

THE Connection

Winter 2019 Volume 1, No. 4



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of Ontario 



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Winter 2019 Volume 1, No. 4

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Chair's MESSAGE



Tom Kroesbergen

Investing in the Ontario veal cattle industry

November 1, 2019 marked the coming into effect of the Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) licence fee increase. With this increase comes great responsibility to ensure it is directed and invested back into our industry to support the growth and development that will drive demand for our cattle throughout the supply chain. As your Chair, I want to express my appreciation to all our members and industry partners for their support of this initiative.

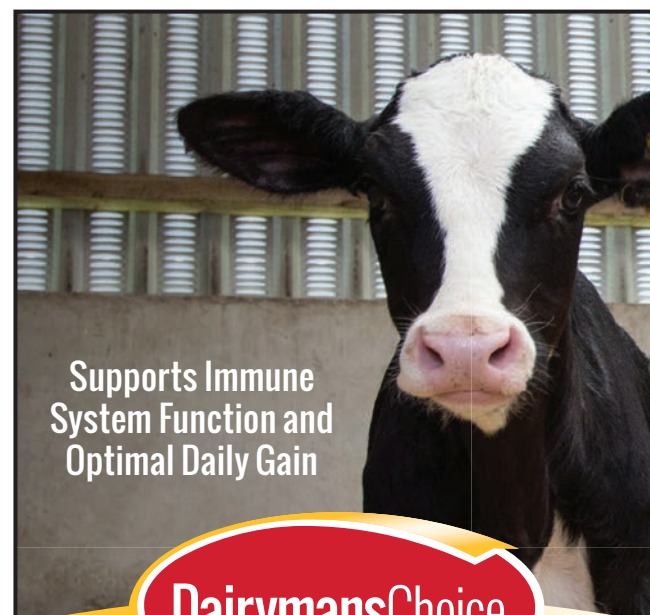
I also understand that for some members, the timing of the increase is not ideal given the realities of the markets and the value of the returns from the cattle and calves being sold. 2019 has been a challenging year for all farmers, with some areas of the province experiencing drought, higher costs for inputs like straw, and lower prices for bob calves due to changing demands in the beef and veal supply chain.

Veal producers are also struggling to get cattle to market, and issues with insufficient processing capacity, a healthy number of buyers, and lack of export market, continue to plague our sector. With all of these issues compounded by the market disruption caused by international trade disputes within the global marketplace and impacting the sustainability of our farms, now is the time that we as producers need to work together to improve our situation.

The timing of the market conditions is beyond anyone's control. The process to initiate the licence fee increase started well over a year ago to get us to where we are today, and no one could have predicted the markets we have seen in 2019. Industry stakeholders have also told us how important it is to not only maintain market neutrality on all veal and beef licence fees, but also make implementation for industry partners seamless between veal and beef updates.

There is no doubt that 2019 has hit our farmers hard. While we can't fix all of the problems our sector is facing, the most significant way we can help you improve your bottom line is by growing demand for Ontario veal. The additional licence fees collected will be directed towards marketing initiatives aimed at developing an export market, engaging with retailers to showcase our product, and expanding programs that encourage consumers to incorporate Ontario veal into their meals both every day and on special occasions. As we create more opportunities to grow demand for Ontario veal and address industry issues with processing capacity, our farmers will feel the effects of a more stabilized market.

Our VFO Directors are also available to discuss these issues with you at any time; please reach out to any of us or contact our office and one of us will return your call. I also encourage you to attend our Annual General Meeting in Stratford, on March 11, 2020. A call for nominations is included in this issue of *The Connection*, and we truly hope you consider joining our board as we guide the Ontario dairy calf and veal industry through these uncertain times and further invest in the development of the Ontario veal cattle sector. Together, we will build a proactive and engaged dairy calf industry in Ontario. ■



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Jennifer Haley

Building a resilient Ontario veal sector

Working with our industry partners to create opportunities

Resiliency—‘the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties’. Are you feeling resilient these days? Many of you are asking how much more resilient do veal farmers need to be in 2019? Whether it is the late spring planting, the temperamental fall harvest, the shortage of straw or the volatile veal cattle markets—veal farmers have had their share of challenges this year. Those in agriculture have no choice but to adapt to some form of resiliency—it is how you survive.

News this fall of Ryding-Regency's licence suspension has only added to the pressures we are facing in our sector. As Ontario's only federally licenced veal processing plant, there is much at stake for our industry. The veal cattle that Ryding purchased has been displaced, customers have had to go elsewhere for their veal and future opportunities for Ontario veal processed at Ryding are on hold. VFO has been working with our industry partners at Beef Farmers of Ontario, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Meat & Poultry Ontario, and others to try and find solutions to bring Ryding back on-line.

However, Ryding's absence from the market has highlighted an even bigger issue of a shortage of cattle processing/harvest capacity in Eastern Canada. Our ability to remain resilient depends

on the viability and capacity of the entire supply chain, including our processors, and the cattle industry needs some short- and longer-term solutions to this capacity issue.

One of the tools veal farmers can use to help build resiliency into their business plan is the Veal Risk Management Program (RMP). The RMP has been a pillar program for Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) since its inception in 2009 because it provides veal producers a risk management tool against the volatile markets that are often out of our control. As part of the Minister's direction in the government's Spring 2019 Budget, the current Veal RMP is under review and VFO is working alongside staff at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) to ensure the fundamental principles of the program remain intact. There will no doubt be changes to the program for the 2021 program year, but a key principle that VFO believes is critically important for the Veal RMP moving forward is that RMP payments need to be available when veal farmers need it most.

Another important risk management tool is the Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program (BCFPP) and VFO has been working with OMAFRA on the changes that they want to see in this program as well. When payment

is defaulted to a producer, it is important that the BCFPP is there to help veal and beef farmers recover those losses in order to remain resilient. VFO believes it is important that the regulations outlining the time that producers are to be paid are enforced equally across all buyers of cattle.

The VFO has been working with the Canadian Veal Association and the Canadian Meat Council to address barriers for veal exports to the European Union. Together, we have been working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to develop protocols and programs that would provide an opportunity for veal to be exported from Canada to the European Union. While this will not happen overnight, having viable export markets for Canadian Veal is an important component of our industry's diversification and ultimately, resiliency.

As we enter in the holiday season, may we all take time to recharge our batteries with our family and friends, so that our resiliency meter is fully charged and ready for the start of 2020 and whatever the New Year may bring! ■



Join the VFO Board of Directors!

Call for nominations now open

The Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) Board of Directors is seeking interested dairy calf and veal producers to get involved in our organization. Your input into the future direction of the organization is vital to maintaining a strong and active voice for VFO. All voting producer members of VFO, with their membership in good standing, are eligible for nomination.

VFO directors are provided a meeting per diem of \$250/day and reimbursement for travel

expenses. Directors actively participate in approximately seven to nine board meetings per year (in-person and conference calls) held at our office in Guelph. Directors work on behalf of the Ontario dairy calf and veal sector on projects, issues, and initiatives that benefit the membership of the organization.

