

June 14, 2014

Update on Board Actions regarding Chilliwack Cattle Sales

The BC Milk Marketing Board (Board) continues to monitor the investigation with respect to animal welfare that surfaced last week at Chilliwack Cattle Sales. Any mistreatment of animals is absolutely unacceptable. Although animal welfare does not come under the Milk Marketing Board's authority as a regulator, we need to be assured that dairy cows are well taken care of. The Board has taken the following actions for production, pick-up, and delivery of milk in our role as a regulator.

The BC SPCA investigation is still ongoing; however, the Board met on June 12-13, 2014 to address these serious issues.

The Board requested a letter from the BC SPCA to confirm that animal welfare issues at Chilliwack Cattle Sales are being addressed and that the BC SPCA is now satisfied that Chilliwack Cattle Sales is addressing the *Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle*. The BC SPCA informed the Board that the BC SPCA can take no official position with respect to a decision by the Milk Marketing Board regarding milk pick-up at Chilliwack Cattle Sales. Therefore, the Board suspended milk pick-up from Chilliwack Cattle until a report from another responsible authority(s) could satisfy the Board that the animal welfare issues are being addressed appropriately.

On June 13, 2014, the Board received expert advice from veterinarians with respect to animal welfare and the *Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle*. Upon receipt, review and acceptance of a report from these experts, plus confirmation from Chilliwack Cattle that the veterinarians and BC SPCA dairy animal requirements would be followed, the Board made the following decisions:

1. Normal milk pick-up and delivery policies for Chilliwack Cattle will prevail immediately.
2. Implement an independent inspection/monitoring of CCS for compliance with SPCA dairy animal welfare requirements, plus additional expert farm audits and training.
3. Include regulatory changes in the Board Policies for Quota Exchange, Credit Transfer and Quality Bonus with appropriate requirements for mandatory compliance with the Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle.
4. Confirmed that Chilliwack Cattle has implemented farm monitoring surveillance.
5. Board oversight of an expert veterinarian team to provide continued direction and supervision to ensure proper dairy animal welfare practices are adhered to and valued at Chilliwack Cattle.

