

# THE Connection

Summer 2022 Volume 4, No. 2

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**Feed ratios for veal cattle**

**Exploring export opportunities  
in Japan**

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# Contents



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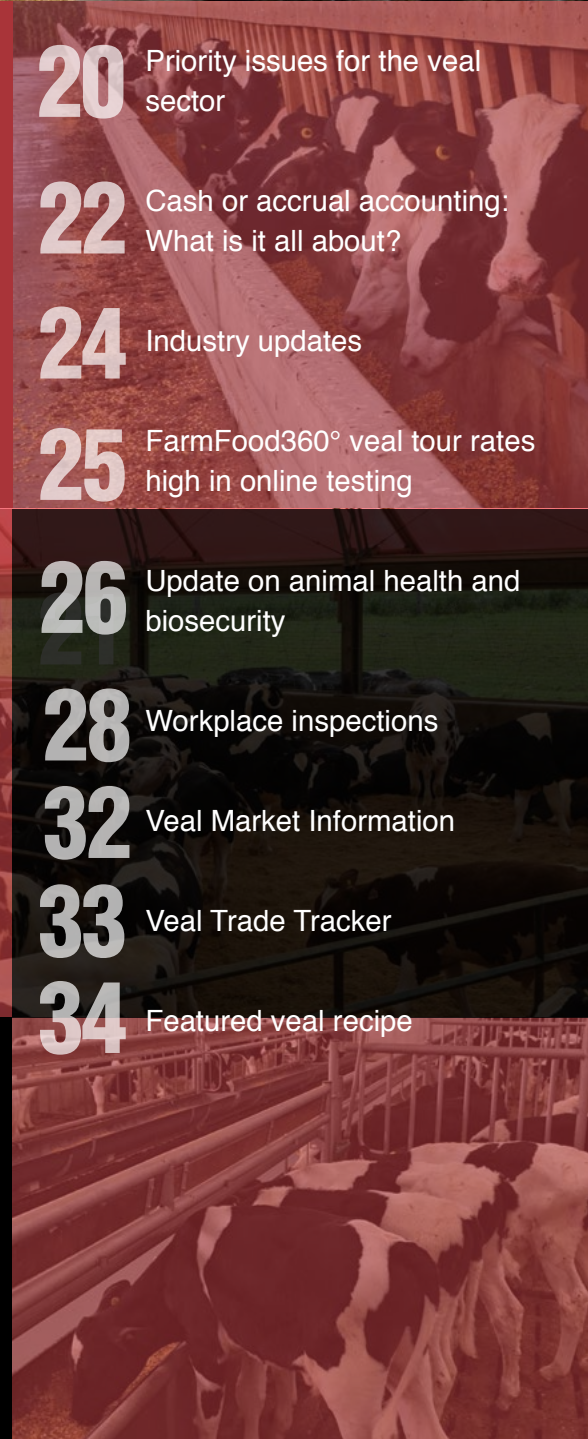
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# Chair's MESSAGE



Pascal Bouilly

## Help us help you stay in the know about the Ontario veal industry

Now more than ever we need to keep our pencils sharp, both on the farm and as an organization. As we strive to find the balance between keeping costs down, providing the best value, and ensuring fast and efficient delivery of information to our members, we find ourselves turning to electronic communications more and more.

Did you know that Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) offers email communications services to our members, including "The Connection e-Update", with the market report and a selection of news from our industry partners, at the end of each week? VFO also sends out special email bulletins with important and timely information about key industry issues.

Signing up for our email communications service is a great way to stay informed about the veal industry and will help us save on increasing postage costs as we move away from direct mailings for producers. VFO doesn't receive your email address when licence fees are remitted, so if you aren't currently receiving emails from us, please reach out to make sure we have your email address.

To make this process as easy as possible, as you flip through this issue you will come across a postcard with a QR code explaining how we can help provide key communications to our members. Scan the QR code and subscribe to have "The Connection e-Update" e-newsletter delivered straight to your inbox, along with other important and timely notifications. Don't miss out, some of the information we share with producers electronically may not be available elsewhere.

As we continue to be mindful of providing the most value to our members, we are excited to announce our new hybrid format for the 2022 Healthy Calf Conference (HCC). In this issue you will find all the details you need to save the date for our premiere calf event.

This year's conference will feature a dynamic, all-Canadian line-up of expert speakers discussing calf health, nutrition, welfare, and housing. The HCC 2022 will take place on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, in Stratford, Ontario for producers that would like to attend in-person, with a live-streaming option available for anyone who would like to attend virtually. This new option will increase our reach across Ontario to those areas not previously able to attend. The event will also be recorded, allowing anyone who can't attend that day to access the content when it's convenient.

