

THE Connection

Fall 2019 Volume 1, No. 3



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Jennifer Haley

Get your elevator pitch ready

The top three issues impacting the veal industry



(L to R): Alex Fontaine, President, Montpak, Jennifer Haley, Executive Director, VFO, Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture, Bob Wynands, President, CVA

Imagine you are in an elevator with the Premier or the Minister of Agriculture. You strike up a conversation with them about the veal industry and you only have a limited amount of time before the elevator door opens. You want to make the most impact for the industry with this conversation. They ask you 'what are the top three issues you are working on right now?'.

Immediately, and without hesitation, you are confidently able to say that we must have effective business risk management programs to manage market volatility; we need to create and maintain competitive market access for export markets for Canadian veal; and lastly we need to drive demand for Ontario veal with the consumer so that we can see better market prices for the veal cattle we produce.

Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) has been part of Ontario's Risk Management Program (RMP) since its inception in 2011 and we have continued to work with staff at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) to ensure the program continues to meet the needs of veal farmers. For livestock farmers, the RMP is our only provincial business risk management program, and therefore it is important that the program not only work but that it helps to manage market volatility—much of which is out of our control as veal farmers.

Moving forward, the RMP as we know it will be

changing. The Minister outlined his plan in the Spring 2019 Budget—he wants to see the RMP evolve to more of an insurance-based program. As we all know, the RMP is under-funded to meet the demands of the program participants. The Minister has signaled that an additional \$50 million will be brought forward in the 2021 program year, provided changes are made to the program. VFO is actively working with OMAFRA staff to analyze program options and coverage levels. Pivotal to the future design of the RMP is ensuring that premiums remain affordable and that payments are available when farmers need it most.

The Canadian veal industry has an opportunity to export veal to the European Union (EU), but we continue to be hampered by roadblocks. Under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the EU, European veal—and other products—can come into Canada with vastly reduced tariffs. In return, the Canadian beef, pork and veal industries were also to receive access to EU markets, however, the EU requires several protocols to be met—the most pressing being that they want beef and veal raised without the use of hormone implants.

The Canadian Veal Association (CVA), of which VFO is an integral member, has been working collaboratively with the Canadian Meat Council, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and several different government departments to address this market access issue. For the Canadian veal sector its simple—we are not permitted to raise veal with implants. Therefore, all Canadian veal should meet the criteria for what the EU is looking for. However, international trade agreements are never that easy! The CVA is working to develop the protocols, procedures and communications required between industry and government in order to export Canadian veal to the European market.

The Ontario veal industry needs to see sustained and improved market prices and returns for

the cattle we produce. In order to do that we need to drive demand for our product and invest in consumer marketing and promotions programs. Increasing consumer demand for our products 'pulls' the veal through the value chain—whether that is from the grocery store, the butcher shop or at the restaurant.

While VFO has several consumer marketing programs in place, there is still more that needs to be done. That is why the VFO Board of Directors has allocated the \$1.50/head increase in licence fees that comes into effect November 1st, 2019, to go directly to additional consumer marketing program development. With increased demand for finished Ontario veal cattle, producers should expect more stabilized demand and markets for quality male dairy calves in all areas of the supply chain and as a result, all VFO members will benefit.

As you may know, Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) is also increasing their check-off by \$1.50/head to \$5.50. VFO indicated our intention to follow the same timelines and level of increase as BFO at the VFO AGM in March 2019, with overwhelming support from members to proceed. Because VFO is a marketing board under the Farm Products Act, it has the authority to modify (raise or lower) licence fees without the approval of its members.

The lights on the elevator indicate your 'elevator pitch' is coming to an end. So you summarize your three priorities to hit home how important these issues are: investment in domestic marketing and consumer programs that will work towards 'pulling' veal through the system; creating demand for veal cattle to smooth out the market fluctuations and volatilities; developing export markets to drive additional demand and competition for Canadian veal; all with a solid business risk management program in place to support our farmers in those times when they need it most. ■



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Increased enteritis and septicemia in Ontario calves in 2019

Dr. Andrew Brooks, Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph
Dr. Cynthia Miltenburg, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs

The Bovine Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) is a group of veterinarians and specialists that meet regularly to review bovine health data which includes diagnostic submissions to the Animal Health Laboratory (AHL). When the data was reviewed from this spring, we noted an increased number of lab submissions for diarrhea, gastrointestinal problems, and septicemia in calves.

