

THE ONTARIO DAIRY MONITORING AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM

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The Ontario Dairy Monitoring and Analysis Program (ODMAP) evolved out of a perceived need for a herd level monitoring system tailored to the characteristics of the Ontario dairy industry. The system utilizes data already being collected but not being used to its full potential; for example, Ontario DHI milk production and udder health data. The system also captures herd level data to monitor areas not currently being assessed, including reproductive performance, clinical and sub-clinical disease, and profitability. The data collected through this program are stored, manipulated and ultimately used to generate periodic reports for use by dairy producers and their veterinarians in the management of their herds. A pilot project involving 27 veterinarians and 113 dairy herds distributed across southern Ontario was initiated in 1990. Eventually the system could provide the ground work for a provincial dairy monitoring scheme.

The objectives of the ODMAP include the assessment of the extent to which currently available herd level information is being used by producers and veterinarians, the assessment of whether the ODMAP could make an impact on information use, and the investigation of the associations among herd level measures of production, milk quality, reproductive performance, clinical and sub-clinical disease, profitability and management factors in the 113 study herds over a period of two years. The implementation of the ODMAP necessitated the development of a microcomputer program to collect, store, manipulate and graphically present the information generated from the component sources.

This poster will document the development and implementation of the ODMAP and will summarize the data which have been collected and analyzed to date.