

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Palm Products in Dairy Cows Feed

From: Zoë Kazakos

Sent: March 5, 2021 1:49 PM

To: Questions <Questions@milk.org>

Cc: horwatha-qp@ndp.on.ca; Communications <communications@dfc-plc.ca>; info@dfc-plc.ca; Lucie.boileau@dfc-plc.ca; minister.omafra@ontario.ca; ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca; Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca; clerk@hamilton.ca; justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; premier@ontario.ca; Public Health Services <publichealth@hamilton.ca>; albertanutrition@dfc-plc.ca; education@dfc-plc.ca; info@saskmilk.ca; general@milk.mb.ca; plq@lait.qc.ca; nbmilk@nbmilk.org; dfpei@dfpei.pe.ca; milk@dfnl.nf.net; colleen.fitzgerald-hubble@ontario.ca; daniella.molnar@ontario.ca; greg.pate@ontario.ca; lauren.carter@ontario.ca; camille.steffler@ontario.ca; mike.relf@ontario.ca; megan.vanschaik@ontario.ca; michael.mcquire@ontario.ca; delma.kennedy@ontario.ca; james.byrne@ontario.ca; erin.massender@ontario.ca; greg.devos@ontario.ca; mario.mongeon@ontario.ca; christoph.wand@ontario.ca; laura.eastwood@ontario.ca; betty.summerhayes@ontario.ca; tom.wright@ontario.ca; al.dam@ontario.ca; marlene.paibomesai@ontario.ca; michelle.linnington@ontario.ca

Subject: Re: Palm Products in Dairy Cows Feed

Dear Allison,

Thank you for your reply.

While I appreciate the reassurance that palm oil and Canadian milk are safe to drink, that is not my major concern.

My concern is that palm products (a practice that is quite literally destroying the rainforest and the Orangutan population) are being used as food products in the dairy cow food chain. Palm oil is a fast, cheap and easy product to consume or to feed cattle - yet it is a truly destructive product to process and harvest. This is not up for debate, this is a fact.

It is important to me that I consume products that are transparent about their ingredients, their process and their impact on the environment. I don't think that the Dairy Farmers of Canada are focusing on that right now, and I think they should be.

I am glad that this came to light and that Canadians were able to learn what is happening behind the closed doors of the Dairy Farmers of Canada.

I know how much control and force the DFC has over farmers, their milking processes and their milk distribution.

To say that "there is no way to currently identify dairy products made from milk from cows fed with palm fat" is only part of the story. The collection, transportation and distribution of milk (from our Canadian farms) is very well regulated and should be reevaluated.

I look forward to hearing the next steps from the Dairy Farmers of Canada, and what they intend to do.

Thank you.
Zoe Kazakos

On Fri, Mar 5, 2021 at 12:10 PM Questions <Questions@milk.org> wrote:

Good afternoon Ms. Kazakos,

Thank you for reaching out to Dairy Farmers of Ontario. We apologize for the delay in responding. We are aware of recent media coverage of the use of palm fat in animal feed and appreciate your concerns.

The Dairy Farmers of Canada has announced the formation of a working group of experts, producers and processors to look into this matter. DFO supports that work so we can respond with the appropriate data and research. We know this is an important consumer concern. Until the working group findings are available, DFO has asked Ontario producers to consider alternatives to palm supplements.

Rest assured all milk produced in Canada continues to be safe to consume and is subject to our robust health and safety standards.

Please see some information below to answer your questions regarding the nutritional content of palm products and types of feed for dairy cows.

- Cows' diets can differ throughout the country, based on seasonality and regional differences in soil conditions and climate.
- A very small amount of palm products are sometimes added to dairy cows' rations in limited amounts to increase the energy density of cow diets if needed, depending on the farm.
- Dairy farmers in other countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia also use palm supplements. They can help provide energy to cows, and no undesirable effects have been identified arising from its use in cows' feed rations.
- Palmitic acid, which is different from palm oil, is a naturally occurring part of the fat of many plants and animals in various levels.

Identifying dairy products

- There is currently no way to identify dairy products made from milk from cows fed with palm fat. Cow diets are determined at the farm level in consultation with veterinarians and animal nutritionists and as such, we do not have data to assess the extent to which this type of feed supplement is used on Canadian dairy farms.
- When supplements of palm fats are given to cows in Canada, the amount typically provided in their feed is small, and has a very limited impact on the fatty acid profile of their milk. It is estimated that the increase in the palmitic fatty acid linked to this feeding practice is less than 3%.