Diarrhea and septicemia are frequently noted as two of the most common health problems in calves (with pneumonia rounding out the top three). Diarrhea is caused by an infection of the intestine that leads to inflammation (enteritis). Septicemia is a life-threatening infection in which bacteria and their toxins spread in the bloodstream to all areas of the body. These important calfhood diseases tend to occur when there is a lack of adequate immunity obtained from colostrum, an overwhelming exposure to infectious pathogens, or a combination of the two. A postmortem examination, coupled with laboratory testing, is an effective tool to determine the cause of calf diarrhea and septicemia. The postmortem will provide the veterinarian with clues as to which type of infection is present and will enable the collection of samples needed for lab testing to identify the cause of infection.

A number of bacteria, viruses, and parasites can cause diarrhea in calves. Rotavirus, coronavirus and the parasite *Cryptosporidium* were the most frequent pathogens causing calf diarrhea this spring, with approximately half of the cases having mixed infections. Calves with diarrhea can vary from mild cases that remain bright and alert with only mild disease to calves that have profuse diarrhea which quickly become flat, unwilling to drink, and die quickly.

The most common bacteria that cause diarrhea in calves are *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Clostridium perfringens*. Although these pathogens are a little less common, they are important problems on some farms and affected calves may quickly progress to develop septicemia.

Intestinal infections with *E. coli*, rotavirus, coronavirus and *Cryptosporidium* tend to result in “undifferentiated diarrhea” which is a syndrome with similar clinical signs and postmortem findings: yellow watery diarrhea, fecal soiling of the tail and hindquarters, liquid contents of the intestine, and dehydration. Dehydration in a calf is often apparent by the eyes which sink deeply into the skull and can be fatal if not treated.

In contrast to undifferentiated diarrhea, *Salmonella*, *Clostridium*, and coccidia parasites tend to produce more severe damage to the intestine

which can be appreciated clinically and at postmortem. Such signs may include bloody diarrhea, visible signs of inflammation or ulceration of the intestinal lining, and affected calves may die very quickly.

E. coli and *Salmonella* Dublin (S. Dublin) are common causes of septicemia in calves. Note that septicemia is not just a consequence of diarrhea — bacteria from other sources such as an infected navel or a case of pneumonia can also lead to septicemia. Calves with septicemia are often febrile, lethargic, and lose their appetite. Some calves with septicemia may be found dead without showing any signs of illness. Septicemia due to *E. coli* is particularly common in neonatal calves that did not receive adequate colostrum, whereas S. Dublin tends to affect older calves (a review of S. Dublin cases from 2012 to 2016 revealed a median age of six weeks). Postmortem examination of septicemic calves often reveals dark red lungs and spleen, signs of inflammation in the body cavity and joints, and hemorrhages on organ surfaces.

In the unfortunate situation of a farm experiencing increased calf mortality, a postmortem examination, coupled with laboratory testing, is an effective tool to determine the cause. Identification of the responsible pathogen, and

any underlying management and environmental factors, will help prevent the disease in other calves, especially if they are being housed together. The postmortem will provide clues as to what type of infection is present, enable collection of appropriate samples for lab testing, and may identify other important issues related to the root cause. Did the calf have septicemia from a gastrointestinal infection or from a navel infection? Are calves getting adequate colostrum? What management and environment factors led to this infection? Did the calf have a case of severe enteritis that resulted in fluid losses that the calf could not keep up with? Is the calf treatment protocol for this farm adequate? These are all important questions a diarrhea work-up will help to answer.

When faced with a calf health problem, the herd-level investigation and the postmortem findings will alert a veterinarian to the likely root causes. In order to identify specific pathogens, the samples obtained at postmortem and feces from live calves with diarrhea can be sent to the laboratory for testing. Such tests often include: microscopic examination of the organs (histopathology), bacterial culture and sensitivity to guide antibiotic selection, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to detect viruses, and parasitology tests to detect *Cryptosporidium* and coccidia. Note that a postmortem examination is best performed as soon as possible after death since decomposition will impair a veterinarian's ability to detect key abnormalities and may also interfere with lab testing. Decomposition in the warm summer months occurs very quickly (under 24 hours).

Regardless of the type of pathogen, maintaining a clean environment will help reduce the severity by not overwhelming the calves with an immense pathogen load. Cleanliness of feeding equipment, including automatic feeders, is crucial. Depending on the specific pathogen and other contributing factors, the veterinarian will recommend appropriate treatment and management strategies to mitigate the problem.