Interested candidates must complete a self-nomination form found at ontarioveal.on.ca and submit it by no later than January 31, 2020

for review by the Nominating Committee. There will be no nominations from the floor accepted. Elections, if required, will take place at the VFO Annual General Meeting & Producer Education Day on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 in Stratford, Ontario. ■

For more information, please contact:

Jennifer Haley, Executive Director at 519-824-2942 or jhaley@livestockalliance.ca



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Alternative bedding options for veal cattle

Megan Van Schaik, Beef Cattle Specialist

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Keeping veal cattle clean and dry is an important factor in maintaining cattle health and performance. While there are many options available for bedding material, decision-making is often dependent on availability, convenience, and cost. However, it is important to understand the full gamete of options for bedding material, and characteristics and management considerations for each option. It is especially important to consider all bedding options when the cost of conventional bedding materials become prohibitive and/or availability of bedding is limiting. This article intends to provide an overview of bedding options and factors that need to be considered when choosing a suitable type of bedding.

There are a number of considerations to take into account when selecting bedding material. Supply of any bedding type is an obvious one. Understanding availability from your home-grown inputs and/or suppliers and managing resources accordingly will prevent you from finding yourself in a bedding shortage. Alternative bedding options can help you stretch bedding inventories. Some bedding options may not be available depending on where you are located. Material handling and storage is another aspect to consider, taking into account labour efficiency, storage capacity, and matching storage and bedding type. Organic bedding material requires dry and clean storage conditions. It is also important to understand the impact of bedding materials on manure management. You must determine whether the introduction of a new

bedding material will impact manure handling equipment and how manure is handled, stored, applied, and/or composted.

Bedding material is intended to lend to cattle health, comfort and overall welfare. However, bacterial, chemical, and physical contaminants can present a health risk to cattle, to humans handling the bedding, and can potentially pose a food safety risk. Knowing how the bedding material was manufactured, handled, stored, and moved will help you assess and understand potential contamination risks.

The environmental impact of bedding choices is also important to take into account. Since bedding is most often land-applied, consideration must be given to what is being spread on fields, whether there are any adverse impacts on the environment (such as plastics that remain in the bedding), and the rate of decomposition of the bedding material. Composition of bedding material and rate of breakdown will dictate how long nutrients (such as nitrogen) are tied up and unavailable to the crop. Where crop residues are being used as bedding, it is important from a soil health perspective to ensure manure is targeted back to the fields from which the crop residue was harvested to maintain soil organic matter. For alternative bedding options, test for the presence of heavy metals and trace elements. Schedule 5 of Ontario Regulation 267/03 outlines the allowable concentrations for non-agricultural materials applied to agricultural land. A nutrient management consultant can help you interpret test results and advise on potential environmental impacts.

Finally, dry matter, particle size, and absorptiveness are quality characteristics of bedding that need to be considered. Using bedding with low moisture content is important from both a cattle health and comfort perspective. Bedding with low moisture content has decreased levels of microbial activity and provides better insulation during cool and damp weather. Wet bedding contributes to a wet hair coat, which leads to increased heat loss from the calf. Studies have shown that calves will choose dry bedding over wet bedding and thus wet bedding can lead to decreased lying. Particle size impacts bacterial populations in bedding, where bacteria have more opportunity to grow in finer material with more surface area. Absorbency of bedding material reflects its capacity to retain moisture from manure, urine, and other wastes. The absorbency factor represents the weight of water held per unit weight of material. Table 1 outlines examples of bedding materials and their respective absorbency factors. Keep in mind that initial dry matter (DM) content and degree of grinding will impact the absorbency of the material.

Studies have shown that wheat straw is a favourable bedding material for young calves. A deep bed of wheat straw enables young calves to nest and cope with cold and drafty conditions, and this reduces risk of respiratory disease and diarrhea due to preserved nutritional stores and immune function. Renaud et al. (2018) found that dairy farms that used long wheat straw had reduced odds of being classified as a high mortality source farm for veal calves. Similarly,



Table 1. Absorbency factor of various bedding materials, where initial initial DM >90%

Material	Type and form	Absorbency factor
Wheat straw	Baled	2.1
	Chopped	2.1
Barley straw	Baled	2.0
	Chopped	2.0
Oat straw	Baled	2.5
	Chopped	2.4
Hay	Baled	3.0
	Chopped	3.0
Sawdust	Hardwood	1.5
	Softwood (pine)	2.5
Shavings	Hardwood	1.5
	Softwood (pine)	2.0
Corn stover	Shredded	2.5
Sand	-	0.3
Shredded paper	Recycling facility	2.8

Adapted from Niraula et al. (2018): Alternative bedding materials for livestock

Hill et al. (2011) found that calves had higher average daily gain (ADG) when housed on a wheat straw bedding pack compared to sand bedding.

While wheat straw is considered to be the best bedding option for young calves, there are alternative bedding options on the market, some of which may be particularly suitable for older veal cattle. Shavings tend to be absorbent, insulating, and comfortable for calves. Sawdust is a similar product to shavings, but it does not enable nesting behavior to the same extent for young calves and is also a lung irritant. Sand is an inorganic bedding option that provides good drainage, comfort, and limits bacterial growth, but sand does not insulate well, is not suitable for young calves, and can increase wear on equipment. Shredded paper works well when it is used with other bedding sources, such as straw or shavings, but it needs to be kept dry. Corn stalks and soybean stubble can be used as a bedding source; however, it is important to consider that baling this material means that organic matter is removed from the field and the soil will be more vulnerable to erosion. In addition, the process of baling corn stocks can be finicky because corn stocks need to be baled dry and they can be hard on baling equipment. Although uptake of these bedding options has been low, miscanthus and low-land switchgrass are promising options for bedding as both have good absorptive capacity and ease of use for bedding. Conditioning helps to improve the absorptive capacity of these materials.

There are a number of factors that need to be considered when selecting suitable bedding materials for veal cattle. With any option, proper management of bedding will help to keep veal cattle clean, comfortable, and healthy. ■

References available upon request.

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Grain market review and outlook

Frank Backx
Hensall District Co-op

2019 will be a year remembered for all the wrong reasons. A wet spring led to late planting in many parts of Ontario. Then moisture was lacking in many key areas during the summer. A wet fall created major challenges to get the crops off. Overall, yields were not bumper.

Pricewise, it wasn't the best of years either. There was a rally that started in mid-May, seeing corn move up \$1.28 per bushel and soybeans gain \$1.40.

This was because the eastern grain belt in the US had the same planting conditions as much of Ontario. However, prices drifted back down by later summer and fall. It was tough for farmers to sell the rally, as there were serious concerns about how much crop they would harvest, therefore there wasn't a lot of crop marketed at the highs of the year.

The poorest yields in many years, and the low prices, will adversely affect 2019 Ontario net farm income. The cost of production only seems to head in one direction, which also affects this.

Besides the weather news which happens every year, the markets also had to deal with the US and China trade war. It has been going on for 18 months now. Markets fluctuated regularly on Trump's tweets. So far, nothing has been signed.

The tit for tat trade war hurt US exports, especially for soybeans, although China is buying more soybeans lately. China is also buying a lot of US pork to make up for their losses from African Swine Fever.

Looking ahead to 2020, I believe there are reasons for optimism. Firstly, there will likely be some concrete progress in the trade war.

