

Support Your Local Farmer, Drink Milk!

By Linda Harrington

Wally Smith, President of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, says there are 12,500 milk

producers across the country, producing over \$6.2 billion in farm milk each year. "Milk is a quality, reason-

ably priced product," he says, adding, "Dairy farmers contribute significantly to the local economy and GDP.

They are the heartbeat of the province in which they live."

Smith is quick to squash any hint or rumor about the safety of milk in Canada. "It is one of the most naturally occurring, unadulterated food products on the grocery shelf," he says. "There are no growth hormones used in Canada and we have a zero tolerance for antibiotics in milk. Each and every load of milk is tested at the dairy, and can be traced back directly to its origin."

"Dairy farmers are strong promoters of healthy living. They believe in and promote environmental sustainability, are concerned about animal welfare and food safety, and they believe in the traceability of their product."

Dairy farmers in Canada are implementing a food safety program on their farms. Called Canadian Quality Milk, this program keeps track of a dairy farmer's actions to prevent and minimize the risk of exposing food to safety hazards. 95% of farms in Nova Scotia are already CQM registered.

There are 235 licensed dairy farms in Nova Scotia.



The DFNS Board members- Front (l to r): Gerritt Damsteegt, Andrew McCurdy, Havey Whidden, Derick Canning; Back (l to r): George de Vries, Hank Veenhuis, Liz Crouse, Paul Taylor, John Vissers.

Ventriloquist Mark Crocker and his friend Elmer provided hilarious entertainment following the DFNS Banquet.



Ian MacDonald, Director of Marketing and Promotion for Dairy Farmers of Canada, displays a booklet outlining the Profitability of DFC Marketing Investments.



Gloria Beyeler presented an update on the Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) program.



Professor Bruce Muirhead, from University of Waterloo, explained how CETA and TPP could effect dairy farmers.



Mark Davies, Chair of the Turkey Farmers of Canada was part of the Trade Panel discussion.

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