

## Do you intend to reduce your antimicrobial use?

Researchers at the Atlantic Veterinary College in collaboration with researchers at the University of Calgary and ACER Consulting are launching a project to **support Canadian dairy farmers in reducing their antimicrobial use for dry cow therapy and clinical mastitis**. The aim of this study is to better understand barriers and facilitators to reducing antimicrobial use and investigate the use and perceived practicality of standard operating procedures.

### You are eligible to participate if you are:

- An English-speaking dairy farmer in Canada with oversight for management decisions associated with antimicrobial use in dry and/or lactating cattle
- At least 18 years old
- Have a goal of reducing your antimicrobial use related to dry cow therapy and/or clinical mastitis
- Collect individual cow data on days in milk, parity, milk production, monthly individual somatic cell count
- Collect farm data on clinical mastitis cases and culling events
- Do some form of daily assessment for mastitis for all milking cows
- Willing to commit to attending 3 virtual meetings over the course of 1 year

If you choose to participate, you will take part in **three online discussion group sessions with other farmers** over the course of one year. Together with the group moderator, you will identify barriers specific to your farm and make a plan on how to transition to more selective antimicrobial use for dry cow therapy and/or clinical mastitis. You will also be provided support on how to include your veterinarian in this plan, and we will invite your veterinarian to participate in this study, have a 10-30 minute call, and be in a focus group with you and other farmers/veterinarians during the second meeting. Each discussion group will take between 45-120 minutes and will be held online using Zoom.

The aim of this project is that you will enhance antimicrobial stewardship while maintaining your animal health and welfare.

**You will receive a \$50 gift card for each focus group you participate in for a total of up to \$150.**

Please reach out to Steven Roche ([sroche@acerconsult.ca](mailto:sroche@acerconsult.ca)) if you are interested and would like more information.