

Producer Component Prices

The producer component prices for the month of April are as follows: BF=\$16.8008, PT=\$2.5611, OS=\$0.6942. The average BC producer hectoliter return for the month is \$82.2428 compared to \$82.8309 in March, a decrease of \$0.5881. Class 1 utilization remains consistent in the province which is the primary reason the returns are holding even this Spring. Equalization payments from BC have been consistent as well pointing to consistency in processing across the country for the previous few months.

The net equalization payment charged to the producer pool in April for the production month of March was \$2,060,605.

BC Continuous Quota Position

March 2019 **Actual -0.09%**

Notice to Producers

For all recent **Notice to Producers**
bcmilk.com

Contaminated Bulk Tank Outlet Valves

Recently it has come to our attention that there are many farms without caps installed on their bulk tank outlet valves. This is concerning because the outlet valve is exposed, and therefore vulnerable to contamination. When the milk supply passes through the valve during transfer to the milk truck, it too will become contaminated and this has resulted in some high bacteria counts for tankers loads.

Producers should always keep the bulk tank outlet valve clean and capped when not in use to prevent milk contamination. If bulk tank outlet caps are missing, they should contact their milking equipment dealer to obtain one as soon as possible.

If outlet caps are not in place and the valve appears unclean or otherwise contaminated, this can trigger rejection of the milk.

It is not up to the bulk tank milk grader to clean the valves.

In addition to missing outlet caps resulting in contaminated valves, the plastic ball bulk tank valves have also been a known source of high IBC to tankers and producers. Bacterial deposits and mold are known to occur inside these plastic valves which were installed on many bulk tanks in October 1991, and still remain in use on many farms. The 27+ year old plastic is worn and contains grooves that harbor bacteria, and the interior of the valve is difficult to inspect and properly clean. It is highly recommended that producers using these valves switch to a sanitary stainless-steel processor style butterfly bulk tank outlet valve with outlet cap to help prevent future milk contamination.

Cooperation on these issues is important in maintaining BC's high milk quality and safety, and we thank producers in advance for making the necessary changes.

Provincial Freight

The producer freight rate calculations for the months of March and April are summarized below:

Freight Rates (\$/hl)	March	April
Zone Transportation Costs	3.23	3.12
Less: Vendor Billings	(0.14)	(0.12)
Gross Provincial Freight Rate	3.09	3.00
Add: Train/Volume Discounts	0.35	0.34
Less: Stop/Extra Pick-Up Charges	(0.13)	(0.14)
Transportation Department Costs	0.00	0.00
Adjustments from Prior Period	(0.01)	0.05
Net Provincial Freight Rate	3.30	3.25

Continuous Quota

Cumulative Over/Under Production (with limits) as of:

	March 2019	%*
	Kg of BF	
NL	(154,869)	-7.22%
P5	(903,047)	-0.32%
WMP	(1,130,602)	-1.18%
P10	(2,188,517)	-0.58%
BC	(29,281)	-0.09%

*Cumulative Over/Under Production (with limits) expressed as a % of the most recent 12 months total quota.

Milk Quality Report

The provincial averages and quality bonus data based on the official milk quality tests for March and April are:

Milk Quality Data	March	April
Individual Bacteria Count	20,319	19,670
Somatic Cell Count	153,070	161,340
Quality Bonus Qualifiers(%)	80.59%	78.86%

Producer Payments

Participants in the May | June | July Pools will receive their payments as follows:

Month of Production:	Advance Payment	Final Payment
May	Jun 03	Jun 19
June	Jul 02	Jul 18
July	Aug 01	Aug 20

Credit Transfer Average Prices

Effective Apr 1	Conventional Organic	
Average Price	\$9.81	\$6.00

A Summary of Credit Transfer Statistics can be found at bcmilk.com with other credit transfer documents.

Quota Management: Important Dates

Application Deadlines	Date & Time	Effective Date(s)
Quota Exchange	Jun 3 @ 1:00pm	Jul 1
CDQ Buy/Sell of Credits	May 24 @ 1:00pm	May 1 Jun 1

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kathy Wallis 604.854.4471 kwallis@bcmilk.com
 Pam Gregory 604.854.4474 pgregory@bcmilk.com

Non-Qualifying Milk Policy

A producer whose milk has been found to contain veterinary drug residues or inhibitory substance residues is not permitted to sell or supply milk until a subsequent bulk milk sample taken from the farm bulk milk tank tests negative.

It is the producer's responsibility to contact the BCMMB, or their milk hauler if it is outside of regular office hours, to confirm pickups can resume.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelly Harris at 604.854.4479 or kharris@milk-bc.com

Milk Quality Testing

The BCMMB will test every **viable** sample for **quality**, except for IBC where we will only use **fresh** samples, this includes:

- **Somatic Cell Count (SCC)** – We test every viable sample for SCC
- **Individual Bacteria Count (IBC)** – Previously tested as Plate Loop Count or PLC, we strive to test TWO (2) samples per week. Bacteria can only be tested on fresh samples, hence the lesser frequency. If you see a result displayed as “0” this means that particular sample was not tested for IBC.
- **Cryoscope (Cryo or Cry)** – Is a measure of added water in your milk; we test every viable sample for Cryo.

Quality results (SCC and IBC) will be done by a weighted average at the end of the month. IBC will only be tested on fresh samples (which will be done twice per week); the two tests will be performed randomly on fresh samples.

Cryoscope results are treated a bit differently. If, in a month, a producer has two results above 3.7%, then their month-end result will be the average of those results above 3.7%. If a producer has only one or no results above 3.7%, then their month-end average is the straight average of all their cryoscope results for that month.

For further information on milk quality testing, please click the following link to review the [Component & Quality Testing Information Guide](#) - January 22 2019.

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