In general terms, if grain carry outs (COs) are declining, prices are apt to be in an uptrend. According to USDA's latest report, the corn CO will fall nine per cent from 2.114 bln bu to 1.929 bln. The wheat CO will fall only marginally.

The soybean CO will show the largest decline, going from a record 913 mln bu for last year's crop to 460 mln this year. That's almost a 50 per cent drop.

While the drops in COs are constructive, the absolute numbers are still on the high side, unfortunately. In fact, there were only two years in the past 20 where soybean CO was higher than the 460 mln predicted for 2020, but at least the trend is in the right direction.

The lower COs do make the size of any subsequent crops that much more important. A weather hiccup in South America this winter would already be enough to cause a surge in prices.

Total world grain demand remains robust, despite the trade war and African Swine Fever, as the world population keeps growing.

Many countries, especially in Asia, are demanding more meat protein, as their countries grow and prosper. China, South Korea and Vietnam are good examples. India will also be a strong source of grain demand.

Carry out to usage ratios are more important than the actual supplies, as they incorporate demand. Corn is at 13.8 per cent, while soybeans are 11.4 per cent. These aren't excessive at all. World numbers are also looking more bullish.

Another reason for optimism is that current grain prices are not that far from their lowest levels in 10 years. I believe that increases the odds of a move up as opposed to a decline. The cost of production (land, machinery, variable costs, etc.) keep rising.

Farmers in the US are going broke at the highest rate since the high interest rates in the early 1980s. Ontario farmers are somewhat insulated by our weak dollar, but it's still tough out there.

The last big rally in Chicago was in 2012/13, and longer-term cycles show we are overdue for some better prices. As always, the timing of this is impossible to pinpoint, but the start of the next decade should present some better pricing opportunities than what we had this year. ■

Year in review: straw prices

Straw is a desired bedding choice for most veal farmers and that price contributes significantly to the bottom line of the cost of production. In 2018, straw pricing was around 7 cents a pound and in 2019 that price jumped to around 12 cents with some reports around 10 cents. It doesn't take much to use a pound of straw and with the concerns of E. coli, bedding is a key factor in production. An increase of 5 cents a pound adds up quickly.

Meloxicam research study findings support cattle withdrawal time for use in grain-fed veal production

In late 2018, Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) and the University of Guelph partnered on the *Meloxicam depletion study in dairy calves for grain-fed veal production*. This project was funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and aligns with VFO's commitment to responsible livestock care and handling, including the use of pain control.

Meloxicam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) approved for use as an anti-inflammatory and analgesic in cattle in Canada. Marketed as Metacam™ by Boehringer-Ingelheim, the product label carries the warning "do not to use in calves to be processed for veal as a withdrawal period has not been established for pre-ruminating calves". The withdrawal interval is the time after the last treatment before the animal may be safely processed for food.

The use of meloxicam in veal cattle in Canada is considered extra label, and the meat withdrawal time must be determined by the prescribing veterinarian. According to the Veterinary Drugs Directorate, the bovine maximum residue limit (MRL) for meloxicam in cattle can be applied to veal cattle, however the safe meat withdrawal interval has not been established, and it is therefore up to the discretion of the prescribing veterinarian to determine an appropriate withdrawal interval.

The project, led by Dr. Ron Johnson, Associate Professor, Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology, co-director of the Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (CgFARAD™) and Dr. Dave Renaud, Assistant Professor, University of Guelph, evaluated the tissue depletion of meloxicam in veal calves when injected subcutaneously at the approved label dose for meloxicam in calves. Calves were randomly assigned to receive meloxicam (Metacam® 20 mg/ml) at a dose of 0.5 mg of meloxicam per kg of body weight subcutaneously in the neck and were slaughtered at 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30 days after injection.

The results of the study found that there were no detectable levels of meloxicam in any of the tissue samples, at any of the slaughter time points. These findings support the approved cattle withdrawal time of at least 20 days when meloxicam injectable is used at the label dosage in grain-fed veal cattle.

"This is great news for the veal industry, and another example of the investment VFO makes to support our grain-fed veal producers," explains Tom Kroesbergen, VFO Chair. Prior to this research study, drug depletion data did not exist for meloxicam use for dairy calves raised for grain-fed veal.

The results of the study will be used by CgFARAD™ to assist prescribing veterinarians with the confident extra label use of meloxicam injectable in grain-fed veal cattle, while ensuring human food safety. This project also complements the work of the Canadian Veal Association and continues to show the value of the work that VFO accomplishes through joint efforts with our national counterparts. ■

This project was funded in part through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Agricultural Adaptation Council assists in the delivery of the Partnership in Ontario.



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Reducing the risk of E. coli O157:H7

Why clean hides matter



Daphne Nuys-Hall, Technical Director

Meat and Poultry Ontario

In the last few months there have been numerous recalls of beef and veal due to the potential presence of *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) O157:H7. These recalls have affected nearly 100 further processors, butcher shops, and retailers.

Product recalls, triggered by suspected contamination of E. coli O157:H7, can cost the industry millions of dollars. These recalls are expensive to packers, processors, and retailers, and costs are inevitably passed on to producers. In addition to direct costs, it is estimated that any food safety incident, whether real or perceived, that causes concern in consumers results in reduced prices and lost sales for three to six months or longer.

Meat contaminated with E. coli O157:H7 may not look or smell spoiled but can still make people sick. This pathogen is dangerous to

humans, especially those with an immature or weakened immune system, because it produces a toxin that can cause severe illness and even death. Cattle are the primary source of E. coli O157:H7. Contamination of beef carcasses with E. coli O157:H7 occurs during slaughtering and dressing procedures, especially de-hiding and evisceration.

To mitigate the risk of E. coli O157:H7 contamination in provincially licensed abattoirs, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) implemented mandatory requirements for meat plant operators to implement microbial control interventions as of July 1, 2019, to control E. coli on beef and veal carcasses and enhance the production of safe beef and veal meat products for consumers.

A range of options for interventions were made

available for meat plant operators to choose from, including hot water, acid rinses, and dry aging. However, these interventions only reduce the microbial load, they do not eradicate it. Even the highest standards of abattoir hygiene and use of interventions cannot guarantee to prevent contamination of the carcass and cross-contamination of nearby carcasses during dressing. Research results have shown that the dirtier the hide, the greater the potential for carcass contamination and the higher the risk to human health.

Mud and manure caked on calves isn't healthy for them nor for the consumer. Incoming calves with visible mud or contamination on the hide may have high levels of E. coli O157:H7, therefore it is extremely important that the calves received at the abattoir are as clean as possible.

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Mud Scoring System

- 1 = no tag, clean hide (0)
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- 3 = small and large lumps of mud in large areas of the legs, side and underbelly (12.8)
- 4 = small and large lumps of mud in even larger areas along the hindquarter, stomach and front shoulder (NA)
- 5 = lumps of manure on hide continuously on the underbelly and side of the animal from front to rear (23.2)
- () = pounds of mud on animal

Credit - Ramsey & Allen, 1975

Mud and Manure Score 1



Mud and Manure Score 4



Photos credit Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

As recommended by the Verified Veal Program (VVP), '75 per cent of calves on-farm must have no more than 30 per cent of their abdomen covered in manure'.