So why did we see more cases this spring? As farmers well know, this spring was plagued with some very wet weather. Calf housing environments that are wet or have a buildup of fecal matter are a paradise for pathogens, and open housing or being exposed to weather increases the risk of diarrhea. The weather may not be in our control, but calf housing cleanliness, good calf management and colostrum feeding, and early intervention will help combat any increased risk. ■



The Bovine Ontario Animal Health Network is a group of veterinarians and specialists working in government, university research and laboratory, and in beef, dairy, and veal practice who meet regularly to monitor and discuss disease trends in Ontario. Our goals are to facilitate coordinated preparedness, early detection and response to animal health and welfare in Ontario. For our recent reports or more information visit www.oahn.ca.

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Protein supplementation for veal cattle

Megan Van Schaik, Beef Cattle Specialist
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Proteins are the building blocks of life and can be found virtually everywhere. They are essential to many bodily functions, including tissue growth, enzymatic processes, development of antibodies, and others. Proteins are particularly important to the growth and development of young animals, which is why nutritionists carefully formulate both milk-based and grain-based veal cattle diets to meet calf protein requirements. It's not simply a matter of meeting protein requirements; protein quality also matters, and not all protein is created equal.

Pre-ruminant calf

Protein quality is especially important to the pre-ruminant calf. Underfeeding highly digestible protein in the diet of young calves can limit their growth and the finish they achieve as older animals. Meeting nutrient requirements early on is so important, recent research has focused on the role of maternal nutrient supply on fetal development and the future productivity of that calf (Caton et al., 2019; Looor and Coleman, 2019).

Without a fully functioning rumen, the pre-ruminant calf's primary source of protein is from the diet rather than from microbial sources. For the young calf less than 21 days of age, milk proteins yield the best results as they are the most digestible, contain the ideal balance of amino acids required for maintenance and growth, and are void of antinutritional factors. However, for economic reasons, many milk replacers on the market include alternative nonmilk protein sources such as pea or wheat protein. The inclusion of these proteins is limited since they are less digestible for the pre-ruminant calf and come with antinutritional properties, which further reduce digestibility. The guaranteed analysis on the feed tag will express both the crude protein and crude milk protein levels. If the level of crude milk protein

is less than the level of crude protein, it can be inferred that there are nonmilk proteins in the product. More information on your milk replacer can be obtained from your supplier.

The introduction of dry feed to a calf's diet, particularly from calf starter, stimulates rumen development through fermentation of carbohydrates and protein and the resulting production of Volatile Fatty Acids (VFAs). VFAs are important to the development of papillae in the rumen. The structure and properties of the compartmentalized stomach resemble that of a mature animal at 12 to 16 weeks of age. Protein digestion in the ruminating animal during finishing is different than that of a pre-ruminant animal, and thus protein supplementation takes on a different form.

Ruminant veal cattle

Protein digestion in ruminating animals is more complex due to the fermentation process in the rumen. Microorganisms in the rumen use dietary nitrogen for their own functions, but the microorganisms themselves also serve as a source of protein for the animal. Offering a protein supplement as part of a grain-fed veal cattle diet is common practice. Simply put, a strictly grain-based ration does not meet the protein and amino acid requirements of growing veal cattle.

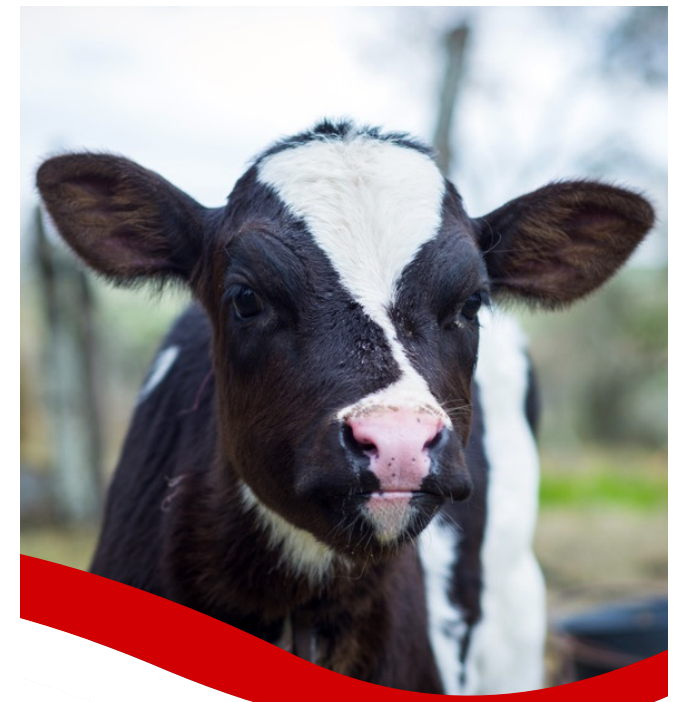
Protein supplements for ruminant veal cattle typically include either natural protein (e.g. soybean meal or canola meal) or a combination of natural protein and non-protein nitrogen (e.g. urea). Non-protein nitrogen can be used by the rumen bacteria to synthesize protein in ruminating veal cattle. While non-protein nitrogen can only be used by rumen bacteria for protein synthesis, nitrogen derived from natural proteins can be used by rumen microbes for protein synthesis or can bypass the rumen and be absorbed in the small intestine. Caution must be exercised when feeding urea as a source of non-protein nitrogen, as urea can be unpalatable and toxic if fed at high levels. It is important to note that urea should not be used in starter feeds for calves. Urea should be offered when calves weigh a minimum of 130 kg, should be gradually introduced, and should be included in the ration at a rate no greater than 28 to 33 per cent of the total crude protein.