Signing up for our email communications service will make sure you're the first to know about HCC 2022 updates, speaker announcements and registration. Watch for the HCC 2022 brochure in the Fall issue of our magazine, along with important information about the Farmer Wellness Initiative.


For producers looking for more ways to keep their own pencils sharp, be sure to visit our cost of production (COP) page on [vealfarmers.ca](http://vealfarmers.ca) to download the veal COP tool, access links to business risk management programs, and find helpful business and marketing resources from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. If you can't find what you're looking for please contact our office, and we help connect you with the information you need.


Communicating with our members is a top priority for VFO, and we will continue to find new and better ways to connect with you. If you have suggestions, please reach out to one of your directors, and we can work together to support a proactive and engaged dairy calf and veal industry in Ontario. ■






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Jennifer Haley

## Alternative meat products may not be the threat we once thought they were

In May 2019, Beyond Meat became the first publicly traded company offering consumers plant-based meat substitutes. In a few short months after their IPO, share prices skyrocketed from \$24 to \$235 and many in the livestock and meat protein business were very concerned about what this might mean for future consumer trends. The traditional meat business was under attack by plant-based alternatives and there were alarm bells ringing about what this might mean for meat sales and how could we compete with these new products.

However, the Beyond Meat share prices are now at their lowest, and actually below initial offering prices, with analysts concerned about the future outlook for the company. Analysts agree that there is concern about the future growth of plant-based meat products—perhaps already reaching its market penetration targets well ahead of forecasts. Beyond Meat is reporting lower than expected sales—especially at retail—and the outlook for future growth looks both gloomy and unpredictable. Beyond Meat may also lose an important foodservice customer with McDonald's reporting slower than expected sales of the McPlant burger and considering dropping it from their menu altogether.

In a recent presentation at the Canadian Meat Council's annual conference, David Coletto of Abacus Data shared some new market research on consumer perceptions towards meat and meat alternatives and what this might mean for the livestock and meat businesses in Canada. One of the selling features of Beyond Meat and similar plant-based products is that consumers are led to believe it is better for the environment and that they can 'feel good' about eating plant-based (and by inference feel guilty for eating meat).

When surveyed, only 14 per cent of Canadian felt that they ate too much meat—sugar and carbs ranked much higher. And 90 per cent of respondents eat meat because they love the taste of it! Coletto's advice to the meat industry is that we need to give people a reason to enjoy their meat and the food that they are eating—consumers love the taste of meat and the experience, and we need to focus on that because it cannot be duplicated by plant-based products.

However, there is a big generational difference in consumers who say they want to eat and purchase plant-based alternatives. Almost two-thirds of consumers under the age of 30 say they are very likely to purchase plant-based products, and this is indeed the target audience. Coletto suggested that part of this can be attributed to the impact of social media and its

use by Millennials, Gen Y, and Gen Z and the power of psychology. Like nothing we have ever experienced before, this group of consumers report a growing fear of being judged by others online. Everything these consumers do is online—sharing photos and experiences across all social media platforms, and over 20 per cent of these age groups in the study report being shamed online for eating meat and posting about meat dishes they are eating. And while this is not the majority, the vocal minority doing the shaming is having a real impact.

Plant-based alternatives suggest that they are more environmentally friendly than meat products and part of the marketing associated with plant-based to the younger generations is about climate change and protecting our planet. One in five Canadians report that they think about climate change all the time. As this metric grows so too will the notion of carbon neutral diets. Almost 1.5 million Canadians, according to this research, have already reduced meat consumption in their diets because of their concerns about climate change. However, these same consumers report that they have just as many questions about plant-based alternatives as they do meat, such as nutritional value, list of ingredients and additives, safety, affordability, and carbon footprint to name a few.

Coletto's research shows that Canadian's perceptions of plant-based versus meat has not shifted at all since the launch of Beyond Meat, however, he suggests that the meat industry needs to be open to change and innovation as consumers demand more information about the food that they eat. Plant-based alternatives will have their place in the market and attract a certain consumer. But no product can replicate the taste and experience that meat can provide. Focus on ensuring consumers can feel good about eating meat, give them an experience, arm them with cooking knowledge and don't get distracted by the hype of plant-based alternatives. ■

## NEW DIRECTOR PROFILE:

# Aaron Keunen



### Tell us a bit about yourself.

I live in Palmerston, along with my wife, Taylor and our daughter, Layla. I graduated from the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus in 2014 with a diploma in Agriculture. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, playing or refereeing hockey, and golf.



