

Actual strata for each of the four regions are detailed in the table below:

Centre	West	Quebec	Ontario	Atlantic
<150,000	5	10	?	3
150-300,000	9	10	?	11
>300,000	3	9	?	4

*Milking schedule:* Herds following a 3x milking schedule were to be excluded, however some herds not originally on 3x milking did initiate this practice during the sampling period. The table below shows the farms that did milk cows 3x during the duration of the study and the dates during which 3x milking was undertaken.

Region	Herd	Dates began 3x milking	Dates ended 3x milking
Atlantic	6	1.1.07	30.4.07
Atlantic	6	1.9.07	present
Quebec	8	29.4.2007	25.7.2007
West	7	20.12.2007	continues
West	13	20.5.2007	4.8.2007

#### Initial Recruitment Guidelines

Farmers were given the option of exclude any animals from the sampling (valuable animals, show animals, etc.). Out of all the herds, only five cows from the Atlantic provinces cows were excluded, none from Ontario, one from the West, and none from Quebec.

#### Farm Retention

Because retention of farms for Year 1 was so successful (91 of 93 farms remained at the beginning of Year 2), the decision was taken to give farms that had been least compliant with sampling the option of discontinuing milk sampling. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, therefore, twelve farms were removed from the milk sampling for the Cohort, leaving 79 farms to be sampled in 2008. These farms were: Farms 13 and 17 in the Atlantics, Farms 3, 9, 15 and 16 from Quebec, Farms 4, 15, 22 and 24 from Ontario and Farms 5 and 13 from the West.

Three other farms were lost in Year 2. In late January, Farm 16 in the West burned down and therefore exited the Cohort. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Farm 10 in the West sold their herd, and in August, Farm 18 in the West also sold their herd. These two herds exited the Cohort at those respective times.

Although individual cow milk samples, bulk tank milk samples and health data were no longer collected on these farms, they did continue to participate in surveys and other data collections as required.

Sample size had previously been determined for a final sample size of 80 farms, with any extra farms being beneficial but not necessary to retain. The reduction in farm numbers, therefore, preserved the estimated statistical power while decreasing spending on the data collection.