To better understand a protein supplement, your feed advisor and feed tag are good resources. The feed tag on the supplement provides information on the level and type of protein supplemented. The guaranteed analysis for various nutrients, including crude protein, is listed on the tag. Keep in mind that crude protein reflects the total amount of nitrogen in

a feed, whether it is derived from natural proteins or non-protein nitrogen sources. Inclusion of non-protein nitrogen sources is evident through the guaranteed analysis and is listed as equivalent crude protein (ECP) from non-protein sources. A protein supplement that includes only natural proteins will show a 0 per cent ECP from non-protein nitrogen sources. If a supplement containing 36 per cent crude protein contains 8 per cent ECP from non-protein sources, 22 per cent of the crude protein can be attributed to non-protein nitrogen sources.

Protein supplementation programs are typically based on mixing a certain proportion of the supplement with grain corn. As veal cattle grow and feed intake increases, the corn:supplement ratio becomes greater. For a newly weaned calf, the corn:supplement ratio would be around 2.5:1 for a ration containing 36 per cent protein supplement and dry shell corn (approximately 18.5 per cent protein on a dry matter basis). For a calf reaching market weight, the corn:supplement ratio increases to about 4 to 5:1 for a ration containing 36 per cent protein supplement and dry shell corn (approximately 15 per cent crude protein on a dry matter basis).

A pelleted protein supplement also provides an opportunity to supplement other nutrients, such as vitamins and minerals, or additives, such as ionophores. For best results on a supplementation program, actual weights on veal cattle should be known for sound diet formulation. Work with your nutritionist for optimal diet formulation to achieve desirable veal cattle performance. ■



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INDUSTRY updates



VFO attends Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

The Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) attended Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in September, connecting with new and existing veal and dairy producer members, discussing industry issues, promoting calf care and distributing resources. We encouraged producers to visit our booth, tweeting throughout the day and promoting our location on both the VFO and Calf Care Corner social media channels.

Thank you to everyone who dropped by our booth to say hi or pick up resources, we look forward to seeing you again at our Annual General Meeting in March!

Cost of Production tool available

VFO and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) have developed a Cost of Production (COP) tool to help producers calculate their annual costs to help them with their planning.

The COP tool was designed to accommodate multiple production systems, including growing

to finishing, starting with preconditioned calves, or a combination of both. It is a revision of the previous tool, last updated in 2008.

As the Ontario veal sector continues to evolve, tools and resources that help producers determine their COP will be extremely useful for current veal producers and new entrants looking to improve business management and profitability, and better evaluate expansion and start-up opportunities.

The Excel tool is available in English and French at bit.ly/2NqoNxK.

Confirmed case of bovine anaplasmosis in Ontario

OMAFRA has been notified of a confirmed case of bovine anaplasmosis in Elgin County.

On August 20th, 2019 OMAFRA was notified of a confirmed positive test result for bovine anaplasmosis in one animal from a cow-calf herd after the animal exhibited clinical signs of illness including weakness and increased respiratory rate. Laboratory testing confirmed infection with *Anaplasma marginale* (*A. marginale*), the cause of bovine anaplasmosis.

Anaplasmosis does not pose human health or food safety risks.

Anaplasmosis has been reported sporadically across Canada and infrequently in Ontario with cases confirmed in 1996, 2013 and 2016. Anaplasmosis is endemic in the United States.