Ashley Noble Photography

### Tell us a bit about your operation.

At Keunen Cattle Ltd. we raise Holstein calves for the grain-fed veal market as well as raise cattle for the backgrounding and finished beef cattle markets. We purchase around 70 head per week and have approximately 3000 head of cattle on feed.

In addition to our cattle business, we also have a young animal nutrition business, Maplevue Agri Ltd., that manufactures high quality milk replacers for calves, kid goats, and lambs. In 2016 we built a research facility and conduct

internal product validation as well as contract research on feed additives, feed ingredients, pharmaceuticals, and nutraceuticals for a wide range of industry and academic partners. In 2019 we started TruVital Animal Health, where we specialize in the development and validation of animal health products that contribute to a responsible reduction in the use of antibiotics.

### How are the cattle housed?

Calves are raised in hutches as well as indoor facilities for the pre-weaning period and then moved to contract finishing facilities.

### How did you get involved with Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO)?

In 2018, VFO began the process of updating the veal cost of production (COP) tool with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). I took part in the working group that led the project and have contributed to other VFO initiatives for both consumers and producers, to help promote our industry.

### What is your vision for the veal cattle industry?

I'd like to see veal producers come together to help improve the perception of veal farming

by continuing to be transparent and educating consumers and the general public about the welfare standards and level of care veal cattle receive, as well as the quality of our product.

### What are your goals for VFO for the coming year?

Finding a compromise and solution for the dairy-beef calf and how it fits within the industry will be necessary this year.

Continued work on key research projects and finding solutions for improving antimicrobial stewardship should also be a focus for our organization. Sustainability is important, and the veal sector needs to prioritize areas that are not only top of mind for consumers, but that will also benefit our industry in the both the short and long-term.

### What is the best piece of advice you can offer to other veal producers or someone looking to get into the veal industry?

Ask current producers about their operations to gain an understanding of what makes them successful or where they may fall short. This will save you time and resources before entering the industry. ■

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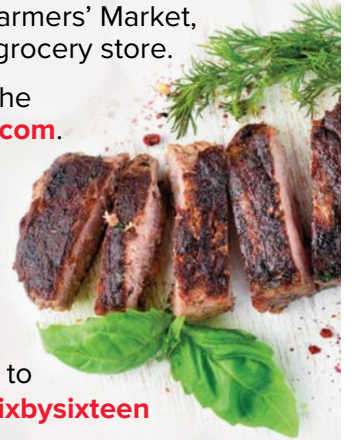
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You can find the farmers and growers in your community that sell directly to the public on your county's Buy Local Map or by visiting [farmersmarketsontario.com](http://farmersmarketsontario.com).

Need recipes? Our website [sixbysixteen.me](http://sixbysixteen.me) has a bounty of locally sourced recipes, youth activities, a downloadable recipe guide and much more.

Make preparing, cooking and plating the meal a family affair by getting everyone in the kitchen. To brush up on safe food handling practices, knife safety skills and more visit [youtube.com/ontariofarms](https://youtube.com/ontariofarms).

Follow us on social for additional recipes, what's in season updates and links to additional food literacy resources: [@SixBySixteen](https://twitter.com/SixBySixteen) [f sixbysixteen](https://facebook.com/sixbysixteen) [i sixbysixteen](https://instagram.com/sixbysixteen)



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Reference: 1. Dunn TR, Ollivett TL, Renaud DL, et al. 2018. The effect of lung consolidation, as determined by ultrasonography, on first-lactation milk production in Holstein dairy calves. *J Dairy Sci*;101(6):5404-5410.

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# Refining our antimicrobial use with treatment protocols

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

Dr. Dave Renaud, University of Guelph

On behalf of the Ontario Animal Health Network

Neonatal calf diarrhea and respiratory disease are commonly treated by antibiotics. Our goal as veterinarians and producers is to use antibiotics prudently to prevent the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria in animals and people. One of the best ways to ensure antibiotics are used appropriately is to have clear guidelines for when to reach for them. Practically, this means developing treatment protocols for common diseases that are specific to the individual farm.

The first step is to have a consistent set of parameters that can be assessed to determine if animals are ill or not. Researchers have validated scoring systems that allow calf caregivers to evaluate the presence and severity of signs of illness being shown by calves. Use of the scoring system helps to guide us toward appropriate supportive therapies, such as electrolytes or anti-inflammatories, and rational antibiotic treatment. Scoring systems have now been developed for both calf pneumonia and diarrhea/dehydration syndromes.