Producing clean calves for slaughter can be a difficult task, as calf cleanliness can also be affected by diet, housing, calf health, weather conditions, and the cost of bedding materials. The VVP also recommends the following to keep calves sufficiently clean, including their flanks and legs:

1. Keep calves bedded (adjust your bedding needs accordingly to prevent calves from lying in manure)
2. Avoid overcrowding
3. Clip calves with long hair

In an effort to reduce the likelihood of contamination during the dressing and evisceration process, abattoir operators may implement a "mud/dust scoring system" that will help them to identify problem calves at receiving and allow for adjustment to the slaughter process to minimize or prevent contamination. This could include segregating the dirtier animals and processing them at the end, reducing the line speed so that employees can take more time to dress the carcass, adding more trimmers on the production line or using a hide-on carcass wash to remove excess organic matter and reduce airborne particles.

It is important that you work with your abattoir on pre-slaughter management practices aimed at reducing E. coli O157:H7 load in your calves. Cleanliness of calves presented for slaughter contributes to the production of safe meat, minimizes the risk to human health, improves the shelf life of the meat, increases consumer confidence, and protects industry's reputation and investment. ■

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Maximizing the effectiveness of vaccine programs to contend winter pneumonia risk

Dr. Cynthia Miltenburg, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Dr. David Renaud, Ontario Veterinary College

Bovine Respiratory Disease (often abbreviated to BRD or pneumonia) can be a challenge for anyone raising cattle. The Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) routinely summarizes lab results from samples submitted to veterinary laboratories to look for disease trends, grouping animals as young calves less than two months, calves two months to two years, and mature cattle greater than two years. Within Ontario, data from calves two months to two years of age indicate that the number one cause of death identified from post-mortem samples is pneumonia. Last year we noted that the number of postmortems for BRD doubled between November and January. This seasonal risk for BRD has been replicated in research studies, including a project that sampled Ontario dairy calves and found those born in the winter had three times greater risk of requiring treatment for BRD compared to calves born in the summer.

BRD results when many factors are stacked on top of each other, overwhelming the healthy state. Think of it as piling too many items on a teeter-totter, causing it to flip. Some of the factors that might stack up against a calf include the abundance of bacteria and viruses present in the environment or herdmates to infect the calf, the environment the calf lives in, and the ability of the calf to fight infection. Veal calves have additional risk factors as these calves are often transported and mixed from multiple sources.

The key to preventing respiratory disease involves piling enough items on the other side of the teeter-totter to flip it back. Again, we can think of this in terms of the environment, the bacteria and viruses, and the ability of the calf to resist infection. Looking at the environment, this means maintaining good housing and ventilation, avoiding overcrowding, minimizing pen movements, and making sure bedding is clean and dry. Important steps to build up the calf's immune system include ensuring calves receive enough good quality colostrum to pass tests checking for failure of passive transfer, and providing adequate feed, water and rest, especially after transport. Feeding enough milk is key, particularly in colder weather.

The presence of bacteria and viruses sometimes feels out of our control, but there are strategies that can be used to reduce their pressure on young calves. Part of this is addressed by maintaining a clean, well-ventilated environment, but even healthy calves have viruses and bacteria in their respiratory tract. Another tool that can be used to prepare the calf for the pathogens they might face is using an appropriate vaccination program.

Young calves get their first immunity from their dam when they receive colostrum. Antibodies in the colostrum are absorbed through the gut and provide protection for the calf in the first few weeks of life. The presence of these antibodies is critical for the calf, but in the

first few weeks of life, they also interfere with using traditional vaccines which are injected in the muscle or under the skin. These types of vaccines which are called parenteral, require the immune system to recognize the vaccine and make antibodies, however the mother's antibodies stop this process from happening. This is called maternal interference and is the reason why parenteral vaccines may not be useful in young calves.

There is research to support using intranasal vaccines against respiratory viruses in young calves. These vaccines are given as a nasal spray and act directly on the respiratory tract where viruses could cause infection. By using an intranasal vaccine, a local immune response is initiated, releasing antibodies directly onto the mucosa where they block viruses from attaching. However, because these vaccines do less to prime the immune system, immunity doesn't last as long as parenteral vaccines. Many programs involve giving the vaccine at the time of arrival with a booster given later on, based on other stresses such as weaning or moving. Each herd might need to time this a bit differently and should therefore involve a conversation with your herd veterinarian.

Parenteral vaccines are useful at a later age when the maternal antibody levels have decreased, and the calf is capable of mounting a more appropriate response. Again, timing likely depends on other stresses or changes

happening, and the history of respiratory disease on the farm. If pneumonia does occur, it's important to speak with your herd veterinarian to evaluate which bacteria or viruses are involved and to ensure the vaccination program and any antimicrobial treatments are appropriate for the type of infectious agents causing disease.

No matter how the vaccine program is designed, it is important to stay consistent. Ensuring each calf receives the vaccination they are due for is key to protecting each and every calf. With extra attention on antimicrobial use, many producers are enhancing their vaccination program. Giving multiple vaccines at once may reduce their effectiveness, and adding more vaccines is not necessarily the right answer. It's about choosing the right vaccine for the risk calves are facing and delivering it at the right time to provide needed protection. ■



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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Finance options for crop, livestock, and equipment purchases

Erich Weber, Business Finance Specialist
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

It is always a good idea to review all aspects of your farm operation. One of the most important aspects that you need to understand and consider, is how your crop, livestock, and equipment purchases will be financed. Having a plan will allow you to make timely decisions about your farm, especially when you are focusing on field or barn work during the growing season. In this article we will look at some of the different financing options that are available to veal farmers.

Advanced Payment Program – Crop and livestock

The Advanced Payment Program (APP) is administered by the Agricultural Credit Corporation and is used by farmers to help finance their crop and livestock input costs. Maximum loan request is \$400,000 with the first \$100,000 interest free and the remaining \$300,000 at prime rate of interest. This program will provide funds up to 50 per cent of the market value of your crop or livestock. The APP loan is repaid once the crop or livestock has been sold. Due to recent changes, the maximum loan requests have changed based on what crop or livestock you produce, contact the Agriculture Credit Corporation for more details. For more information about the APP program, you can call 1-888-278-8807 or visit: agcreditcorp.ca/advance_payments_program

Commodity Loan Program – Crop only

The Commodity Loan Program (CLP) is very similar to the APP. Maximum CLP loan is \$750,000 with an interest rate of prime. There is no interest free component of the CLP loan. The value of the CLP loan is based on 75 per cent of the market value of your

crop. Livestock is not eligible for the CLP. For more information about the CLP visit: omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/commodityloanguaranteeprogram.htm

Lines of credit – Crop and livestock

A line of credit is used to provide funding to cover cash flow shortages, or inventory that would be sold within a year. Most lines of credit have variable interest rates depending on the contract. The payment terms of a line of credit are usually interest only. From a tax perspective, interest that was paid on a line of credit is fully deductible. Most financial institutions offer line of credit products to farmers.

Equipment leases – Equipment only

Another financing option is to lease equipment. There are two main types of equipment leases: operating or capital. An operating lease is where you would pay monthly payments but do not own the asset. In a capital lease, there is a monthly payment as well as a buyout option at the end of the lease. If you choose to own the asset, you complete the buyout option which can be as low as a \$1.00 payment, depending on the lease agreement. Most leases that are used in the agriculture industry are capital leases. From a tax perspective, you do not own the piece of equipment, until you make use of the buyout option in a capital lease. Over the life of the lease (capital or operating), the monthly payments would be fully deductible.

