

# Dairy Comp & Robotic Systems

Dairy Comp software plays an integral role for herd management on many Canadian dairies, and that includes in robotic milked herds. There are different versions available to meet the needs of dairies of different size, management style and milking systems. Dairy Comp interfaced and integrated with the dairy's electronic milking system is very popular, with almost 450 dairies in Canada with that set up.

With the increase popularity of robotic milking, there has also been an increase in the setup of Dairy Comp software integrated with robotic systems. When Dairy Comp is integrated with any milking system, animal event information is sent to the milking system to be imported, and information from each milking session is loaded back into Dairy Comp.



*Currently CanWest DHI supports 45 dairies that have integrated their Dairy Comp 305 software with a robotic milking system and that number is growing.*

Data entry is efficient because it is done once in Dairy Comp and then sent to the milking system so that it knows which cows need to be milked. Dairy Comp will load back accumulated milk weight information in addition to some other milking data parameters, which can assist with the monitoring of production of the herd.

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*Korb Whale, Clovermead Farms*

Dairy Comp has proven to be a great complement to those dairies. Its ability to store all herd information in one location and to customize reports and herd analysis to meet each dairy's management style are features that are proven to provide great value to each herd.

Korb Whale operates a dairy in midwestern Ontario with 3 Delaval robots and uses Dairy Comp 305 to generate many of his daily herd action lists and for his overall

herd management. The Whales have used Dairy Comp for many years and have continued to use it with their robotic milking system.

Korb comments, “We really like Dairy Comp because of its ease of use, the quick and easy data entry and its adaptability to exactly meet our management needs.”

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*Allen Kampman, Spring Breeze Dairy*

Dairy Comp has many tools and options to help effectively manage important areas like reproduction, the transition period, mastitis, health status of the herd and heifer management. Allen Kampman is a dairy producer in Manitoba using Dairy Comp with a 4 Lely robotic milking system. Dairy Comp plays a key role in the management of his herd. Allen comments “I use Dairy Comp for a lot of my herd data analysis, especially for reproduction management, which is so important.” He adds “With Dairy Comp, I can easily monitor trends in many aspect of herd performance which allows me to stay on top of things and take action when required.”

Another key feature that adds value for all herds, including robotic is the ability to easily link to the advisors. Given that most dairy advisors in Canada use Dairy Comp, an efficient transfer of herd information can take place and the herd advisor can then easily monitor herd performance, do herd analysis and be more effective in their advisory role.

For herds on CanWest DHI testing service, data transfer on test day is simple and loading of DHI results back into Dairy Comp is easily done as well. Recent changes to Dairy Comp have allowed not only standard test day information to be loaded, but also milk test results for disease and pregnancy testing, as well as animal LPI values, which provide the dairyman with the convenience of maintaining an even more complete set of information for their entire herd in one spot.

Additional Dairy Comp features like registering animals with Holstein Canada or colored breeds and being Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) compliant make it an all-encompassing herd management tool that meet most of the information needs of any dairy.

Given that Dairy Comp can be easily customized, it can meet the specific needs of any dairy so they realize the greatest benefit. For all herds, including those in a robotic milking system, with a complete set of data, in one location, easily available to the advisory team, more effective herd decisions can be made and that means better herd performance and improved profitability.