For neonatal calves with diarrhea (Figure 1), University of Guelph researchers have created an easy-to-follow flowchart that guides calf caregivers to assess the calf's attitude, milk intake, presence or absence of a fever, and presence or absence of blood in the feces and leads to one of three actions—monitor calves, provide oral electrolytes and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), or provide antibiotics in addition to supportive treatment. The algorithm was designed for young calves during the milk-feeding phase or pre-weaning. Calves less than four weeks of age are at greatest risk of diarrhea. The decision tree has been used on dairy farms and found to reduce overall antibiotic use without adversely affecting calf health as measured by the level of mortality and the number days calves have diarrhea. As a result of following the

algorithm, farms that participated in a research trial reduced their antimicrobial use for diarrhea by 80 per cent. Through decades of research, we know that correcting dehydration to support calves with diarrhea is the most critical part of treating calves with diarrhea, and antibiotics are only needed in a few circumstances. This tool helps us pick the right cases.

Similarly for calf pneumonia, calves can be assessed for respiratory disease symptoms which encourages earlier detection and easier decision-making for treatment. A scoring system developed at the University of California Davis prompts calf caregivers to evaluate six key variables: eye discharge, nasal discharge, ear droop or head tilt, cough, breathing, and body temperature. Scores are assigned and added—any calf with a score  $\geq 5$  is considered abnormal and requires treatment. This protocol is simple to follow as each variable is scored as present or absent. Researchers designed this protocol for weaned calves where the risk for respiratory disease is greatest, however it is appropriate for pre-weaning calves as well.

Once calves have been assessed and determined to be appropriate candidates to receive antibiotic treatment for either diarrhea or respiratory disease, the routine antibiotic that is to be used should be determined in conjunction with the farm veterinarian. Veterinarians will take into consideration specific farm risk factors for diarrhea or respiratory disease, vaccine protocols, age of calves that are typically affected, the likely agent (bacteria, virus, or parasite) causing disease and diagnostic laboratory tests that have been conducted. A treatment protocol sets up a plan that will be followed by all team members caring for calves, whether that is a single individual or many.

Having a treatment protocol has several benefits. By using a consistent set of parameters for when to use antibiotics, we apply the treatment where it is most useful. We also avoid delaying treatment where it could harm calf health and welfare. Correspondingly, we avoid delivering antibiotics to calves that don't need them, preserving beneficial bacterial in the gut which are disrupted with antibiotic treatment. Lastly, by using a systematic approach, it gives us the opportunity to evaluate the success of the treatment plan overall on-farm.

Initiating a discussion with the herd veterinarian is the best place to start for farms that want to evaluate and refine their use of antibiotics. Records of treatments given and at what age will help producers and veterinarians consider the specific risks for individual farms to guide how management and antibiotic treatment can be altered. Specific management practices such as the source of calves and arrival protocols, feeding, ventilation, and cleaning and disinfection may need to be assessed as part of the plan for the farm to change delivery of antibiotics.

