



Dairy Farmers
of Canada

Research Highlights 2015-2016

Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) has been investing in research in human nutrition and health and dairy production for decades. Canadian dairy farmers have long recognized the need and value of research investments to advance the sector, identify innovative solutions to on farm challenges and develop high quality, nutritious dairy products for Canadians.

Dairy Research Cluster

Dairy Research
for a Healthy World.



Governance: The Canadian Dairy Research Council

The Canadian Dairy Research Council (CDRC) is a new committee with representation from all provinces and five members of the Board of Directors of DFC. The CDRC reports to the DFC Board. It guides the overall development, implementation and delivery of research activities for dairy production, and human nutrition and health research.

The CDRC completed its first mandate in June 2016 and developed DFC's National Strategy for Dairy Research to better coordinate dairy farmers' research investments at the national and provincial levels.

The CDRC is also responsible to develop and implement an action plan to meet the objectives of the National Strategy. As part of this plan, it will oversee, evaluate and recommend research investments required to achieve the research outcomes identified in the National Strategy.

Financing

DFC's annual research budget totals approximately \$2 million. The value of research investments leveraged from DFC funding in 2015-2016 to drive innovation in the Canadian dairy sector was \$6.6 million. This funding is directed annually to address farmers' priorities for research in milk production, and human nutrition and health.



Partners

DFC leverages farmers' research investments to match funding with four main partners:



The DFC Research Team

- Isabelle Neiderer, Director, Nutrition
- Émie Désilets, Assistant Director, Dairy Production Research
- Maria Kalergis, National Program Manager, Nutrition, Scientific Affairs
- Annik L'Espérance, Research Coordinator
- Shelley Crabtree, Communications Specialist

Provincial and Sector Partners

DFC also finances research initiatives that deliver national benefits in collaboration with its provincial members and other sector partners – they include, among others, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Les Producteurs de lait du Québec, Alberta Milk, BC Dairy Association, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, Novalait Inc., Valacta and CanWest DHI.

For information:

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Funding Programs

Funding Program	Type	Timeline	Number of Projects Ongoing (2015-2016)	Total Program Value	Main Funding Partner(s)
1 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Agri-Innovation Science Clusters Initiative	Dairy Research Cluster: themes - genetics and genomics; sustainable milk production; human nutrition and health	2013-2018	27	\$20.5 million (DFC investment = \$1.1 million/year)	• AAFC • CDC • CDN
	Organic Science Cluster: theme – optimizing animal health and welfare for productivity and quality	2013-2018	4	AAFC investment of \$8 million (DFC investment = \$61,500)	• AAFC • Dalhousie University • Organic Federation of Canada
2 DFC's Expert Scientific Advisory Council (ESAC)	Canadian research in role of dairy in human nutrition and health	Annual Competition	11	DFC investment = \$600,000/year	• NSERC opportunity for specific projects
3 Dairy Research Consortium	International research on the role of dairy in human nutrition and health	2011-2017	2	\$2,576,521 USD (DFC investments = \$270,000 USD/year over 3 years)	• Dairy Management Inc • Dairy Australia Ltd • Dutch Dairy Association • CNIEL • Danish Dairy Research Foundation
4 NSERC Industrial Research Chairs	Research Chairs – industry-led priorities	Chair duration is 5 years	5 Research Chairs	DFC investment = \$250,000/year	• NSERC • Canadian Universities • sector partners
5 DairyGen Committee of the Canadian Dairy Network	Canadian research in dairy cattle genetics and genomics	Open competition	8	DFC investment = \$75,000/year	• NSERC • Genome Canada • sector partners