

Animal Care



Notice of Change March 2023

This Notice of Change provides official notice to farmers on changes being implemented to the proAction® requirements in the Animal Care module. The listed changes will be incorporated into the next version of the proAction Workbook and Reference Manual in summer 2023.

Animal Care Module Changes

Requirement: continuous improvement requirements for cattle assessments.

Reference: proAction Workbook and Reference Manual (Chapter 4 and Appendix II).

Effective date: March 2023

Description of changes:

Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC), through the Animal Care Technical Committee and in consultation with provincial members, has reviewed aggregate data from the cattle assessments and re-evaluated the expectations for corrective action and continuous improvement for the cattle assessment requirement (AC14).

This has resulted in the following changes:

- The Dark Red Zone and its continuous improvement requirements will be maintained (i.e. not combined with the Red Zone); and,
- No additional continuous improvement requirements will be added to Red Zone results in 2023.

As a result, the continuous improvement requirements for cattle assessments will be:

- Farms with results in the **Dark Red or Red zone must still document and implement a corrective action plan** in consultation with their veterinarian, nutritionist or other dairy specialist.

- If a farm has one or more results in the **Dark Red** zone, the farm is due for the next cattle assessment in **12 months** from its next validation anniversary date, instead of the standard 24 months, and the **number of cattle assessed will increase**.
- If a farm has one or more results in the **Red zone**, the farm is due for the next cattle assessment in **24 months** from its next validation anniversary date and the **standard number of cattle** will be assessed.

See Table 1 for a summary of cattle assessment results, next steps and requirements.

Rationale: At this time, only preliminary data is available on the third round of cattle assessments. Though results show steady improvement, DFC decided to not introduce additional continuous improvement requirements until the changes from March 2021 can be fully evaluated. This will also allow time to assess any new or revised requirements in the upcoming revised Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle that may impact the cattle assessments.

The Animal Care Technical Committee started a holistic review of the cattle assessment requirement in January 2023, and is evaluating whether any changes should be made to this requirement for 2025 or later.

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Animal Care Module Changes Appendix

	Green Zone results and next steps	Yellow Zone results and next steps	Red Zone results and next steps	Dark Red Zone results and next steps
Zones	All results in Green zone	One or more results in Yellow zone, and the rest are in the Green zone	One or more results in Red zone	One or more results in Dark Red zone
Due date of next cattle assessment	Due in 24 months with standard sample size	Due in 24 months with standard sample size	Due in 24 months with standard sample size.	Due in 12 months with larger sample size
Corrective action plan	N/A	Recommended for any result in the Yellow zone	Required	Required
Continuous improvement timelines	N/A	Recommended to strive for improvement to Green zone	The aim for all farmers is to make adjustments on farm to achieve improving results, preferably into the green zone for all measures.	<p>The aim for all farmers is to make adjustments on farm to achieve improving results, preferably into the green zone for all measures.</p> <p>After three consecutive Dark Red Zone results for the same measure, a major nonconformance will be assigned in the validation report and will not be closed until the farm shows a cattle assessment with results in the red, yellow or green zones.</p> <p>As a result, the validation will not be approved and the farm will not achieve / maintain registration.</p>