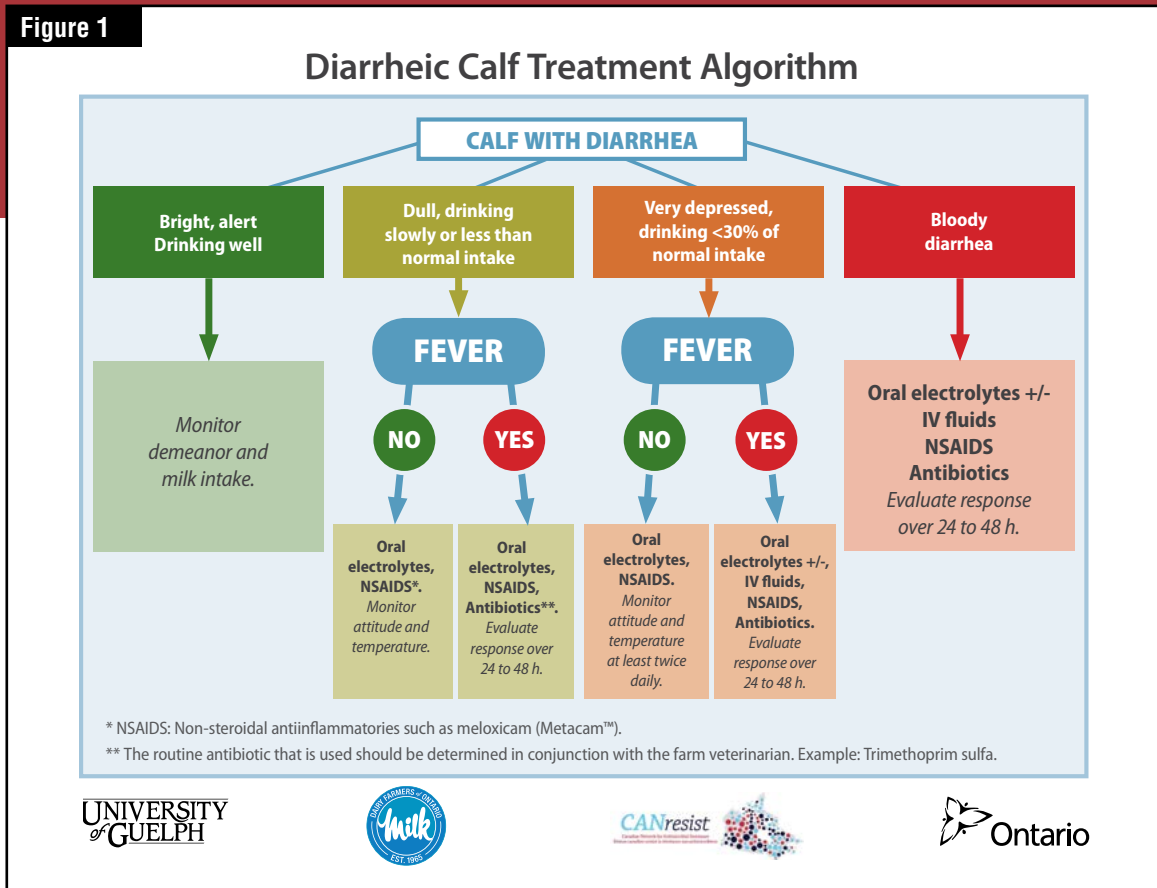
Choosing the right antibiotic at the right time will lead to the best response and reduce the risk of relapses or death. In addition, choosing not to use an antibiotic will preserve beneficial bacteria in the gut and help conserve the availability of effective antibiotics in the future. ■



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](http://www.oahn.ca).









**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



### California bovine respiratory disease scoring system for post-weaned dairy calves

Clinical sign	Score if normal	Score if abnormal (any severity) <sup>1</sup>
Sunken eyes	0 	4  Or 
Low body condition	0 	5  Or 
Cough	0 No cough	2 Spontaneous cough
Breathing	0 Normal	1 Rapid or difficult breathing
Diurnal temp fluctuation	0 ≤27° F (≤15° C)	1 > 27° F (>15° C)

With diurnal temperature data:  
calf is score positive<sup>2</sup> if total score ≥ 2

Without diurnal temperature data:  
calf is score positive<sup>2</sup> if total score ≥ 1

Confirmatory step for score positive <sup>3</sup>	Do not treat	Treat
Rectal temperature	< 102.5° F (< 39.2° C)	≥ 102.5° F (≥ 39.2° C)

- Any abnormality including, but not limited to, the examples shown in the above pictures. For body condition, a score of ≤ 2 on a scale of 5 would be considered abnormal.
- With diurnal temperature fluctuation: screening sensitivity 77%, diagnostic sensitivity 100%, specificity 62%, without diurnal temperature fluctuation: screening sensitivity 84%, diagnostic sensitivity 100%, specificity 46%
- With diurnal temperature fluctuation: confirmatory step improves specificity to 77% (screening sensitivity 65%, diagnostic sensitivity 77%), without diurnal temperature fluctuation: confirmatory step improves specificity to 63% (screening sensitivity 71%, diagnostic sensitivity 77%)

# Using diagnostic tools to identify high-risk calves at arrival

Dr. Dave Renaud, Assistant Professor

University of Guelph



New and innovative strategies need to be discovered and implemented in order to curb antimicrobial use and the subsequent development of antimicrobial resistance in food animals, including the veal industry. Several recent studies completed at the University of Guelph highlight the period following arrival as an area to implement these strategies as the first 21 days following arrival are the areas of greatest mortality. There are certain traits, such as an inflamed navel, a rectal temperature of greater than 40°C, dehydration, body weight less than 47 kg (103.6 lbs.), diarrhea, and a sunken flank, when present at arrival are associated with a higher risk of mortality occurring in the first 21 days following arrival. What remains unclear from these findings is which calves require antibiotic treatment or just supportive therapy.

The use of precision agricultural technologies has begun to show promise in the identification of animals at risk for disease. There has been widespread implementation in the monitoring of health status in dairy cows (rumination monitors and pedometers), however, few validated technologies are available for dairy calves. The use of these on-farm tools could be used to identify high-risk calves at arrival and improve therapeutic decision-making, ultimately reducing antimicrobial use while increasing animal health and welfare.