Sustainability

- Canadian dairy farmers are naturally committed to sustainability and the environment. The longevity of their farms depends on it.
- Whether it is our investments in the development of tools to help measure the environmental impact of dairy, our efforts in research and development, or the continued adoption of better farm practices, dairy farmers are as committed as ever to the goal of greater sustainability and ongoing improvement.
- Dairy farming in Canada has a small footprint, and it is getting smaller. Over the years, dairy farming has made great strides in cutting the emissions, land and water required to produce each litre of milk, thanks to advances in agricultural technology and the sector's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.

We invite you to visit Dairy Farmers of Canada's website at www.dairyfarmers.ca for the most updated response from our industry. See the [landing page](#) with recent statements as well as [answers to FAQs](#), also available in French.

Dairy farmers are uncompromising when it comes to quality and follow some of the most stringent standards in the world to uphold that commitment.

Kind regards,

Allison



Questions

Dairy Farmers of Ontario | Questions@milk.org | www.milk.org

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From: Zoë Kazakos

Sent: 22 February 2021 10:38:08

To: horwatha-qp@ndp.on.ca; communications@dfc-plc.ca; info@dfc-plc.ca; lucie.boileau@dfc-plc.ca; minister.omafra@ontario.ca; ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca; Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca; clerk@hamilton.ca; justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca; premier@ontario.ca; publichealth@hamilton.ca; albertanutrition@dfc-plc.ca; education@dfc-plc.ca; info@saskmilk.ca; general@milk.mb.ca; Questions; plq@lait.qc.ca; nbmilk@nbmilk.org; dfpei@dfpei.pe.ca; milk@dfnl.nf.net; colleen.fitzgerald-hubble@ontario.ca; daniella.molnar@ontario.ca; greg.pate@ontario.ca; lauren.carter@ontario.ca; camille.steffler@ontario.ca; mike.relf@ontario.ca; megan.vanschaik@ontario.ca; michael.mcquire@ontario.ca; delma.kennedy@ontario.ca; james.byrne@ontario.ca; erin.massender@ontario.ca; greg.devos@ontario.ca; mario.mongeon@ontario.ca; christoph.wand@ontario.ca; laura.eastwood@ontario.ca; betty.summerhayes@ontario.ca; tom.wright@ontario.ca; al.dam@ontario.ca; marlene.paibomesai@ontario.ca; michelle.linnington@ontario.ca

Subject: Palm Products in Dairy Cows Feed

Dear local, provincial and federal representatives as well as the Dairy Farmers of Canada,

I have just discovered that palm oil products are being supplemented in dairy cows rations. Perhaps this has been a process that has been in place for quite some time, but it is new information to me, and I am DISGUSTED by it.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/recent-concerns-about-the-quality-of-canadian-butter-could-be-linked-to-palm-oil-1.5314605>

As a Canadian consumer, I am horrified that palm oil is being fed to cows at all. They DO NOT need fat supplements in the form of palm oil. This is a lazy, cheap, sneaky action and it serves only the purpose of financial gain.

I spend all of my time (now online shopping) reading every single label to avoid palm oil products. I do not want palm products of any kind in my life, and I do NOT want them in my butter, in my milk or in my cheese.

I feel like because of the pandemic we all have more to focus on and to pay attention to, and yet somehow the Dairy Farmers of Canada have snuck in palm oil amidst the chaos hoping we won't find out?

The harvest of palm oil is one of the MOST destructive processes, it is unequivocally destroying the rainforest, the habitat of countless animals and humans and for the people who live there. **With their CO₂ and methane**

emissions, palm oil-based biofuels actually have three times the climate impact of traditional fossil fuels.

There is no such thing as "organic" or "sustainable" palm oil so please don't try and convince me that palm is an approved food source, because it shouldn't be and you all know it.

I am writing because I need to protest this action, and I need every single one of my representatives to know how furious and disgusted I am at this action.

If there is anything else I can do to voice my concerns or take action against this, please let me know.

Sincerely
Zoe Kazakos
Hamilton, Ontario