Term loans – Crop, livestock, and equipment

Term loans are normally amortized over a period of one to 10 years. Term loans are

mainly used to purchase equipment, but can be used to purchase crop inputs, feed, or livestock depending on the length of the loan. Not matching the asset life to the term of the loan could lead to a possible cash crunch. Interest rates for term loans can be variable or fixed depending on the agreement. Depending on the loan, payments can be made bi-weekly, monthly, semi-annually, or annually. In addition, payment terms can be either blended payment (principal and interest) or interest only with the balance of the loan paid at the end of the term.

Selecting the best option for financing

One of the most important factors that will need to be considered when looking at financing options is debt suitability. Debt suitability is ensuring that the terms of the debt are similar to the life of the asset. For example, using your line of credit to purchase a new combine would lead to a cash crunch in the future as the life span of a combine is longer than one year. But using the line of credit to purchase calves would be more suitable as the timeline to raise veal would be within that one-year period. Not matching the terms of the debt to the lifespan of the asset, increases the risk that a farmer will have to suddenly pay the remaining balance of the debt. In the case of purchasing a combine, a term loan or lease would be more suitable than using a line of credit.

In conclusion, there are multiple options available to veal farmers on how to finance various aspects of your operation. Planning ahead to understand your financing needs and suitable options for financing is critical to your bottom line. ■

Planning shipping around the holidays

This chart lists religious holiday dates to assist with shipping planning. For veal farmers who plan their shipping, taking holiday timing into consideration is important, as it does affect pricing. For example, Easter is a time of the year when the processing plants are very busy with the harvest of lambs and kids, leaving little room in the cooler for veal.

This chart will help producers to plan accordingly, and time their purchase of male dairy calves or pre-conditioned calves by determining if they will be ready for market around a holiday. This information applies regardless of your preferred shipping method, direct to packer or to the sales barn. Prices reflect cooler space availability.

Note: Dates may vary based on religious calendar observed. Also note that some holidays are observed over several days. Consult with your buyer to ensure accuracy. ■

Holidays		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Christian	Epiphany	Monday, Jan. 6	Wednesday, Jan. 6	Thursday, Jan. 6	Friday, Jan. 6	Saturday, Jan. 6
	Western Roman Easter	Sunday, April 12	Sunday, April 4	Sunday, April 17	Sunday, April 9	Sunday, March 31
	Eastern Orthodox Easter	Sunday, April 19	Sunday, May 2	Sunday, April 24	Sunday, April 16	Sunday, May 5
	Christmas	Friday, Dec. 25	Saturday, Dec. 25	Sunday, Dec. 25	Monday, Dec. 25	Wednesday, Dec. 25
Jewish	Passover/Pesach	Thursday, April 9	Sunday, March 28	Saturday, April 16	Thursday, April 6	Tuesday, April 23
	Rosh Hashanah	Saturday, Sept. 19	Tuesday, Sept. 7	Monday, Sept. 26	Saturday, Sept. 16	Thursday, Oct. 3
	Hanukkah	Friday, Dec. 11	Monday, Nov. 29	Monday, Dec. 19	Friday, Dec. 8	Thursday, Dec. 26
Islamic	Ramadan	Friday, April 24	Tuesday, April 13	Sunday, April 3	Thursday, March 23	Monday, March 11
	Eid ul-Fitr	Sunday, May 24	Thursday, May 13	Tuesday, May 3	Saturday, April 22	Wednesday, April 10
	Eid ul-Adha	Friday, July 31	Tuesday, July 20	Sunday, July 10	Thursday, June 2	Monday, June 17
	Muharram	Thursday, Aug. 20	Tuesday, Aug. 10	Saturday, July 30	Wednesday, July 19	Monday, July 8
	Mawlid al-Nabi	Thursday, Oct. 29	Tuesday, Oct. 19	Saturday, Oct. 8	Wednesday, Sept. 27	Monday, Sept. 16
Hindu	Navadurgara or Navatra Dashara or Dassai	Saturday, Oct. 17	Wednesday, Oct. 6	Monday, Sept. 26	Monday, Oct. 5	Thursday, Oct. 3
	Diwali	Saturday, Nov. 14	Thursday, Nov. 4	Monday, Oct. 24	Sunday, Nov. 12	Thursday, Oct. 31



CVA proposes increase to veal carcass weight

The Canadian Veal Association (CVA) has partnered with the Canadian Beef Grading Agency (CBGA) to propose amendments that would see an increase in the maximum weight of a veal carcass from 180kg to 190kg.

The comment period for this proposal will close on December 20, when the CBGA will analyze the feedback and comments in order to proceed with the proposed amendments. It is expected that proposed changes, if supported, could potentially be in place for Spring 2020.

"This proposed weight change has been a long time coming," stated CVA President Bob Wynands. "The CVA has been waiting for the regulatory process to be in place to provide the opportunity to make this change," he added.

For background, on January 21, 2017, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) published, for public comment, its proposed Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR). The proposed Regulations would consolidate 13 existing food commodity regulations, including the *Livestock and Poultry Carcass Grading Regulations*, into a single food regulation. The SFCR also recognized that the CBGA would be responsible for maintaining, according to the conditions outlined in a Memorandum of Agreement between CBGA and CFIA, the grade standards and requirements for beef, bison and veal carcass grading. This means that CBGA would have the ability to amend or update the beef, bison or veal grading standards without the need for a formal regulatory amendment.

This would provide a more expeditious amendment process.

On January 15, 2019, the SFCR came into force, which meant that the CBGA could now finally consider amendments to the *Livestock and Poultry Carcass Grading Regulations*. The CVA is a member of the Livestock Grades Requirement Standing Committee. The CVA's proposal for the weight change is the first one to be considered under this new process.

The last time a change was made in the veal carcass weights was back in 2001. At the time, the current veal carcass weights were part of a 'sunset clause' that if not ratified, would have reverted to a smaller veal carcass weight. "There was a lot of red tape and processes to follow just to keep what we already had in place because of the regulatory process we had to follow at the time," explained VFO Executive Director Jennifer Haley. "This new process has made it much easier to propose and eventually implement," she added.

The additional 10kg would give veal processors and veal producers some flexibility to deal with veal cattle that go 'over-weight', while still meeting market demands. The veal industry has been plagued with 'over-weight' cattle raised with the intention for the veal market but once processed, is over the maximum carcass weight for a veal carcass. The carcass then becomes 'ungraded beef' for the processor and the producer is discounted as a result.

At the same time, it is important to understand

that the proposed maximum weight of 190kg for a veal carcass means that there is still 'a line in the sand' and that anything above this will be considered beef. For the veal industry to take advantage of this opportunity, it will be critically important that veal weights are closely monitored. Together, producers and processors will need to manage inventories and processing times in order to maximize on this opportunity.

The CVA has issued a warning to both producers and processors to manage this extra 10kg as it is intended to provide flexibility in the veal supply chain and processing system. Producers and processors should still be targeting a 180kg carcass but with the additional 10kg, it means that there is some flexibility that should help both producers and processors if utilized properly.