Based on this, we tried to validate several parameters and tools to identify calves that are at high-risk to develop disease at a veal facility. Through the project, which was funded by Veal Farmers of Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, we found several important findings that could influence how you think about purchasing calves. Specifically, we found that calves with low levels of IgG, a marker of colostrum intake, heavily influences the risk of calves getting disease. This highlights the importance of excellent colostrum management for male dairy calves and working with dairy farms that are able to ensure transfer of passive immunity.

We also found that the levels of certain white blood cells influenced the risk of disease. Specifically, we found that calves with high levels of neutrophils 72 hours following arrival to a veal facility had a greater risk for disease. Low levels of cholesterol at arrival, which is primarily influenced by nutrition prior to transportation, age at transit, and colostrum management, was associated with a greater risk of mortality. Therefore, as technology becomes available allowing us to test for these parameters on farm, we can

use them to generate a risk profile where we could separate high and low-risk calves and manage them differently.

It is really important to note that despite evaluating many different parameters, body weight at arrival is the parameter that most accurately and consistently predicts mortality. Purchasing calves that are greater than 47 kg (103.6 lbs.) will go a long way to reducing mortality and disease, as highlighted by Figure 1, but also improving growth. Body weight at arrival is mostly influenced by the age that calves leave the dairy farm but also the length of time calves are in transit. Therefore, purchase calves that are nine days of age or older and transport calves for less than six to 12 hours from the time they leave the dairy farm of origin until they arrive at your veal farm. ■



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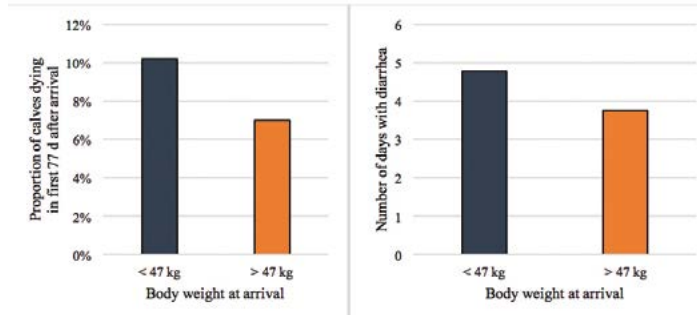
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Figure 1  
Impact of body weight on the number of days with diarrhea and mortality.



Based on the completion of this project and others, it is clear that there is a risk profile that can be assigned to calves entering into veal facilities. High-risk calves are those that have low body weight (less than 47 kg (103.6 lbs.)), diarrhea, sunken flank, low levels of IgG and cholesterol, elevated levels of white blood cells, are dehydrated, and have an inflamed or infected navel. Trying to avoid purchasing this group of calves could help ensure a low level of disease. If these calves are purchased, try to manage them differently through providing improved nutrition and keeping a close eye on those that require treatment.

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Dr. Devon Wilson, University of Guelph
- Prepping the rumen for successful strategies at weaning**  
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# Umbilical health: A hidden challenge

Dr. Dave Renaud

ACER Consulting Ltd.

Umbilical infections can be a costly and common disease in young calves. Several recent studies in both Canada and the United States have found that between 19 to 27 per cent of calves can be affected with an enlarged or abnormal umbilicus.

## What are the consequences of an umbilical infection?

Umbilical infections can cause a variety of short- and long-term consequences for heifer calves. They also result in increased costs of treatment related to labour and drug expenses. Navel infections have also been associated with an increased risk of umbilical hernias, other calf diseases and mortality, along with reduced growth rates and decreased survival in the herd. For male dairy calves, the consequences are similar, where calves arriving at a veal facility with an umbilical infection are much more likely to die and have a reduced weight. It was estimated based on these consequences that it would cost approximately \$40 per calf with an umbilical infection in treatment costs and production losses.

## Why do umbilical infections occur?

The umbilical cord has blood flow directed to it during pregnancy, as it is responsible for the in-flow and out-flow of nutrients and waste products to the fetus. During birth, the umbilical cord will rupture, leaving the end of the cord open to contamination by bacteria. Normally, if the umbilical cord does not become infected, the cord will dry and the umbilical structures inside the abdomen will shrink. However, when the umbilicus becomes contaminated, the cord provides a pathway for bacteria into the body to cause an infection, not only at the umbilical cord but also the liver, kidney, and other organs that are connected to this structure. Bacteria can enter the bloodstream (septicemia) through this pathway and cause an infection in the joints resulting in pain and further health complications.

