Teach Nutrition

ARTICLE

Producing top quality milk while minimizing the impact on the environment remains our number one priority. Canadian dairy farmers continue to adapt and evolve, embracing new technologies and improvements in farming practices to help reduce our environmental footprint and increase sustainable farming for the future.

BY DFC - PLC, COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

5 STEPS WE TAKE TO REDUCE OUR

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

JANUARY 24, 2019 | 5 MIN





· Reducing our dairy industry's environmental impact is an on-

make improvements.

- going effort and priority for Canadian dairy farmers
- Caring about the environment means caring for our future. And since dairy farms are often family businesses that get passed down over generations, we have great reason to care. We welcome innovation and recognize the importance of continuously improving efficiencies in order to be more sustainable as an industry. We're working towards this
- goal by investing in new technology and conservation agriculture practices that improve soil health (nutrients and minerals are essential to grow lots of nutritious crops), recycle water, reduce waste and produce green energy.

In our ongoing journey to be more sustainable, we feel it's important to recognize the

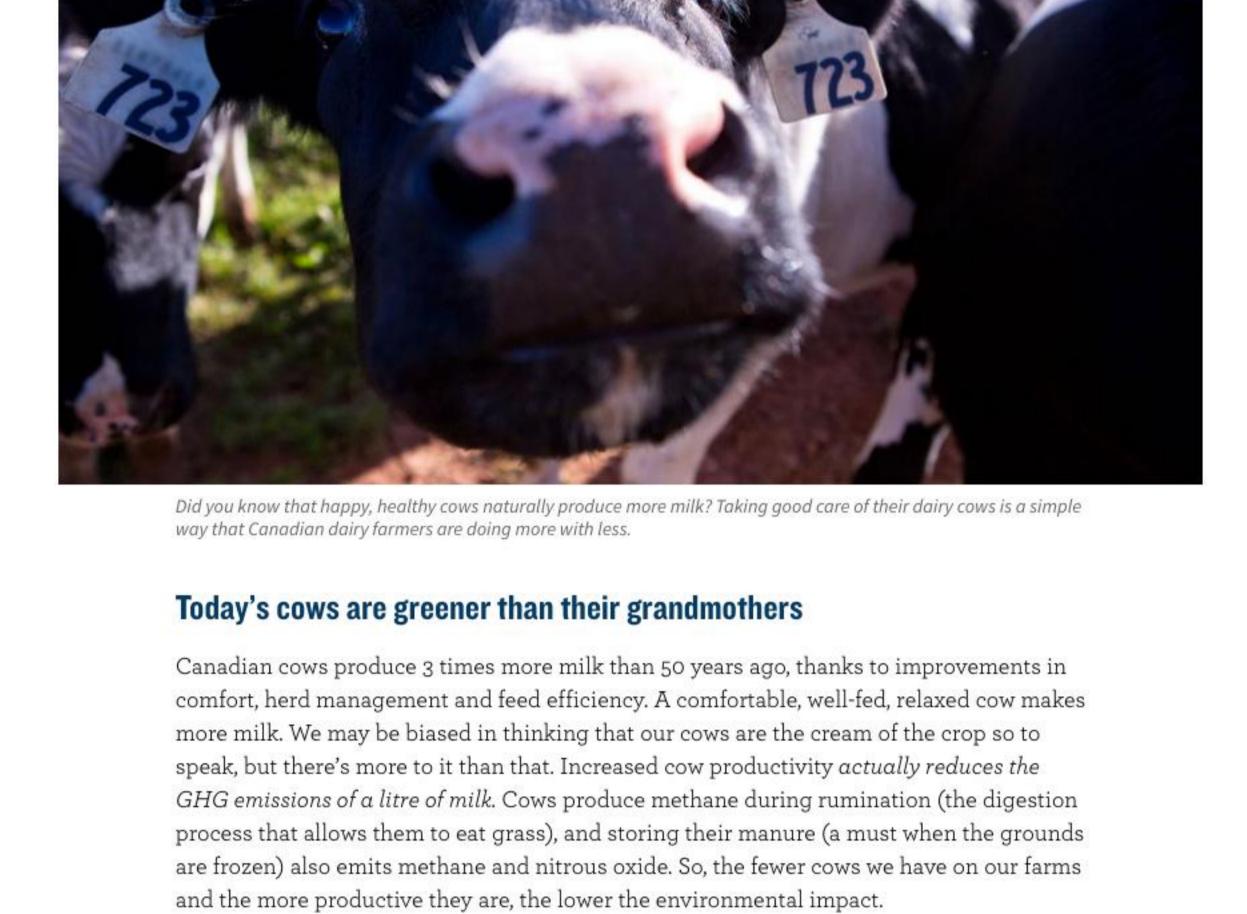
areas where we can continue to improve. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a diagnostic tool