"If everyone pushes right to 190kg for every head they ship we will be back where we started with a huge 'ungraded beef' problem and no further ahead as a result," stated VFO Chair Tom Kroesbergen. "We all need to work together in our industry to be able to really take advantage of this opportunity," he added.

Industry partners and stakeholders including cattle organizations, processors, retailers and foodservice operations have all endorsed this proposal because of the flexibility it will provide the supply chain. Once more details are available regarding implementation dates and timing it will be shared with all industry partners. ■

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Driving **demand** for veal

The Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) consumer promotions strategy is multi-faceted in order to strategically target opportunities to drive demand for Ontario and Canadian veal while stretching and maximizing our budget.

Driving demand for veal is perhaps one of the best returns on investment for our members throughout the entire production supply chain. While consumption of veal is relatively lower in comparison to beef, pork or chicken, if consumers were to increase their veal eating opportunities by even one more meal it will have a larger impact on our sector.

As part of our strategy, VFO has been targeting foodservice with the education of culinary students; industry stakeholders, including retailers; and social media aligned with our key veal consumer demographics. In addition to this, VFO and the Canadian Veal Association (CVA) have partnered with Canada Beef to promote Canadian Veal. Here is an example of some of these initiatives:



Veal Culinary Education Program

The Ontario Veal Appeal team has kicked off the new and updated 2019 Veal Culinary Education Program with visits so far to Humber College, Algonquin College, Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa Chef School, and Centennial College. The seminar is a mixture of veal farming and production practices, veal attributes, as well as veal cooking demonstrations and offering veal samples for tasting.

With the help of Chef Stefan and Chef David,

culinary students are being exposed to traditional veal recipes as well as modern plating presentations. Our market research shows that consumers prefer to eat veal in a restaurant, so it is important to make sure our future chefs and restaurant operators are familiar with Ontario veal and include it on their menus. The feedback from students and chef instructors has been very positive with many expressing how much they never knew about veal.

Meat & Poultry Ontario Expo

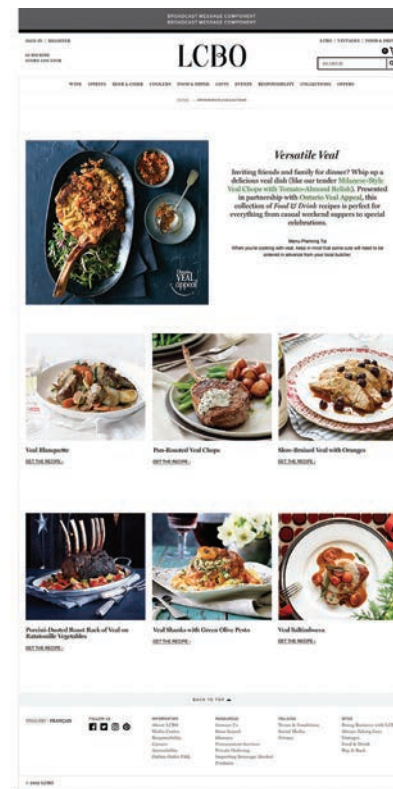
VFO participated in the Meat & Poultry Expo held in Niagara Falls at the end of October. This was an opportunity to support our provincial meat plants and processors while at the same time connect with industry stakeholders and retailers about Ontario veal.

Getting Social with LCBO

Launching in time for the holiday entertaining season, Ontario Veal Appeal has partnered with the LCBO to promote veal recipes alongside wine and craft beer pairings. The LCBO is a key consumer demographic for our promotions—the wine and the veal consumer share very similar traits and attributes. Combine this with the drive to social media for recipe ideas



Veal Escalopes alla Pizzaiola



and meal inspirations, and the goal is to raise the level of awareness for veal! Our market research tells us that veal is often served as a special occasion meal or as part of entertaining planning, so we are bringing the information right to the consumer's fingertips!

You can follow @lcbo on Instagram, Twitter or facebook and you can check out the website at:

lcbo.com/content/lcbo/en/food-and-drink/versatile-veal.html



Promoting Canadian Veal through Canada Beef partnership

VFO and the CVA have partnered with Canada Beef to highlight and promote Canadian Veal as part of the Canada Beef network. This is a fantastic partnership that extends the reach of veal even farther to consumer and industry stakeholders through Canada Beef's already proven infrastructure. Strategically, it allows VFO to maximize opportunities to raise awareness for the veal category in order to drive demand.

Grocery Innovations Canada Tradeshow

The CVA was part of the Canadian Beef & Veal Pavilion organized by Canada Beef at the Grocery Innovation Canada (GIC) tradeshow held in Toronto in October. This was an opportunity for the CVA to better understand the resources required to participate in shows of this nature as well as get important industry feedback on what retailers are looking for in order to promote veal sales across Canada.



Independent Retailer Operators Program

The Independent Retailer Operators Program (IROP) is a new point of purchase merchandising kit created by Canada Beef and Canadian Veal and in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers (CFIG). The kit provides retailers with case dividers, on-package stickers, channel strips and a beef and veal consumer recipe booklet. The goal is to provide independent retailers with beef and veal marketing support that they otherwise would not be able to do on their own. The IROP is available to all retailers across Canada free of charge.

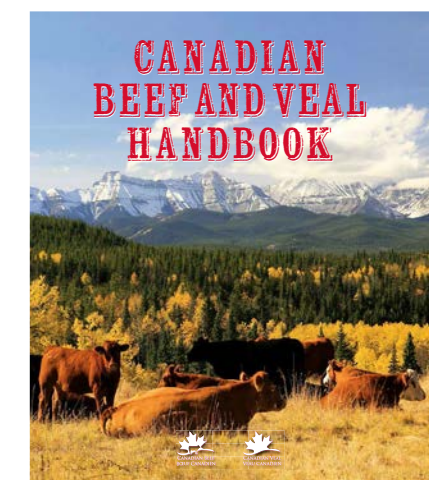
Minced Meat Trio recipe booklet

In an effort to promote minced (ground) meat to consumers, Canada Beef and Canadian Veal along with Canada Pork and the Canadian Meat Council, put together a 'Minced Meat Trio' e-booklet featuring beef, veal, and pork recipes. By partnering with Canada Beef and Canada Pork, Canadian Veal is able to reach more consumers and raise the level of awareness for our product.



Canadian Beef and Veal Handbook

As part of the outreach to potential international customers of Canadian Beef and Veal, a new and updated 'Canadian Beef and Veal Handbook' has been produced and coordinated by the team at Canada Beef with contributions from the CVA. The handbook has been distributed to various industry stakeholders who specialize in export as well as federally licenced beef and veal processors. ■



INDUSTRY updates



VFO moderates dynamic farmer panel at Producer Day

Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) was a proud sponsor of Producer Day, a one-day special event from the organizers of the *Smart Calf Rearing Conference*, held November 2 at the University of Guelph. This farmer-focused session showcased current research and new approaches to dairy calf nutrition, welfare and health. The program also featured a panel of accomplished dairy farmers from across North America. Kendra Keels, VFO's Industry Development Director, moderated the conversation as they shared their top calf-rearing tips and fielded questions from the audience.

