

proAction Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) **Minimum Required Elements**

Milk Quality

There are currently no SOPs required for this theme of proAction.

Food Safety (Canadian Quality Milk)

Pre-Milking:

- If the tank is empty, turn on cooler when the milk reaches the agitator. This will ensure proper milk cooling without freezing. It will also slow bacteria growth and help prevent 'malty'-flavoured milk. [Note: producers can include this required element in the SOP for Milking instead of the SOP for Pre-Milking.]

Milking:

- Teat sanitizing procedure ensures that: 1) teats are cleaned, sanitized and dried prior to milking 2) an approved teat sanitizing product is used and that it is used according to the label directions.

Milking Cattle with Abnormal or Treated Milk:

- Discard the milk from those quarters that have abnormal milk (e.g. mastitis milk, bloody milk) and for the first 3 days in milk (colostrum). Never use quarter milkers on a treated animal. Antimicrobials can be released into the milk regardless of the site of entry. For example, treatment into one quarter will result in residues in the other non-treated quarters.
- Check the treatment records to ensure a treated animal has met the appropriate withdrawal times for milk before shipping her milk. Treatments include medicines, pesticides, and medicated feeds.
- When an animal calves, check treatment records to make sure the withdrawal times for any dry cow treatments have been met before shipping her milk.
- If new animals are purchased [e.g. springing heifers (less than 60 days before calving), lactating cattle or dry cows], you must either:
 - test their milk, record the results, ensure it passes test before shipping the milk;
 - OR
 - obtain a letter of guarantee from previous owner stating that the animal is free from chemical residues or outlines the treatment(s) administered and the withdrawal times. In order for the letter to be valid, the previous owner must have owned the animal for at least the last two months.
- Ensure residual milk remaining in equipment after milking a treated animal is not shipped (e.g. use separate unit for treated animals, rinse unit, milk treated animals last).
- Ensure milkers know the farm's system for marking treated animals. As required in the SOP for treating an animal, treated animals must be marked.



Post-Milking Cleaning:

- Check and record the milk temperature after each milking (done automatically by some Time Temperature Recorders (TTR)).
- Check and record the cleanliness of milking equipment regularly (e.g. receiver jar and bulk milk tank) for each AMS and each washing system (e.g. two robots washed by a single wash sink, each CIP system sink, and each bulk tank) (minimum acceptable frequency is monthly, weekly is recommended).
- Check and record the temperature of the pre-rinse water (weekly) or wash water (monthly) (done automatically by some TTRs).

Treating Cattle:

- Read and follow label direction to determine proper dosage and ensure livestock medicines are administered properly.
- Use products that are approved in Canada for use in dairy cattle, unless written veterinary directions/veterinary prescription indicates otherwise. This includes only using registered pesticides.
- Obtain written veterinary directions/veterinary prescription for all treatments given extra-label. In Quebec, all medications administered must be accompanied by a veterinary prescription.
- Mark treated animals.
- Record the identity of any animals carrying broken needles and record the site.
- Record the treatment and appropriate withdrawal dates for both milk and meat.
- Record treatments for all cattle on the farm (e.g. calves, heifers, dry cattle, bulls, etc.), including pesticides.

Shipping Cattle:

- See below - all items have been merged into a single SOP for shipping cattle under the Animal Care theme.

Feeding Medicated Feed:

- Clearly identify all medicated feed storage areas and feed bins - indicate that the feed is medicated and indicate the target group of animals the feed is intended for.
- Follow recommended milk and meat withdrawal times for all feed medications and additives.
- Use only approved feed medications and feed additives.
- Use feed medication according to the label written instructions from a veterinarian.
- Record all animals (e.g. calves, replacement heifers, lactating or dry cattle) being fed medicated feed on the livestock treatment record.



Animal Care

Calf Feeding:

- Feed newborn calves at least 4 litres [for a 45kg (100lb) calf] of good quality colostrum within 12 hours of birth, with the first meal occurring as soon as possible, and no more than 6 hours after birth. A newborn Jersey calf [23kg (50lb)] would need at least 2 litres of good quality colostrum within 12 hours of birth.
- Feed calves a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigour.
- Incrementally increase volume of milk fed during cold weather by about 25% (e.g 8L increases to 10L)

Animal Health Practices:

Disbudding/dehorning:

- Properly and safely restrain the calf using halter/squeeze/other.
- Before dehorning, administer pain control [state what is used].
- Control bleeding as required by pulling the artery with forceps or using a hot iron to cauterize the artery.

Castration:

- Administer pain control [state what is used] when castrating calves older than 6 months of age (e.g. analgesic). Medications must be administered by a veterinarian, trained veterinary technician or a trained operator.

Supernumerary teat removal:

- Amputate teat with surgical scissors or a scalpel blade.

Branding (hot or freeze):

- Administer pain control as recommended by a veterinarian. Alternative methods of identification should be considered. Face branding is prohibited.

Euthanasia:

- Promptly euthanize cattle with untreatable conditions, not responding to treatment or not fit for transport.
- Confirm death by checking the animal for breathing, heartbeat and consciousness. Evaluate consciousness by touching the animal's eye (cornea) and noting of the animal blinks. Any eye movement is an indication of sustained or recovering consciousness. A lack of heartbeat and respiration for more than 5 minutes should be used to confirm death.
- Do not move or leave the animal prior to confirmation of death.

Shipping Cattle:

- Assess every animal prior to loading (see appendix H of the Code of Practice - "should this animal be loaded?")
- Do not transport non-ambulatory animals, animals with a body condition score indicating emaciation or weakness, animals with severe lameness or animals that cannot bear weight on all four legs except to a veterinary clinic for veterinary treatment or diagnosis.
- Do not transport animals that are likely to give birth during the intended journey.



- Do not transport animals that require hobbling in order to walk.
- Feed newborn calves at least 4L [for a 45kg (100lb)] of colostrum prior to loading.
- Feed and water dairy cattle within 5 hours of loading, if the expected duration of the animals' confinement is longer than 24 hours from the time of loading.
- Only experienced and trained handlers should load cattle.
- Avoid the use of electric prods (only use in extreme situations when animal or human safety is at risk).
- Ensure cattle that are incompatible by nature are segregated. Do not mix cattle during transport that will lead to fighting or injury (e.g. two bulls).
- Check treatment records - animals have met withdrawal times for milk and meat before shipping them. Treatments include medicines, vaccines, veterinary Natural Health Products, pesticides, and medicated feeds. Some treatments have very long meat withdrawals (especially if used extra label) so ensure that you check far enough back to ensure that withdrawals have been met.
- Check treatment records - animals do not have broken needles.
- Ensure animals are identified according to NLID or Agri-Traceability Quebec (ATQ) or approved beef tags.
- If animals are going directly to slaughter, withdrawal times must be met before shipping. If animals carry broken needles, the information must be passed on to the next buyer.
- If animals carrying chemical residues or broken needles must be shipped for a reason other than slaughter, transfer the information to the transporter or next buyer. Information must include a treatment record and/or log of the site of the broken needle and the animal identification.
- Alternatively, if an animal has been treated and the milk and meat withdrawal times have not been met, keep the animal until after the withdrawals and then ship.

(Note: Items shaded in grey were originally part of the SOP for Shipping Cattle under the Food Safety theme - they have been combined with the requirements of the Animal Care theme into a single SOP for Shipping Cattle.)

Livestock Traceability

There are currently no SOPs required for this theme of proAction.

Biosecurity

The minimum required elements have not yet been finalized for the required SOPs for this theme of proAction. This document will be updated once the requirements have been approved.

Environment

There are currently no SOPs required for this theme of proAction.