DAIRY FARMERS OF ONTARIO
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Dairy Farmers of Ontario Research Priorities

(1) Dairy Farm Efficiency

1.1 Dairy cattle genetic improvement (fertility, productivity, feed efficiency)
1.2 Dairy cow reproduction (including alternative tools and practices to reproductive hormones use)
1.3 Dairy cattle nutrition
1.4 Forage breeding and management for improved yield, resistance, conservation, quality and digestibility
1.5 Big data: systematic analysis of trends and associations of data to improve profitability
1.6 Workplace biosecurity, safety & mental health: staff, workers and industry partners such as veterinarians
1.7 Farm economic performance & impact of trade: risks and opportunities

(2) Dairy Farm Sustainability

2.1 Reduced environmental footprint including GHG (enteric methane), energy, wastes and water
2.2 Soil quality and retention
2.3 Understanding the role of biodiversity on dairy farms to complement or enhance farm management practices

(3) Animal Health and Welfare

3.1 Strategies to mitigate targeted infectious diseases and new emerging diseases: mastitis, paratuberculosis, salmonellosis, leucosis, bovine viral, diarrhea
3.2 Dairy cows' genetic improvement (disease resistance)
3.3 Lameness and injuries prevention, management and treatment
3.4 Dairy cow transition period related health and welfare issues
3.5 Pain mitigation and euthanasia BMPs and science-based decision-making tools
3.6 Sustainable barn design for conventional and alternative dairy cattle housing systems (new national/provincial building & electrical codes, social impact)
3.7 improve the health and welfare of calves and cows and optimize productivity and longevity by understanding the behavioural, social and economic barriers or incentives to BMP adoption
3.8 Understanding the social licence for dairy cattle health and welfare for existing management practices and alternatives.

(4) Milk Composition, Quality and Safety

4.1 Microbiology – better understanding of the impact of microbes on milk and dairy products composition and quality as well as human health
4.2 Chemical, physical and biological hazards and indicators (including addressing relevant risk management strategies for hygienic practices in milk and dairy production and processing)
4.3 Effect of farm practises (feed, equipment...) on the quality, shelf life and processing of milk
4.4 Identify the methods to naturally modulate the composition of milk and improve its quality and value, potentially enabling new dairy product development.
4.5 Sustainably reduce the use of antimicrobials while maintaining farm biosecurity, dairy cattle health and welfare.
4.6 Development of alternative tools and practices to antimicrobials use and management

(5) Milk Products and their Components in Human Nutrition and Health