of 21 or 60 days usually)
- Calf treatments with antibiotics – these must be recorded.

DFO FSRs are becoming more aware of various treatments on farm, now that they have multiple years of experience reviewing these records and therefore treatment records that were accepted 2 years ago missing some of the above data, may be the reason a farm does not pass their validation this year.

### **Incomplete TTR Alarm Recording**

All regulatory (CAPITAL LETTER) alarms must be recorded. The record must include the date, the type of alarm AND what you did to address the alarm. Farms missing more than 35% of alarms will be issued a corrective action report.

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## **Changes coming to the ProAction Validation Penalty Program**

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, any farm that has a major non-compliant corrective action report initiated as part of an unsuccessful validation visit will have to show a minimum of 3 month’s worth of satisfactory records, prior to passing their validation visit.

**This means, all farms that are missing mandatory records and have a corrective action report documented will automatically face a minimum of 3 months of penalty at \$2/hL!**

**Prior to your validation visit, we encourage you to call the clinic to set up a time with Dr. Katharine to review your CQM and ProAction records on farm and ensure validation is successful and stress free!**