

Why an Environment module for proAction®?



Dairy farmers have always been regarded as stewards of our natural resources, because effective environmental practices contribute to the continued, long-term success of their farms. Careful management of soil, water, pastures, wetlands and woodlands on farms will help ensure that future generations will be able to farm successfully.

There is increasing interest in the environmental sustainability of agricultural systems, from farmers as well as from industry stakeholders and the general public. The Environment module of proAction will foster the continued expansion of sustainability initiatives while allowing farmers to continue to produce high-quality milk safely and sustainably.

The Environment module's five requirements are designed to mitigate risks and promote positive action on dairy farms.

The requirements consist of:

- an individual Environmental Farm Plan (EFP); Agri-environmental Support Plan (*Plan d'accompagnement agroenvironnemental*, PAA) or equivalent, which helps to identify and encourage mitigation of on-farm environmental risks (EN1);
- an Environmental Questionnaire; which assesses use of on-farm practices related to soil health, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, and other topics (EN2); and
- three requirements which aim to reduce the risk of contamination of soil, groundwater and surface water from wastewater (EN3) and manure (EN4), and to make the best use of manure and other nutrients on the farm (EN5).



Benefits of the Environment module:

For the public:



- Build on decades of progress by giving farmers new tools to help reduce the sector's environmental footprint.
- Ensure that consumers can confidently enjoy the dairy products they love for generations to come.

On the farm:



- Help farmers...
 - identify and mitigate risks;
 - enhance soil health and biodiversity;
 - make efficient use of resources; and
 - preserve quality of land and water for future generations.

For the industry:



- Demonstrate the value that the dairy industry places on the health of the natural environment.
- Provide the proof points needed to convey to consumers that farmers are committed to responsible stewardship of the environment.

