

Food Safety



Fact Sheet: Organic Production

The demand for organic products is increasing across Canada and the number of organic dairy farms is increasing to meet the demand. The Food Safety module applies to organic and conventional farms. Some commonly asked questions and answers are listed below:

Does the Food Safety module permit cattle to graze on pasture?

Yes! Cattle are allowed to graze pasture under the Food Safety module; provided that cattle are restricted from accessing manure storage areas (e.g. manure piles).

Does the Food Safety module require all cows to be treated at dry-off?

No! Farmers decide what their treatment protocols and health management procedures are, as long as they use approved products according to the label or written veterinary directions. If a farmer decides to dry-treat a cow, the farmer must follow the label directions and withdrawal times and record the treatment details.

Are homeopathic remedies accepted by the Food Safety module?

The Food Safety module is based on the principle of risk prevention. Livestock treatments introduce possible residue risks; therefore, the Food Safety module has to be assured that a product has been independently evaluated for any risk to human safety by being shown to be safe for use in food-producing animals.

The Food Safety module accepts the use of low-risk veterinary health products (VHPs) administered either orally or topically. These products must have a NN number; or, contain only substances that appear on the Organic Production [Permitted Substances Lists](#). Products intended for injectable, intra-mammary and/or intra-uterine use are not considered low-risk. Farmers should use an

approved product or obtain written veterinary directions for these uses.

For a full discussion on Veterinary Health Products, please view the Fact Sheets: “Veterinary Health Products” and “Veterinary Drugs Requirements Summary” on the proAction[®] website (www.dairyfarmers.ca/proAction).

Do organic farmers need to keep two sets of records (i.e. one for organic and one for the Food Safety module)?

The Food Safety module provides flexibility in record-keeping formats. As long as farmers’ records contain all of the required information, they can incorporate the Food Safety requirements into their organic record formats. If you are recording the same information twice, you should be able to simplify your records to eliminate the duplication.

Do any of the Food Safety requirements jeopardize organic certification?

The Food Safety module is focused on food safety and preventing problems from occurring. None of the requirements should contradict the organic standards. Rather, the Food Safety module should be an essential part of your organic farm and complement your organic objectives.

Who can I contact for more information?

1. Your provincial producer association
 2. Visit: www.dairyfarmers.ca/proAction
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