## Identifying umbilical infections

Recently, several studies have shown that despite a high prevalence of umbilical infections, very few are treated, suggesting there could be underdiagnosis of this condition. To identify umbilical infections, it is necessary to feel the umbilicus to evaluate its size, and the presence of pain, heat, or discharge. Specifically, if the umbilicus is more than 1.3 cm in diameter or is hot, painful (calf flinches when it is touched), and there's pus or foul-smelling discharge, the calf has an umbilical infection. Work with your veterinarian to determine the most appropriate treatments to address this condition.

It is also important to note that in the new transport regulations, male dairy calves need to have a dry and healed umbilical cord in order to be transported. Therefore, calves with an unhealed, enlarged, or infected umbilical cord cannot be transported.

## Preventing umbilical infections

To prevent umbilical infections, the focus should be placed on minimizing contact between the umbilical cord and bacteria. At calving, the umbilical cord is most susceptible to bacterial contamination so ensuring that the calving area is as clean as possible and free of manure is critical. In addition, the area that calves are moved to after calving should also be clean, dry, and free of manure.

Another important area to consider is colostrum management, as calves with failed transfer of passive immunity have a much greater risk of developing an umbilical infection. To maximize transfer of immunoglobulins, calves need to be provided with an ample quantity of colostrum (three to four litres at first feeding), that is of good quality (greater than 50 g/L IgG or greater than 22 per cent on a Brix refractometer, which can be used to measure colostrum quality), clean (low bacterial contamination), and fed promptly after birth (ideally within four hours).

Beyond ensuring excellent colostrum management and cleanliness in the calving and housing area, navel dipping with iodine or chlorhexidine is often a preventative measure for umbilical infections. There is variable evidence to document the benefit of this practice. More work is needed to confirm whether this is useful and ensuring a clean environment with excellent colostrum management is best practice.

## Take home messages

Umbilical infections occur commonly in calves and have both short- and long-term consequences. To identify them, it is necessary to feel the umbilicus to evaluate size, heat, pain, and discharge. Because of the potential consequences, prevention is critical, which starts immediately after calving. Ensuring passive transfer of immunity and maintaining clean calving and calf housing areas is critical. Work with your veterinarian to develop a plan to manage umbilical infections on your farm. ■






*This project was funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*

# NAVEL HEALTH

## Prevention is key!

Recent studies in Canada show that between 19 to 27% of calves can have an enlarged or abnormal umbilicus (navel). Before shipping male dairy calves off the farm, double-check to ensure the navel is well-healed and dry. This is best done by palpating (feeling) the navel.

It is estimated that an infected navel can cost around \$40 in losses.

<p><b>Unhealed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure calving area is clean, dry and free of manure</li> <li>• Dip with 7% iodine or 2% chlorhexidine</li> <li>• Follow navel care protocol</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Healing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor daily to ensure normal healing process, about 9 days</li> <li>• Maintain clean calf housing and provide adequate bedding</li> <li>• Infection can occur within the first 3 weeks</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Infected</b></p>	<p><b>If the navel:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is greater than 1.3 cm</li> <li>• Has pain</li> <li>• Has heat</li> <li>• Has discharge</li> </ul> <p><b>Then:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow navel care protocol</li> <li>• Treat</li> <li>• Observe meat withdrawal</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Hernia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The umbilical ring fails to close after birth</li> <li>• Abdominal contents protrude through the opening (the area around the navel will feel mushy)</li> <li>• If umbilical ring is greater than 6 cm consult veterinarian</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Completely healed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off to a great start!</li> <li>• Maintain clean calf housing and continue to provide adequate bedding</li> </ul>	

**Note:** A calf with an infected navel is unfit to be transported.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.CALFCARE.CA](http://WWW.CALFCARE.CA)

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# Feed ratios for veal cattle



Holly McGill M.Sc., Ruminant Nutritionist

Wallenstein Feed & Supply Ltd.

It is well accepted that a mix of clean, whole corn and protein pellet with a small amount of added fibre produces the best finish on veal cattle. Starting at a mix of two parts corn and one part pellet (2:1) through weaning, the ratio gradually widens as the cattle grow, until a mix of 5:1 is achieved—which the calves consume until they reach market weight. General recommendations state that the calves should be moved up through the ratios based on their age: a 3:1 mix fed at three months of age; 4:1 at four months; 5:1 at five months to finish. The amount of straw should be held constant throughout the feeding period. This practice is almost universally adopted among Ontario producers as it is straightforward and can produce excellent results—but why do we feed this way?

