



# SUSTAINED PROGRESS: ENVIRONMENTAL EFFICIENCY OF CANADIAN MILK PRODUCTION



Preserving the environment is a central value for Canadian dairy farmers. To build on this longstanding commitment, DFC conducted two life cycle assessments (LCA) to measure their environmental impact and identify areas for improvement.

## A LIFE-CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA) OF THE SECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE

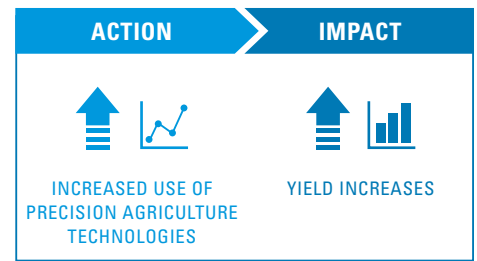
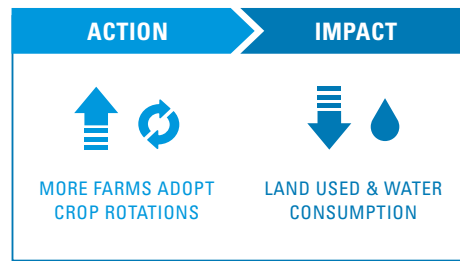
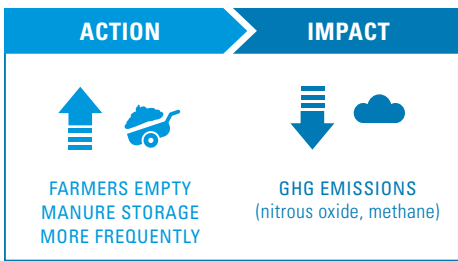
This study includes all life-cycle stages that contribute to the environmental footprint of dairy farming, from inputs up to and including transportation of milk from the farm to the processor.

### CANADIAN DAIRY FARMERS CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Dairy farms are efficient. Since 2011, the average annual milk production per cow has increased by 13% as a result of improvements in animal nutrition, genetics and housing.



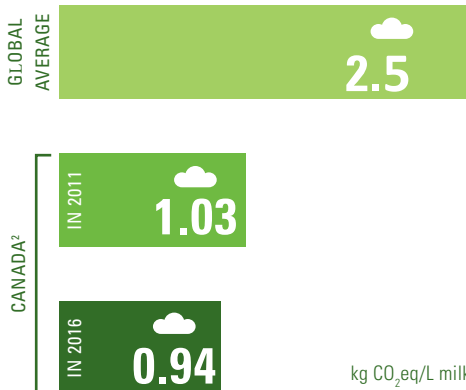
### INFORMED BY SCIENCE, FARMERS CONTINUE TO ADOPT PRACTICES THAT BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS:



### IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

#### AMONG THE LOWEST CARBON FOOTPRINTS FOR DAIRY IN THE WORLD

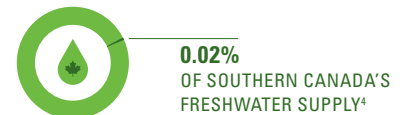
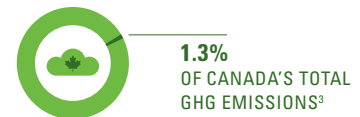
Producing one litre of milk in Canada emits less than **1/2 the greenhouse gas (GHG)** emissions as compared to the global average<sup>1</sup>.



Consumers can enjoy their daily dairy products knowing that the footprint of milk produced in Canada has decreased over time. In the past 5 years:



In 2016, Canadian milk production was responsible for generating or using:



A STUDY CONDUCTED IN 2018 BY



1 FAO (2019). Climate change and the global dairy cattle sector. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2929EN/ca2929en.pdf>  
 2 The 2012 report covered milk production in 2011 while the 2018 report covered milk production in 2016.  
 3 Environment and Climate Change Canada (2016). National Inventory Report 1990-2016: Greenhouse Gas Sources and

Sinks in Canada. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/national-inventory-submissions-2018>

4 Water Canada (2017). Statistics Canada Reports on Canada's Renewable Freshwater and Water Use. Available at: <https://www.watercanada.net/statistics-canada-reports-on-canadas-renewable-freshwater-and-water-use/>

5 Statistics Canada (2018). Land Use-Table 32-10-0406-01 (formerly CANSIM 004-0203). Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210040601>

#### REFERENCES

- AGECO (2012). Environmental and Socioeconomic Life Cycle Assessment of Canadian Milk. (Report prepared for Dairy Farmers of Canada). [https://www.dairyresearch.ca/pdf/LCA-DFCFinalReport\\_e.pdf](https://www.dairyresearch.ca/pdf/LCA-DFCFinalReport_e.pdf)
- Canadian Dairy Information Centre (2017). Dairy Facts and Figures. Available at: [http://www.dairyinfo.gc.ca/index\\_e.php?s1=dff-fcil](http://www.dairyinfo.gc.ca/index_e.php?s1=dff-fcil)
- FAO (2013). Greenhouse gas emissions from ruminant supply chains—A global life cycle assessment. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/gleam/results/en/>