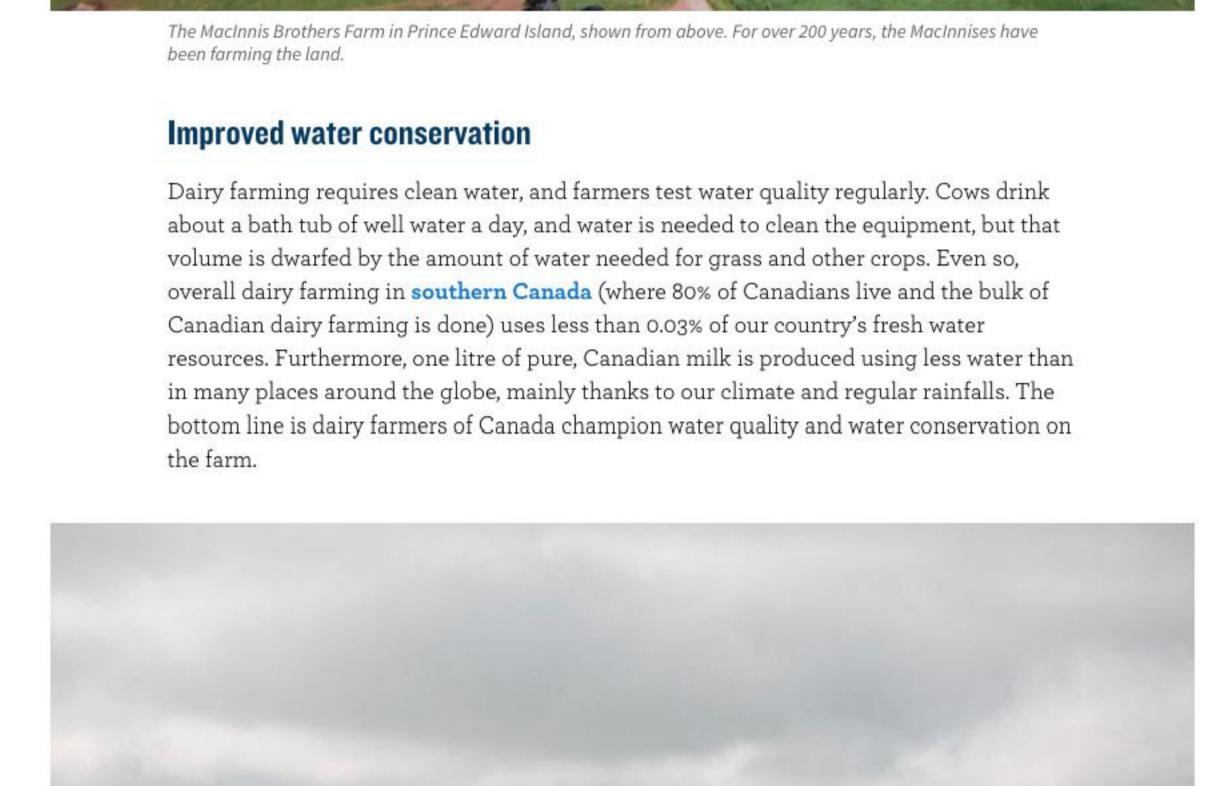
we use to routinely assess our environmental profile. Dairy Farmers of Canada also offers

an online tool to measure a farm's carbon footprint, enabling us to see areas where we can

We're committed to making a better tomorrow and constantly looking to better ourselves.

And our efforts seem to be paying off. In Canada, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) generated per unit of milk are among the lowest in the world! Read on to see five steps we're taking to reduce our environmental impact.