VFO reviews proposed Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act

The Government of Ontario has recently released the proposed Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act that if passed, will come into effect January 1, 2020. Announced by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, the bill is currently in its second reading.

VFO is pleased with the progress on this issue. Together with our fellow livestock commodity organizations, we have worked on this issue in hopes of an Act that would contribute to the development of a long-term animal

welfare model that would be positive for all stakeholders. If approved, this Act will be a key component of the proposed new animal welfare system.

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) abdicated their powers at the end of June, leaving the livestock industry wondering how this would all play out. VFO has been involved with the consultation process and is currently reviewing the Act for comments.

We look forward to continued interaction between industry and government as we review the proposed PAWS Act and learn more about the impacts on the Ontario veal sector. Producers will be updated as more information becomes available.

VFO visits Queen's Park to discuss RMP

On November 4, members of the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) spent the day at Queen's Park meeting with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and their staff to discuss the importance of the Risk Management Program (RMP) to the livestock sector in Ontario. In addition to meetings held throughout the day with key MPPs, the OASC also hosted a lunch reception featuring veal, pork and beef, to have a more informal opportunity to discuss how we can work together to make agriculture in Ontario more sustainable and resilient for generations to come.

The OASC, comprised of Beef Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Pork and VFO was established in 2009 to develop and implement the RMP. Since OASC's inception, VFO has been represented by Judy Dirksen on the OASC committee. This year, she was joined at Queen's Park by VFO Vice Chair Pascal Bouilly and VFO Director Cameron Knip.

Dairy production students enthusiastic about veal

Kendra Keels, VFO's Industry Development Director, spoke to 100 students at the University of Guelph's Ridgetown Campus on November 13. She helped dispel myths about veal production, shared the work VFO does to support calf care, and created partnerships with the next generation of calf-raisers.



Ontario government reviews Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program

Ontario's Spring 2019 budget committed the government to a review of the financial protection programs for both beef and grain. As part of this review, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has proposed a number of possible changes to how the Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program (BCFPP) is both administered and adjudicated.

One of the biggest changes is that OMAFRA will download all administrative costs associated with the program. Currently the BCFPP board pays the costs associated with adjudicating a claim but under the proposal, the fund would also pay all costs associated with licencing of dealers, assessment of financial responsibility of dealers, and all legal and investigative costs associated with the claims process.

Moving forward, VFO believes that if all administrative costs are being downloaded to the fund by OMAFRA, then the fund should have the ability to recoup these costs from the security held on licenced dealers. VFO also believes that OMAFRA needs to ensure effective enforcement of the current regulations that outline the time to pay by a licenced dealer. The time to pay on the purchase of cattle and whether the buyer is upholding the regulations on an ongoing basis should be a key performance indicator used in the annual re-licencing process.

The BCFPP is an important risk management tool for veal farmers. OMAFRA is now analyzing feedback from stakeholders so that it can bring some short-term changes into force by January 2020.

Dairy Cattle Code

The Code Development Committee met in late September to discuss draft updates to the health, feed and water, and euthanasia chapters. The analysis from the survey asking for top-of mind thoughts on dairy cattle welfare is now available at bit.ly/2NW3FiD. The committee reviewed this input again as each chapter was considered. Beyond specific updates to the Code, all sections are being looked at with an eye to adding supporting context for requirements and recommended practices and highlighting research results, particularly studies published since the release of the 2009 Code of Practice.

As part of a preliminary discussion on pre-transport considerations, the committee heard an overview of the new transportation regulations and considered key themes/recommendations in reports on cull cow management and male dairy calf marketing, recently published by the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Transportation

Through the Canadian Veal Association (CVA), VFO has been working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on clarification of the new transportation regulations coming into effect February 20, 2020. The new regulations will change how male dairy calves are moved throughout Canada.

Of special note, calves less than eight days of age will not be permitted to be transported through an auction sale or assembly yard and calves that are not fed exclusively on grain and hay will not be able to be transported longer than 12 hours from the time of the last feeding.

In addition to the amended regulations the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) is in the process of updating the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Transportation*. The updated code is expected to be complete by 2023. ■



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Focusing on disease prevention to fight resistance

The FAAST Initiative



Rachel Genore-Roche

ACER Consulting

It's safe to say that we all strive to do what we can to prevent disease in our animals. But sometimes, even with comprehensive health management programs, disease can creep in. Traditionally, antimicrobials have been an important tool that have helped us control pathogens and respond to issues like bovine respiratory disease and diarrhea in calf-rearing operations. But what if the drugs we are accustomed to using to treat and resolve common conditions are no longer effective? This is a reality we might face due to antimicrobial resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance refers to bacteria and other microorganisms that can survive in the presence of drugs (like antibiotics) that are designed to kill them. Resistance is one of the biggest challenges we face in livestock agriculture. Without action, this growing threat will affect our ability to treat health conditions with the medications that are available to us. In order to address this problem, we must continue to improve our disease prevention practices.

The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, ACER Consulting and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) have teamed up to develop the *Farmed Animal Antimicrobial Stewardship (FAAST) Initiative*. FAAST is an online hub designed to help livestock producers and veterinarians be better stewards of antimicrobials and improve disease prevention practices. It offers a variety of tools and resources on biosecurity and animal health strategies to reduce the use of antimicrobials in our food producing animals without compromising health, production, or food safety. These

resources are available at amstewardship.ca.

As part of this initiative, online learning modules, called FAAST Reviews, are being developed. Each one is designed to provide producers and veterinarians with simple, science-based tools, tips, and strategies to improve animal health and reduce the use of antimicrobials in the species they work with. One of the latest species-specific FAAST Reviews is focused on the Ontario veal industry.

Antimicrobial Stewardship in the Ontario veal industry

Calves face a unique set of challenges when they are transported from the dairy farm to a veal operation. The *Antimicrobial stewardship in the Ontario veal industry FAAST Review* discusses how you can design a disease prevention program to set calves up for success in their transition from the dairy farm to the veal facility. This module also includes:

- Factors upon purchase that can impact calf health and productivity such as body weight, dehydration, and umbilical infections
- Alternatives to group antimicrobial treatment, how to boost calf immunity, and reduce disease entry
- How to treat cases of bovine respiratory disease to maximize animal health and production

Of particular interest to Ontario's veal producers is a podcast featuring a conversation with Dr. Reny Lothrop. Dr. Lothrop has a wealth of knowledge and experience working with veal producers and is always happy to share. The

FAAST team is also sitting down with Dr. Marissa Hake, a veal veterinarian from Michigan with an educational social media presence, and who strongly advocates for the veal industry. Stay tuned for her podcast as it will be up soon.

Visit amstewardship.ca/faast-reviews to view what FAAST has to offer. A number of other online modules are available, which are applicable to all livestock producers.

Introduction to livestock medicines

This is an updated version of OMAFRA's original Livestock Medicines course. Topics such as the classes of antimicrobials, how they work, storage, administration, and handling, and how to read labels are covered. It's your guide to using medicines safely and to ensure we obtain optimal animal health and food safety.