Anaplasmosis is an immediately notifiable disease under the federal *Health of Animals Act* and the provincial *Animal Health Act* and therefore laboratories are required to report suspect or confirmed cases of anaplasmosis.

Producers can protect their animals and their industry by knowing the health status of animals introduced to their herd and by adhering to biosecurity best management practices, including single use needles for injections. Producers should contact their veterinarian for questions regarding their herds' health or if they suspect animals in their herd may be infected.

Research updates

Meloxicam depletion study on dairy calves for grain-fed veal production

Meloxicam depletion study on dairy calves for grain-fed veal production is in the final testing stages. The project will be completed by December 31, 2019.

Refining diagnostic tools at arrival to a veal facility

Using antimicrobials wisely saves money and protects the resource for future use. Accurate diagnosis can help ensure antimicrobials are only used when necessary. This trial will be conducted on a large veal farm to evaluate the accuracy and the utility of new on-farm diagnostic technology. An on-farm blood cell counter and novel thermometer will be assessed. On-farm blood results will be compared with laboratory values to determine

accuracy. Calf navels will also be examined to evaluate how the navel changes over time and comparing males against females. This project has been broken out into three phases.

Project 1: Utility of an on-farm blood cell counter and blood parameters to identify high-risk calves upon arrival to a male dairy calf raising facility


Project 2: A prudent approach to antibiotic treatment of high-risk calves at arrival to a male dairy calf rearing facility

Project 3: Utility of rectal temperature in predicting disease at a male dairy calf raising facility

This project has documented so far that additional technologies can be used to identify high-risk calves at arrival to a veal facility and the hope of the project is that producers will have validated diagnostic tools and calf arrival protocols to improve calf health and ensure antimicrobials are being used responsibly. This project will be completed by December 2020.

Immune function and intestinal microbiota

VFO has funded a new project with Dr. Dave Renaud and the University of Guelph called *Immune function and intestinal microbiota*. This innovative project will evaluate how innate immunity and intestinal microbiota change over time and will also use innate lymphocyte function and intestinal microbiota populations to predict morbidity (illness) and mortality. The project began in September 2019 and will be completed late 2021. ■



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Protecting against animal activists

As livestock producers we really hope it doesn't happen to us – but what if it did?
What would you do in the event your farm was stormed by a group of protestors against what you do for a living?

For most producers, your home and business are one and the same; having protestors show up to your home is very scary. So what can producers do to prepare in case it does happen?

The first thing would be to sit down and have a discussion with your family and any employees to develop a plan. Having a protest plan is like having an emergency plan, develop one in calm times and hope you never need to use it.

The plan should be comfortable for everyone involved and all those involved should know their roles.

Things to consider when developing a plan:

- If your farm is protested without warning, call the local police and express your concern for your safety and the safety of your family. Be very clear you are not sure the intent of the protest and you are fearful.
- If there is advanced warning of the protest, review the plan with all those involved and contact the local police to inform them of the potential issue.
- Limit farming activities and do not encourage any filming/photography.
- Do not engage with the protestors, do not yell, do not touch them, and do not

give them any reason to be filming/photographing more than what they are there for. It is difficult, because you feel violated, but it is better than showing high emotions in this critical time – it never looks good. If you touch them even slightly, they will overemphasize and threaten assault.

- Have one person designated to work with the police. This will help the police to know the point of contact.
- Work with the police on the laws around the use of drones, parking, blocking roadways, and impeding traffic.
- Review your property line with the police so everyone is clear.
- Block driveways with big equipment to prevent vehicles from entering.
- Ensure 'no trespassing' signs are posted on all access points.
- Be very clear when initially speaking to the protestors, advise them that they are not welcome, that if they enter your premises they will be trespassing, and that you have called the police. Ask them not to enter your barn or buildings. Do not engage with the protestors beyond that statement.

- Contact Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO), especially if there is advance warning.

Being protested is very stressful. It is important to give them nothing to report on. Remain as calm as possible and they will go away; most protests are limited in time. Assume you are being filmed and try and remained composed and do not engage with them. This is a good time to remember less is best because whatever you do or say will be turned around. Above all, do not post anything on social media – the less the activists know the better.

VFO is here to help wherever we can. Do not be afraid to ask questions on how to set up a plan in case it happens to you and your operation. ■

To quote Benjamin Franklin

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”



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Off to a healthy start

VFO leads *Calf health improvement project*

Steve Roche, ACER Consulting

We all know that getting calves off to a healthy start is critical to the success of any cattle operation. But for many producers, achieving quality and consistent calf health can be a challenge. Diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhea in young stock not only cost you money, they are a serious threat to animal health and welfare. Improving this situation takes time and effort, and means making calf health a priority. It also means getting your veterinarian actively engaged in calf health management on a routine basis.

