

## **OABP Membership Poll - Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) June 2010**

Thirty-one responses were received.

**QUESTION:** Should food animal veterinarians be the CQM trainers?

**YES 97 %**  
**NO 3 %**

### **COMMENTS:**

- If DFO is serious about this program, classroom training should be mandatory for all producers. The classroom training would be a great way to familiarize producers with the program and to generate some discussion.
- Dairy veterinarians currently make recommendations on prescription drug use and have established a relationship with producers, which would make them suited to training producers in appropriate drug use and withdrawals to ensure milk quality.
- I am really torn about a yes or no answer because my impression is that this will be an unpopular program on many farms. As such we will be training many people that do not want to be trained. These types of trainee's can take up a lot of time and still not be properly trained at the end. However, I believe we should be involved in the on-farm training. I believe DFO staff should at least be involved in the group training sessions as this will give the protestors the opportunity to vent to the appropriate target. It should also make certain of a more uniform foundation of training. Veterinarians can then assist in applying the program on individual farms.
- When are more opportunities to become CQM trainers' going to take place?
- The \$200 flat rate is not great. As long as the producer is actually aware of extra charges from the vet for time over and above the 1 hour class and 1.5 hr on-farm time limits I would do it. The info for the charges must come from the DFO or at least from OABP. We are trained professionals that are charging \$160-\$180 per hour.
- I agree 100%. I have successfully certified one of my clients already and feel the vet is the best choice.
- Having taught the Livestock Medicine Course I feel it is an excellent format to get information out to producers and in a non-threatening format.
- The training needs to be completed soon as well as information on SOP's etc. compiled to make the job easier.
- Would have vets more aware of drug use and drug use practices on their client's farms.
- Yes, I firmly believe that we should be involved in the training process. This is a mandatory program, so if we do not become involved then someone else will. Likewise, we may not be very happy with how it gets done by others and more importantly we, as veterinarians, will not be seen as having taken a leadership role.

The question of what form our role takes is more challenging. It may be difficult to engage all private practitioners across the Province and ensure a consistent and standardized delivery of training. I'm sure that there will be practitioners who will not want to take part and others who will see this as a great opportunity to engage with their clients. Equally, some practitioners may be uncomfortable having to deal with clients that are unhappy with

the fact that they have to implement this process on their farm and the veterinarian could be seen as the "bad guy".

One option would be to identify 3 - 4 veterinarians who are either semi-retired, or otherwise available to take this on as a short term contract position with the DFO. It would seem the money available would be sufficient to cover this cost. This small group could be easily trained to deliver a consistent module across the Province. This would allow the local veterinarian to work with the dairy producer on the actual implementation of the processes as part of their herd health program.

- I believe food animal veterinarians should be the CQM trainers.
- Vets are the most qualified group for helping to develop SOP's and corrective action plan. Our scope of expertise touches, to varying degrees, all 6 major sections responsible by the CQM trainers. We also need to be in control of on-farm drug use.
- This is all part of herd management. Veterinarians are in the best positions to be the trainer of any QA program.
- Appreciate the effort for establishing a standardized, province-wide protocol for milk quality improvement.
- We would welcome the extra work and I agree that veterinarians should be involved in the program so as to safeguard our increasingly precarious status as animal pharmaceutical "experts". Group training sessions are appealing, but the exercise of going through each producer's drug cupboard would be valuable as well.
- Yes.....but only if information is recorded on a simple data base program in complete order for records to be recalled quickly. The dairyman needs to know that he will be gaining some value for himself in the effort to record all such information, that is, he will be able to retrieve all recorded info quickly for making decisions.
- I feel the opportunities to be gained through doing the training far outweigh the potential negative consequences. It's one more way of ensuring healthy cows and safe milk. That is our goal as bovine veterinarians. I'm all in!
- I would be interested in receiving the CQM trainer status for my clients.
- Not an active practitioner but this seems like a perfect fit for the educational role of the vet with their client.
- Food animal veterinarians should be the CQM trainers. I think we are well positioned to educate and assist our clients in a process that ultimately protects their market, and therefore, theirs and our livelihoods. Count me in.
- It is clear from numerous research efforts and publications that one of the most trusted and influential sources of information for dairy producers, in Canada and across North America, is the health management veterinarian for the herd. The clinician involved with the herd is looked upon as an unbiased and knowledgeable resource for a wide range of animal health information, but particularly on topics related to mastitis control and milk quality. As such, from my perspective, bovine practitioners are the ideal individuals to spearhead the CQM training process. I realize that there are a number of complex issues involved in the implementation of this system. Yet, it should be both feasible and straightforward to implement this process.
- I think veterinarians would be good CQM trainers and I would personally be interested if you know anything further about training courses – please let me know.