

ASK THE EXPERT

Virtual Speaker Series



Join Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) during the month of March for a series of webinars featuring expert speakers on young calf, veal cattle, and business management. All webinars will be held via Zoom from 12:00 to 1:10 p.m. EST/EDT.



Title sponsor

Draft program

Speakers

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Feedlot disorders: Acidosis, bloat, founder, etc.

Ruminal acidosis is a common metabolic disorder that has significant economic implications in the grain-fed veal industry. The impact of acidosis can be as mild as reduced feed intake and reduced gain or as severe as death of the animal but in most cases, acidosis is devastating to both cattle and the economics of feeding cattle. Learn more about what causes acidosis, recognizing the signs, and how to reduce instances of bloat, founder, and liver abscesses in this talk with Dr. Drew Vermeire, as he shares the real key to prevention and why viewing management practices through the lens of maintaining rumen pH can help avoid feedlot disorders, improve cattle performance and lower cost-of-gain.



Dr. Drew A. Vermeire, Ph.D., PAS, Dipl. ACAN
Nouriche Nutrition LLC

Dr. Drew A. Vermeire, also known as “The Calf Guru” is an internationally recognized calf nutritionist working with veal, dairy beef, replacement heifer calves, and beef cattle. Originally from Kansas City, he has worked throughout the U.S., as well as Canada, and Europe.

“Dr. Drew” earned his B.S. Agr., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in animal nutrition, from The Ohio State University, and has been involved in animal nutrition, management, and research for more than 30 years. He is a member of the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) since 1990 and is a reviewer for the *Journal of Dairy Science*. He became a member of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists in 1996 and was one of less than 300 nutritionists world-wide to earn the status of Diplomate of the American College of Animal Nutrition in 2001.

Dr. Drew conducts research with calves and consults with both corporate and producer clients. He has been a frequent speaker at conferences and meetings for veal, dairy beef, and replacement heifers and he is currently writing a book on calf nutrition and management.

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Welcome to DairyTrace

DairyTrace is an important program that can be used as part of an effective livestock traceability system. This presentation will be an introduction to the DairyTrace program, and the many benefits you as a veal farmer can receive. Melissa will share how to use the DairyTrace portal, and the additional projects being worked on within the program.



Melissa Hurst
DairyTrace Program Manager
Lactanet Canada

Melissa Hurst leads Lactanet Canada’s DairyTrace program. Melissa works with clients and stakeholders involved with livestock traceability across Canada. Prior to managing DairyTrace, she worked as Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture’s Provincial Livestock Traceability Specialist. She is passionate about providing an accessible service to stakeholders in Canada to overcome challenges, mitigate issues and increase success of livestock traceability. In her spare time, during the pandemic, she works on the family farm to improve the perception of agriculture, as well as being a board director for Saskatchewan Women in Agriculture.

Draft program

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Re'veal'ing your cost of production

2022 looks to be another year of unpredictable market and input prices. This session will work through the process of calculating your cost of production and how using it can be an important tool to help farms manage through these times.

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Considering alternative milk replacer options to save on feed costs

The gold standard of a milk replacer has long since believed to be an all dairy protein base, with no added plant components, either protein or carbohydrate. However, plant protein sources are generally less expensive than dairy protein ingredients. When first introduced for use in milk replacers, alternative proteins, namely soy flours, had very poor results, and thus, the use of plant proteins in milk replacers tainted. Consider a set of scales – on one end of the balance is calf performance, and on the other end, feed cost. With good science and proper formulation, plant proteins can be included into a milk replacer to strike that perfect balance of calf performance and feed cost savings.

Calf insights: How to collect, analyze, and take action on calf data to maximize gains, reduce morbidity, and optimize lifetime output

Dr. Kristen Edwards developed a calf-focused herd health program, which has now had over 1900 calves enrolled. This presentation aims to provide a review of what the program entails, discuss data trends, and provide key takeaways for making data-driven decisions to improve calf health, growth, and lifetime production on your farm.



Speakers



John Molenhuis

Business Analysis and Cost of Production Specialist
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

John has been the Business Analysis and Cost of Production Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) for the past 21 years. He leads financial benchmarking projects and the development of the crop and livestock cost of production budgeting tools and resources. John has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business from the University of Guelph.



Amanda Kerr, MSc.

Senior Nutritionist & QA Lead
Grober Nutrition Inc.

Amanda has been a nutritionist with Grober Nutrition Inc. for nine years, over which time she has been responsible for product development and subsequent research trials conducted at the Grober Young Animal Development Centre and on-farm. Prior to Grober Nutrition, Amanda received her graduate degree in Animal Nutrition from the University of Guelph, specializing in dairy calves. Amanda's interest and passion for young animal nutrition and development has been spurred from her dairy farm upbringing and continued by the pursuit of finding new solutions to address evolving challenges faced by animals and producers alike.



Dr. Kristen Edwards, B.Sc.H, D.V.M

Tavistock Veterinarians

Kristen Edwards received her undergraduate degree in Zoology from the University of Guelph and earned her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2014. Upon graduation, she joined the Perry Veterinary Clinic; a large dairy practice in western New York. Wanting to be closer to family, Dr. Edwards returned to Ontario to practice dairy production medicine and joined Tavistock Veterinarians in 2016.

Her professional interests include dairy nutrition, calf health, and dairy economics. In addition to her veterinary duties, Dr. Edwards is pursuing a part-time Masters with the University of Guelph focusing on calf health and weaning.

Registration for webinar sessions is free but required. Visit vealfarmers.ca/speaker-series to register, learn more about our speakers, and discover the answers to webinar FAQs.



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