These are some of the key areas being addressed by the *Calf health improvement project* (CHIP); a project led by Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) in collaboration with ACER Consulting, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Dairy Farmers of Ontario. The two-year project will also receive up to \$260,000 in funding from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (the Partnership), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The goal is to understand and educate producers and veterinarians on calf management and best practices, with particular emphasis on providing veterinarians with tools and resources to work more effectively with their clients.

"Our government is committed to helping our farmers save time and money as they work to build their businesses and to produce the safe, high-quality food that they are known for," said Ernie Hardeman, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "This

project will enhance efforts to improve animal health in the province and to keep Ontario's agricultural sector open for business."

Some of the specific objectives of this initiative include:

- Understanding the challenges Ontario producers have with calf health
- Reviewing what Ontario veterinarians are doing well and what more they need to help them prioritize calf health
- Creating educational resources on calf health management, including protocols, guidelines, and a review of current science and best management practices
- Developing a website platform to share everything you need to know about calf health and welfare in one central place
- Publishing an update of VFO's *Building the foundation for healthy calves* manual, first developed by VFO in 2004 as a guide of calf management essentials for producers
- Holding regional workshops for veterinarians on how to work with producers to improve calf health

While this project is ongoing, there are several important highlights to share. After a number of focus groups and interviews with producers and veterinarians, it is clear that producers would like more veterinarian involvement in calf health management. Not all veterinarians make calf health part of their routine visits. A change in

mindset from only working with calves when there is a problem, to routine assessments for disease prevention and early identification of issues, is needed. Producers highlighted pneumonia as the biggest challenge for their calves. Many also suggested that colostrum management remains one of the most important practices for success, and it is still something many people struggle with. Some veterinarians indicated they have a hard time motivating some clients to adopt calf health recommendations – a concern that may lead some to stop trying if they don't see action. Both producers and veterinarians appear to need more and easier access to sources of information on how to better manage calves. More work also needs to be done to support communication between them – a particular area the CHIP project is focused on!

This month also marks the release of a fresh new look for www.CalfCare.ca. CalfCare.ca is an online toolbox created by VFO for producers and industry professionals navigating challenges with calf health, welfare, and nutrition. This website provides relevant and timely information that will help continuously improve the care of all calves. A portal for veterinarians, complete with summaries of the current science on all aspects of calf care, evidence-based recommendations for treating common conditions, and tips for building calf health into a routine herd health program, is a new part of the refresh of this website.



ACER Consulting

“ Our government is committed to helping our farmers save time and money as they work to build their businesses and to produce the safe, high-quality food that they are known for. ”

Ernie Hardeman, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

The next phase of this project involves taking these new tools and ideas on the road. ACER Consulting will be holding regional workshops with veterinarians across Ontario to discuss calf health management. The goal is to connect with as many veterinarians as possible to help raise awareness of the CHIP resources, promote better veterinarian-client-patient relationships, and encourage a renewed focus on consistent calf health management.

VFO's *Building the foundation for healthy calves* guide has been updated to provide calf managers with a producer-friendly resource that reflects the latest science-based calf care recommendations in the corresponding vet portal. Follow the VFO on Facebook @CalfCareCorner and twitter @CalfCareCorner to learn more about when this resource will be available.

The CHIP project is all about helping producers get calves off to a healthy start. It's a strategic focus on maximizing calf health in Ontario to build healthy and productive herds while ensuring all calves receive the same high standard of care, regardless of gender. Check out www.CalfCare.ca for more information. ■



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Personal protective equipment

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is important for everyone's safety while on the farm. PPE minimizes exposure to a variety of harmful hazards while on the farm.

The use of PPE should be a last resort. The steps to try before PPE are:

- 1 Eliminate:** Eliminate the hazard by redesigning the task process
- 2 Substitute:** Substitute with a safer process or product
- 3 Control:** Control the hazard at the source
- 4 Reduce:** Reduce exposure through administrative and work practices

PPE should only be used:

- 1** When other control methods do not provide enough protection
- 2** For emergencies and maintenance activities
- 3** While other controls are being installed
- 4** When the previously mentioned control methods are not possible

Common types of PPE include:

- 1** Protective clothing
- 2** Eye protection
- 3** Protective footwear
- 4** Hearing protection
- 5** Respirators
- 6** Hand protection

Protective clothing



Protective clothing, such as coveralls or overalls, protect skin and clothing from chemical and biological substances. High visibility clothing should be worn when pedestrians are working around moving equipment, to ensure they are seen by machine operators.

