



Research Highlights 2016 – 2017

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 produce high quality nutritious milk for Canadians.



The Canadian Dairy Research Council

The Canadian Dairy Research Council (CDRC) is a DFC Board committee comprised of representatives of all member organizations and six members from its Board of Directors. The CDRC oversees research investments, the development and implementation of DFC's research programs, and the translation and transfer of knowledge from dairy production and human nutrition and health research.

Dairy Farmers of Canada's National Dairy Research Strategy

The National Dairy Research Strategy was developed and launched in 2016 following broad industry and scientific consultations. The strategy includes targeted outcomes and investment priorities for four main areas:

- Dairy farm efficiency and sustainability
- Animal health and welfare
- Milk composition, quality and safety
- Milk products and their components in human nutrition and health

The strategy served to guide DFC's call for research proposals to prepare an application for funding for a third Dairy Research Cluster under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's next policy framework. Canadian researchers were invited to submit research proposals to address the outcomes and priorities identified in DFC's strategy. Sixty-six letters of intent were received and 39 research teams were invited to submit a full funding proposal. The scientific review and selection of full funding proposals for inclusion in DFC's funding application for a Dairy Research Cluster 3 will be completed in the fall of 2017.

Development of DFC's National Strategy for Dairy Production Research Knowledge Translation and Transfer

The CDRC mandated a working group of provincial representatives and DFC staff to draft a national strategy for dairy production research knowledge translation and transfer (KTT). The goals are to facilitate collaboration and coordination for KTT, maximize the effectiveness of the transfer of research results and aim to increase innovation on farms. The KTT strategy will be finalized by the end of 2017.

Research Investments

DFC's 2016-2017 research budget is approximately \$2.4 million. The total research value leveraged from DFC's contribution in 2016-2017 to drive innovation in the Canadian dairy sector is over \$10 million.

Financing Partners

DFC leverages its research investments to obtain matching funding with two main Canadian government partners: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). DFC also leverages its research investments via membership in the Dairy Research Consortium (DRC), an international group comprised of six dairy organizations.

DFC also collaborates with sector partners to invest in national research with outcomes that benefit all Canadian dairy farmers, including provincial members of DFC and other sector partners like the Canadian Dairy Network (CDN), the Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC), Alberta Milk, BC Dairy Association, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, Novalait Inc., Valacta, and CanWest DHI.

N.B.: As per all our research agreements, aside from providing financial support, the funders have no role in the design and conduct of the studies, data collection and analysis or interpretation of the data. Researchers maintain complete independence in conducting their studies, own their data, and report the outcomes regardless of the results. The decision to publish the findings rests solely with the researchers.

DFC's Research Team

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

For information: info@dairyresearch.ca

www.dairyresearch.ca

www.dairyknowledge.ca

www.dairyresearchblog.ca

www.dairynutrition.ca



Dairy Research Cluster @dairyresearch



@dairyresearch



Dairy Research Cluster Channel

This publication is financed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Dairy Farmers of Canada, the Canadian Dairy Network and the Canadian Dairy Commission under the Agri-Science Clusters Initiative.

Funding Programs

Program	Purpose	Targeted Areas of Research	Program Duration	Ongoing Projects in 2016-2017	Total Program Value	DFC Investment 2016-2017	Funding Partner(s)
Dairy Research Cluster	Targeted research and development activities that bring innovation to the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable milk production • Genetics and genomics • Human nutrition and health 	2013-2018	27	\$20.5 million	\$1.3 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAFC • CDC • CDN
Organic Science Cluster	Targeted research and development activities that bring innovation to the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimal animal health and welfare for productivity and quality 	2013-2018	4	\$8 million	\$53,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAFC • Dalhousie University • Organic Federation of Canada
Nutrition Expert Scientific Advisory Committee (NESAC)	Support research that has nutritional and health implications for Canadian dairy products; and encourage research that will bring innovative and competitive dairy products with health benefits to the market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiovascular health • Metabolic health • Healthy weight and body composition • Optimal nutrition and function • Sustainability 	A competition is held annually by DFC	16	~ \$700,000	\$640,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSERC (opportunity for specific projects)
International Dairy Research Consortium	International partnership to accelerate pre-competitive research on the nutrition and health benefits of dairy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk fat • Bone health • Protein • Sustainability 	2011-2017	2	\$2,576,521 USD	\$120,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy Management Inc. • Dairy Australia • Dutch Dairy Association • Centre national interprofessionnel de l'économie laitière (CNIEL) • Danish Dairy Research Foundation
Research Chairs	NSERC industrial research chairs are industry-driven research endeavours that help universities develop the critical mass required to perform the research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy Cattle Welfare • Infectious Diseases of Dairy Cattle • Sustainable Life of Dairy Cattle 	Chair research programs are 5 year terms	3	Approximately \$1.8 million/chair	\$200,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSERC • Canadian universities • Dairy sector partners
Dairy Cattle Genetics Research and Development (DairyGen) Council	Through DairyGen, all dairy cattle improvement organizations including AI, breeds, milk recording and Dairy Farmers of Canada support high priority research in the area of dairy cattle genetic improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproduction • Animal health • Sustainability • Epigenetics • Breeding strategies • Advancement in methodologies • Novel ideas and new technologies 	A competition is held annually by CDN	6	Annual budget of \$450,000	\$75,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSERC • Genome Canada • Dairy sector partners