

May 6, 2022

Western Milk Pool (WMP) Milk Quality Progressive Penalty System

The WMP drives excellence in dairy. As we strive for on farm excellence, producers must make milk quality a high priority to ensure the long-term success for the dairy industry. High milk quality offers a positive and successful environment for all stakeholders in the value chain.

During the Spring Producer Meetings, the BC Milk Board started its consultations on the implementation of the WMP Quality Progressive Penalty System.

The WMP has developed a penalty policy for milk quality that would ensure the same milk quality requirements across the WMP. In 2019, a similar policy was applied in Manitoba and the policy has shown significant success rate. The WMP Quality progressive penalty is a policy that is based on the principle that milk shipped from every bulk tank not meeting quality standards will result in a financial penalty on the volume of substandard milk.

Producers would be held accountable for any contravention (IBC, SCC, FPE) on a 12-month rolling period.

The key principles of this policy are as follows:

1. Every bulk tank matters

2. Tiered financial penalty

| Penalty Level | Penalty Amount | Contravention Period Count (Rolling 12 Months) |
|---------------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | \$5/HL | 1-10 |
| 2 | \$15/HL | 11-20 |
| 3 | \$45/HL | 21 -30 |
| 4 | \$45/HL +Suspension | 31 and up |

3. Volume of substandard milk is penalized

4. License suspension is part of penalty structure

5. Criteria for milk quality standards

- a. Individual Bacteria Count (IBC)
 - i. Milk greater than 121,000 will be penalized
- b. Somatic Cell Count
 - i. Milk greater than 400,000 will be penalized
- c. Freezing Point Estimate
 - i. Milk greater than 3.7%/-0.507° C/-0.525 ° Hortvet will be penalized

Producers who are picked up every day would not be penalized twice for the contravention period, they would only be penalized once but for all of the milk that is in contravention. Producers with multiple bulk tanks could get penalized twice in one day for contravention.

The Milk Board is aware of testing challenges within the province in certain regions and will ensure these challenges are rectified prior to the implementation of the policy. The Board will also work with the Ministry, so producers are not penalized twice for the same infraction.

The Milk Board seeks feedback until July 31, 2022. Please send your feedback to info@bcmilk.com