Antimicrobial stewardship

This FAAST Review walks through how producers can work with their veterinarian to reduce the use of antimicrobials without compromising animal health. We can do this by following the 5 R's of antimicrobial stewardship:

- Responsibility: developing standard operating procedures and ensuring farm staff are trained for the administration of medication in livestock, as well as treatment protocols to ensure medications are used appropriately
- Reduction: this covers reducing the need for antimicrobials by increasing biosecurity measures to limit the entry of disease on the farm, as well as good animal husbandry

practices to keep animals healthy

- Refinement: finding the right drug, for the right condition, at the right dosage to ensure treatment success
- Replacement: using vaccines and preventative strategies to prevent illness whenever possible
- Review: monitoring and recording treatments to benchmark and identify areas for improvement while fostering continuous improvement

Regulations on antimicrobial use and access

This FAAST Review discusses current regulations relating to antimicrobial use and access. Check this FAAST Review out to learn more about how to set up a veterinary-client-patient relationship, and guidelines on antimicrobial use and access.

The FAAST initiative also features an up-to-date news feed, videos describing antimicrobial use and stewardship, as well as podcasts from veterinarians and experts representing several commodity groups.

The Farmed Animal Antimicrobial Stewardship Initiative aims to tackle resistance head on through education, collaboration, and engagement across the value chain. Our mission is to help Ontario veterinarians, producers, and their representative organizations. Visit us at amstewardship.ca or contact us at info@amstewardship.ca. This project is funded in part through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

Everyone who uses or prescribes antimicrobials has a role to play in fighting the spread of antimicrobial resistance. ■



Add seaweed to your veal calves' nutrition program and see the results for yourself!



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Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas
Happy Holidays and all the
best for the New Year

VEAL
Farmers
of Ontario

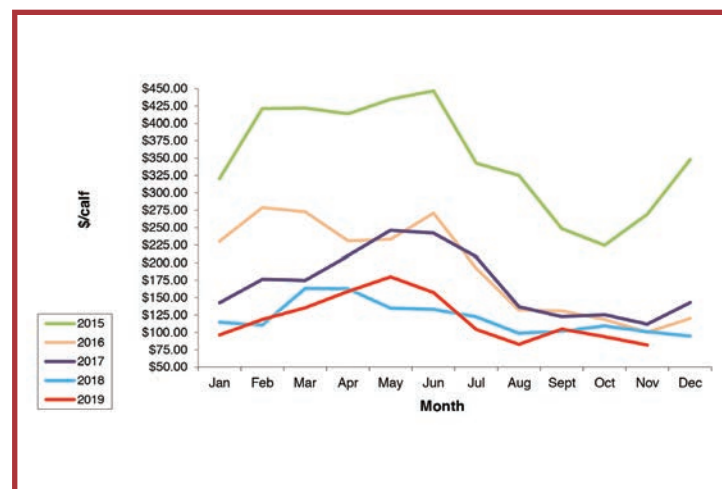




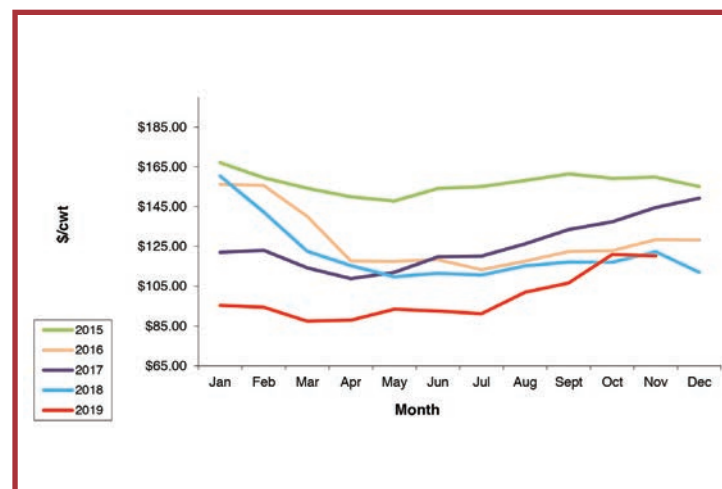
Veal Market Information

Veal market data is collected electronically from Ontario sales barns.

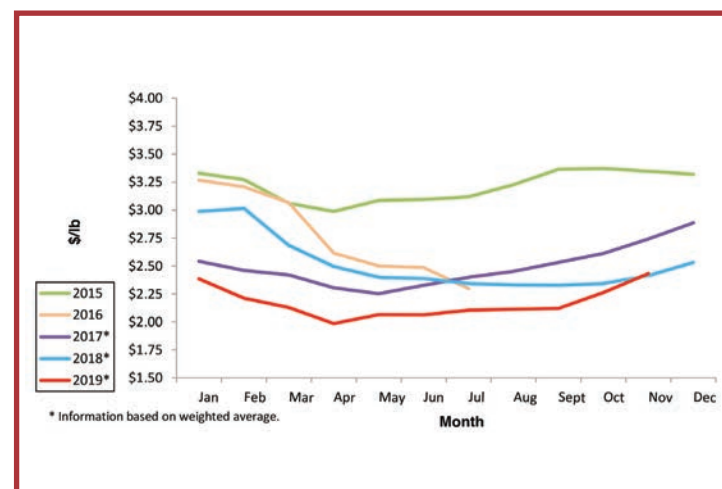
Bob Calf Pricing



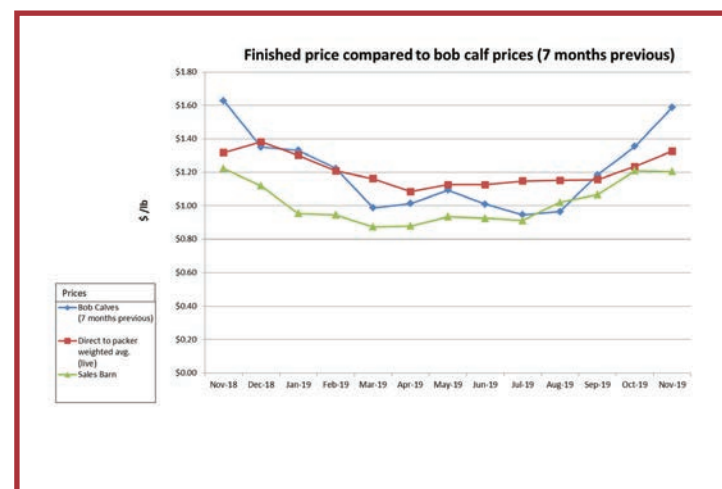
Sale Barn Veal Pricing



Rail Grade Veal Pricing



Finished 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 veal licence fees (check-off) on behalf of the farmers they are collecting from.

If you are selling bob calves from your dairy farm, the \$5.50 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. Please contact the Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) office to ensure we have your updated contact information, including your e-mail address.

If you are dealing with an unlicenced dealer, you are not protected under the Ontario Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program (OBCFPP). 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, check the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) website at bit.ly/omafralicenceddealers or contact 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 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 visit bit.ly/licencefeeforms or contact the VFO office.

Ontario Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program

Agricorp became the new Delivery Agent of the OBCFPP and Administrator for the Livestock Financial Protection Board. All communication, including but not limited to: Late Payments Reports, Claims to the Fund, and Licencing inquiries, must be directed to Agricorp. Visit bit.ly/agricorp or call 1-888-247-4999 for more information. ■

THE Connection

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Wednesday, March 11, 2020

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