Eye protection



Eye and face protection protects the wearer from flying objects, chemical splashes, biological substances, harmful dust or radiation from welding. Protective eye wear should cover from the eyebrow to the cheekbone lengthwise and across from the nose to the temple.

Protective footwear



Protective footwear is designed to protect feet against injuries such as; impact, compression, puncture, chemicals/ biological substances, electricity, and slips. All protective footwear should be safety rated. The green triangle is for sole and toe puncture protection. The omega symbol indicates electric shock resistance.

Hearing protection



You require hearing protection when exposed to loud and continuous noises. Soft foam earplugs or earmuffs are a great option to protect you from loud noises, such as farm equipment.

Respirators



One of the most common ways chemicals can enter the body is through inhalation. Respiratory hazards can include airborne contaminants, such as biological contaminants, dusts, mists, fumes and gases, or oxygen-deficient atmospheres. When used, respirators can remove contaminants from the air. The most important step in using any kind of respirator is to ensure a proper fit to protect yourself from harmful chemicals entering the body. Respirators with filters are designed to trap particles as you breathe. Respirators with cartridges contain a material that absorb gases and vapours. Ensure you identify the hazard and determine the proper type of respirator before you start the task.

Hand protection



Hand protection, such as gloves, protect your hands from injuries caused by chemical or biological substances, burns, cuts, and punctures. Gloves should cover all exposed skin and there should not be gaps between the glove and the sleeve of the shirt.

PPE is important especially when it comes to disinfection of a work area. For example, *Salmonella* Dublin (S. Dublin) is a zoonotic agent, meaning it can cause animals and people to become ill. Always wear PPE when disinfecting any area, to protect yourself from not only the chemicals you are using, but also from the possibility of zoonotic infection from pathogen contamination on your skin and clothing, and in your lungs.

Different types of tasks require a variety of types and levels of personal protective equipment. Do some research to determine what the best type of PPE is for you to ensure your safety and the safety of everyone on the farm. ■



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
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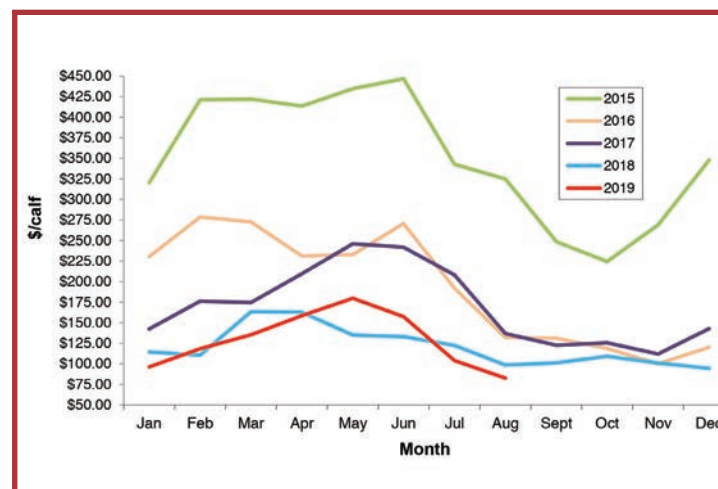




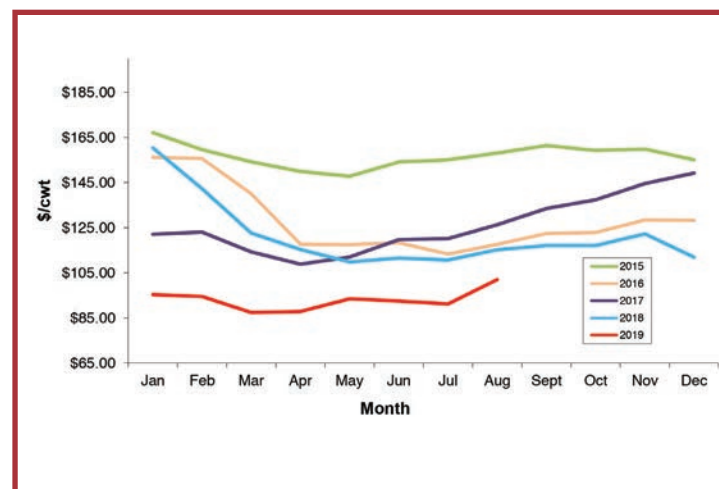
Veal Market Information

Veal market data is collected electronically from Ontario sales barns.

