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Maritime Quality Milk (MQM) is a research and service centre at the Atlantic Veterinary College. The integrated research and service capacity of MQM is unparalleled in the Canadian dairy industry. MQM is developing and evaluating new technologies and offers these productivity and disease surveillance services to the industry. Access to these services will improve raw milk quality at the farm gate and decrease the costs associated with monitoring disease. The following is a brief description of our initial research program.



What is the incidence of new intramammary infections on Canadian dairy farms? MQM has assessed this.

MQM provided laboratory support for milk culturing and data collection programs to determine the risks for new mastitis infections on 95 farms across Canada in conjunction with the Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network.

If a cow gets mastitis, will antibiotics help cure her more quickly? MQM studied that.


This study developed treatment protocols, based on on-farm tests, which maximize cow health and welfare and decrease disease costs and overall farm antibiotic usage.

Do all cows need antibiotic treatment at the end of their lactation? MQM is evaluating that.

This project examines methods to identify cows for non-antibiotic alternatives to conventional antibiotic dry cow therapy.



MQM director, Dr. Greg Keefe




**Will de-worming dairy cows pay?
MQM is developing an answer to that.**

Conventional wisdom suggests that intestinal parasites have limited effects in mature dairy cows. Research at AVC has demonstrated that certain herds have a marked production response to treatment. This project has developed guidelines for the use of a milk test to predict treatment effectiveness.

**What diagnostic testing program works best for Johne's disease?
MQM is studying that.**

Johne's disease has emerged as an important intestinal disease of cows and causes major economic hardship on effected farms. This project will maximize the performance of available testing programs.





Is antibiotic resistance related to mastitis treatment? MQM is assessing this.

This study is examining resistance patterns of the 5 most frequently isolated mastitis pathogens and relate the resistance patterns to farm antibiotic use, particularly for clinical mastitis and dry cow therapy.

Do bedding materials affect the growth of mastitis causing bacteria? MQM is studying this.

This project will examine the ability of 5 different bedding materials (straw, wood shavings, sand, peat and recycled manure solids) to promote the growth of mastitis associated bacteria.

What causes variability in Iodine levels in bulk tank milk? MQM is evaluating this.

MQM is leading a national project to uncover the sources of variability in bulk tank milk iodine concentration and to develop additional programs to moderate this variability.

MQM has a broad goal of increasing the economic value created by Atlantic Canada's dairy-based food industries through research-validated technological services. MQM will help the regional dairy industry meet the quality challenges inherent in the competitive food industry. MQM receives funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Atlantic Innovation Fund.