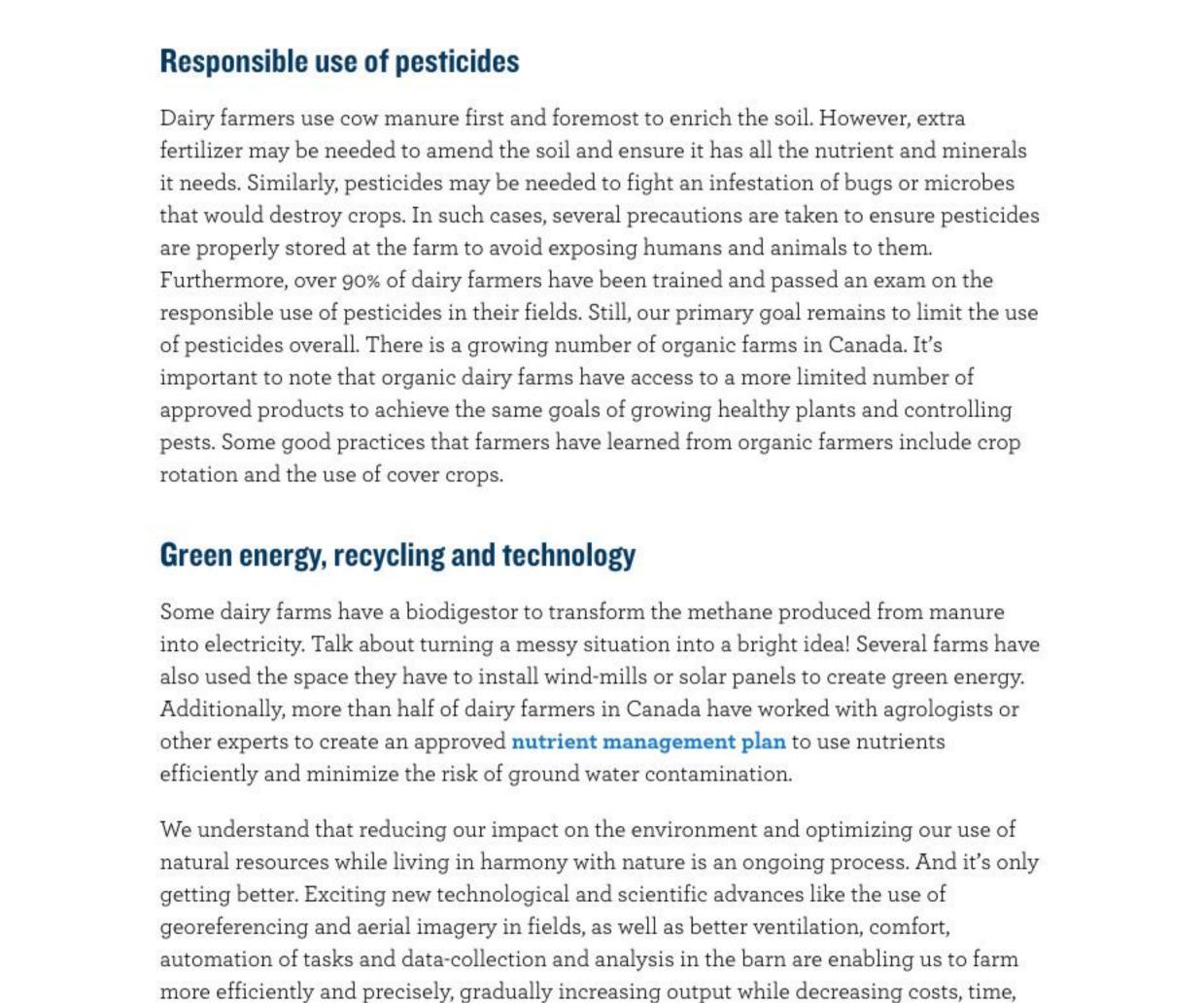
Dairy production represents less than 1.3% of Canada's total GHG emissions. A major

reason for this is that our cows are more productive, which has been a key factor in

For many Canadian dairy farmers, producing milk is a family affair passed on from generation to generation. They act as stewards of the land, which they hope to one day pass on to their children.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

helping to reduce methane emissions associated with the production of a litre of milk. And we humans have made improvements too. Learning from scientific studies and implementing new technology, dairy farmers have adopted more environmentally friendly practices on our farms, including: emptying manure storage more often to enrich the soil nutrient content in our fields, doing crop rotations, reducing soil disruption of tilling, using 'precision agriculture' technology, as well as optimizing milk transportation. It has all contributed to improving our footprint over the last few years.



The efforts we make today will lead to a better tomorrow. We remain fully committed to

Quantis, Groupe Ageco, and CIRAIG. "Sustained progress: Environmental efficiency of Canadian milk production

doing everything we can to run more sustainable farms - for people, cows and the

environment - while continuing to nourish Canadians with pure, natural dairy.

A life-cycle assessment (LCA) of the sector environmental profile." dairyfarmersofcanada.ca

https://dairyfarmersofcanada.ca/sites/default/files/2019-01/PLC-Info-ANG-F-17-12-2018_0.pdf

Government of Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. "Nutrient management planning." agr.gc.ca

http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/science-and-innovation/agricultural-practices/soil-and-land/soil-nutrients/nutrient-

"Dairy farming has changed since our ancestors first came here, but one thing that has stayed the same is our

passion for our animals, the environment, and our community," says Ronnie MacInnis from MacInnis Brothers Farm.

ProAction. "Targets and Achievements: Environment." dairyfarmers.ca
https://www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction/targets-achievements/environment

Dairy Farmers of Canada. "Water Use on Canadian Dairy Farms." dairyresearch.ca
https://www.dairyresearch.ca/pdf/Fact%20Sheet_Water%20Use%20on%20Canadian%20Dairy%20Farms.pdf

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