

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

HEALTHY CALF CONFERENCE



Wednesday, November 18, 2026

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET

Join us online or in-person,
Arden Park Hotel, Stratford, Ontario



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Off to a healthy start

Organized and hosted by:



Your calf care partners



Why attend Healthy Calf Conference 2026?

For more than 20 years, the Healthy Calf Conference has brought together producers, veterinarians, researchers, and industry partners to share the latest advances in calf health, nutrition, and management.

Whether you raise veal cattle, dairy replacements or start calves, you'll leave with research-backed ideas to improve calf health, reduce losses, and strengthen on-farm performance.

4 reasons to register

1

Find out what's new

Hear the latest research on calf health, nutrition, and management — and what it means on the farm.

2

Take home ideas you can use

Learn practical approaches to colostrum management, disease prevention, nutrition, calf handling, and more.

3

Learn from those driving new discoveries

Hear directly from University of Guelph researchers, OMAFA veterinarians, and calf specialists who are advancing calf health, nutrition, and management.

4

Keep learning after the conference

Registration includes presentation recordings, calf care resources, expanded on-demand webinars, and a new Healthy Calf Conference podcast mini-series.

Register today

DATE AND LOCATION:

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.;
registration opens at 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION

The Arden Park Hotel
552 Ontario Street
Stratford, ON N5A 3J3

Livestream available by Zoom.

RATES:

PRODUCER \$75/person
INDUSTRY
PARTNER \$125/person
ONLINE \$75/person

All prices are in Canadian
dollars. Applicable taxes and
fees are extra.

Questions?

Email events@vealfarmers.ca



What's new in 2026?

More learning beyond conference day

Registration includes access to an online learning portal featuring:

- Presentation recordings
- Downloadable calf care resources
- Expanded on-demand webinars
- A new Healthy Calf Conference podcast mini-series

Attend your way

In-Person

Join us in Stratford for:

- Trade show, networking, hot lunch
- Complimentary calf weigh tape (sponsored in part by Farmers Depot)
- Early registration bonus: complimentary calf pail (while supplies last)

Online

Attend live by Zoom from anywhere, with continued access to presentation recordings and online learning resources.

How to register:

Scan this QR code or visit
hcc2026.eventbrite.ca



Registration deadlines: in-person November 6 or earlier if spaces sell out; Online November 16 at noon.

Cancellations and no-shows are non-refundable. If the in-person conference cannot proceed, the event will be held online.

Agenda

10:00 a.m.

Welcome

10:15 a.m.

University of Guelph calf research spotlight

New research on colostrum, calf health, nutrition, and dairy-beef cattle.



Unlocking colostrum's potential beyond Immunoglobulin G!

Kayleigh Klein, PhD candidate

How colostrum bioactives may influence gut development and calf health.



Getting the first colostrum feed right

Katheryn Churchill, PhD candidate

New evidence shows why the amount of IgG – not simply the volume fed – may be the key to building immunity.



Temporal changes in maternally derived anti-BLV antibodies

Olivia Willoughby, PhD candidate

Learn how maternal antibodies influence early BLV infection risk and what it could mean for calf management.



From alert to action: Using automated feeding data to guide treatment decisions for calf diarrhea

Allison Welk, PhD candidate

Can automated milk feeders detect sick calves earlier? See how technology may improve treatment decisions and recovery.



Are we maximizing the potential of dairy x beef crossbred calves?

Melinda Kovacs, PhD candidate

New research examines nutrition and management strategies to help dairy-beef cattle reach their full potential.

11:15 a.m.

DIY Vet Work (Calf Edition)



Rachel Budd, DVM

Real-life calf health scenarios to help producers recognize problems early, decide what can be managed on-farm, and know when veterinary support is needed.

11:55 a.m.

Lunch & Trade Show

Connect with fellow producers, researchers, veterinarians, and industry partners.

1:25 p.m.

Ontario cattle health update

Cynthia Miltenburg, DVM, DVSc

The latest Ontario disease trends, emerging issues, and global developments that could affect cattle health and biosecurity.



1:55 p.m.

Optimizing fibre inclusion in calf starter

Hanne Goetz, PhD

What recent on-farm research says about fibre, rumen development, and calf performance.



2:35 p.m.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:



What to fix first: Making calf health data useful for real-world decisions

Kristen Edwards, DVM, PhD

Learn how simple calf health records can help identify recurring problems and prioritize management changes that make the biggest difference.

3:30 p.m.

Wrap-up

Agenda is subject to change.

Visit calfcare.ca for conference updates and speaker biographies.



On-demand webinar



Handle With Care - Young Calves

Jennifer Woods, MSc

Practical guidance on the humane and effective handling of calves, with emphasis on calf behaviour, low-stress movement techniques, and facility considerations.



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