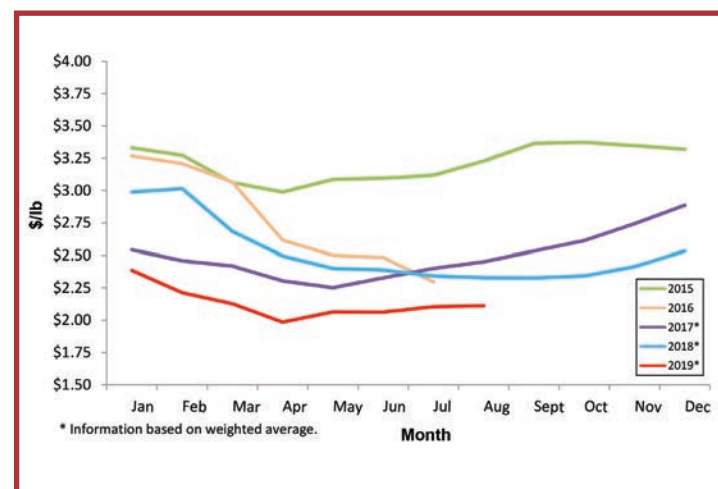
Bob Calf Pricing



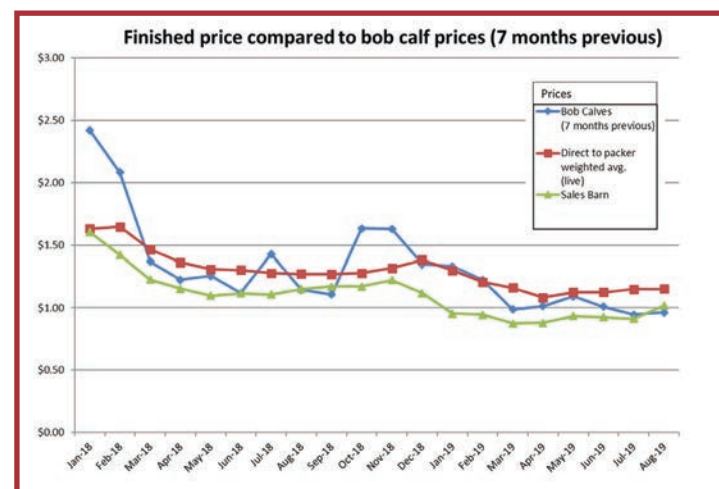
Sale Barn Veal Pricing



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Licenced dealers

As a veal (bob calves and finished veal cattle) producer, you should be dealing with licenced dealers who are remitting check-off on behalf of the farmers they are collecting from.

If you are selling bob calves from your dairy farm, the \$4.00 check-off is to be collected by the person purchasing those calves. If you sell your calves to a sales barn, the check-off is remitted on your behalf. It is always good to check with the Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) office to ensure we have your updated contact information, including your e-mail address, to remain current with timely information.

If you are dealing with an unlicenced dealer you are not protected under the Ontario Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program. You could be in jeopardy of losing the money from the sale, especially if you received a cheque for payment. If it is unclear if the dealer is licenced, ask to see the licence or check the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) website at omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/fpu/fpu_lists.htm or call the VFO office.

Licence fee reminders

In order to assist those who have not yet remitted their bob calf purchases from private treaty or dealer sales, the VFO has a **Monthly Licence Fee Remittance Worksheet** available to assist in calculating remittances from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

Please take the time to fill this worksheet out if you are not currently remitting on a regular basis. As a reminder, *Regulation 58/15 (i)* requires any person who receives veal cattle to deduct from the money payable for the veal cattle any licence fees payable to the local board by the person from whom the veal cattle is received and to forward the licence fees to the local board. ("Bob calves" are considered veal cattle.)

If you have not already sent in your Form 1 identifying yourself as a veal producer, please do so. They can be e-mailed, faxed or sent by regular mail to the office.

If you require additional copies of the **Monthly Licence Fee Remittance Worksheet, Form 1** or **Form 5**, please contact the office.

Ontario Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program

Effective January 1, 2019, Agricornp became the new Delivery Agent of the Ontario Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program and Administrator for the Livestock Financial Protection Board. All communication, including but not limited to: Late Payment Reports, Claims to the Fund, and Licencing inquiries, must be directed to Agricornp. Visit agricorp.com or phone 1-888-247-4999 for more information.

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