



Maritime Quality Milk (MQM) is a new 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 will offer 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 and disease. Below is a brief description of our initial research program.

**What is the incidence of new intra-mammary infections on Canadian dairy farms? MQM is assessing this.**

*MQM is a key participant in the Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network ([www.mastitisnetwork.org](http://www.mastitisnetwork.org)) and is providing laboratory and management support for an intense milk culturing and data collection program to determine the risks for new mastitis infections on 95 farms across Canada.*

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

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

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

*Current recommendations are that ALL cows receive antibiotics at dry off. This project examines methods to identify cows for non-antibiotic alternatives to conventional antibiotic dry cow therapy.*

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

*Conventional wisdom suggests that intestinal parasites have limited effects in mature dairy cows. Research at AVC ( *Vet Parasitol.* 2002. 105(3):191-206) has demonstrated that certain herds have a marked production response to treatment. This project will develop guidelines for the use of a milk test to predict treatment effectiveness.*

**What Johne's sampling program is best? MQM is studying that.**

*Johne's disease is an important production disease in cows and has potential human health implications. This project evaluates the utility of milk ELISA, environmental cultures and milk PCR in herd disease control programs.*

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

*This study will examine 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.*

**What are the best tests to find mastitis cases? Research at MQM is answering this.**

*This study is using a combination of new and old tools to more quickly and accurately diagnosis mastitis.*

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 dairy industry. MQM receives funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Atlantic Innovation Fund.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Greg Keefe, Director of Maritime Quality Milk  
Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI  
Tel: 902-566-0968  
Email: [mqm@upe.ca](mailto:mqm@upe.ca) Web: [www.milkquality.ca](http://www.milkquality.ca)