While we do want these animals to be gaining weight, they must be gaining the right weight; it is important to build a strong framework of bone and muscle early on for them to pack gain onto later in life. An animal's nutrient requirements are dynamic—as a calf grows, its need for protein slowly decreases while its energy requirements increase. This is the most basic need that is addressed by the feeding program described above. Using a 36% protein pellet and corn at 7.5% protein, it is possible to calculate the final protein concentrations of the first and final mixes that will be fed to veal cattle throughout the course of their lifetime using the following method:

A 2:1 mix contains 2 parts corn and 1 part supplement, out of a total of 3 parts to make up a mix. Taking these values and using the protein percentages above, we calculate:

$$((2 \div 3) \times 7.5\%) + ((1 \div 3) \times 36\%) = 17\%$$

A 5:1 mix contains 5 parts corn and 1 part supplement, out of a total of 6 parts to make up a mix. Taking these values and using the protein percentages above, we calculate:

$$((5 \div 6) \times 7.5\%) + ((1 \div 6) \times 36\%) = 12.3\%$$

As per the calculations above, we can see that a 2:1 mix contains about 17% protein, while a 5:1 mix contains 12%.

An animal's weight gain is comprised of both protein and fat, and the composition of this gain is more in favour of protein early on in a calf's life. When high energy diets are fed too early, they will deposit more fat than protein. A slow and steady progression from a ration of 17% protein to one of 12% helps to prevent the oversupply of energy and maintain enough protein in the diet for the animal to continue to grow in frame as well as finish.

The importance of protein cannot be overstated; in a ruminant animal, energy and protein are always simultaneously limiting nutrients. This means that no matter how much of one we feed, the animal will not be able to perform without the other.

When we discuss “balancing” diets for ruminant animals, this is exactly what we are referring to—balancing the supply of protein and energy to the rumen. The rumen is the key player here. While monogastric animals like poultry and pigs have certain nutrient-dependent growth phases in their lifetimes, ruminants always require energy and protein no matter the stage of life because the rumen requires both to properly function.

When protein enters the rumen, it is broken down into its constituent parts—nitrogen being a main one. Rumen microbes need this nitrogen to function; in the most basic of terms, it is their fuel. Without adequate nitrogen from the diet, the rumen microbes are not able to proliferate and break down the feed the calf is consuming. This directly impacts feed efficiency, as the calf is no longer able to get as much out of the feed it is consuming. This lack of microbial proliferation also means that less microbes are growing and flowing out of the rumen to be digested and used as an important source of microbial protein by the calf—a double whammy when considering the impacts on rumen function that not feeding enough protein can have on animal performance.

To put it a bit more succinctly—studies have shown improvements in feed efficiency when the ratio of protein to energy in the diet increases. Furthermore, another study demonstrated that a lower carbohydrate to protein ratio allowed for more efficient protein use for growth in veal cattle from three to five months of age. This highlights that feeding adequate protein relative to energy is critically important, but particularly in the first half of their life. Feeding higher protein mixes (3:1, 4:1) through that important three-to-five-month window can maximize the ability of veal cattle to digest feed and help the rumen operate more efficiently at a time in their life when the emphasis is on the deposition of protein within their bodies.

As it was mentioned above, though it makes up only a small part of the total diet for veal cattle, fibre (typically provided in the form of straw, chopped to no less than one cm in length) plays several very important roles in maintaining rumen health and efficiency.

The first is the provision of a physical “scratch” factor in the diet, whereby the rough forage particles abrade the rumen wall, to help slough off dead and dying epithelial cells to make way for new ones. Without this,

the dead cells remain on the papillae, and they can develop parakeratosis—a disease characterized by the hardening of the papillae, which makes it harder for the rumen to absorb nutrients, thereby decreasing feed efficiency.

Fibre also helps to buffer the rumen and prevent acidosis, a condition that can lead to significant health complications and increased costs. By stimulating chewing and rumination to break down the less digestible fibre particles, the animal creates more saliva, which is then swallowed back into the rumen. Saliva is a natural buffer which counters acidity in the rumen and maintains a healthier rumen pH, thereby preventing acidosis.

With good management and by feeding according to the plan outlined above, that emphasizes a higher level of protein earlier on in a young veal calf's life, accompanied with increasing levels of energy for a strong finish and small amounts of fibre to promote feed efficiency and rumen health, excellent daily gains can be achieved while maintaining healthy animals. Of course, it is always best to work with a nutritionist, who can better understand the needs of your animals and more accurately formulate a diet to achieve your goals. ■

Veal Cattle Feeding Guidelines				
Age of calf	Corn	Supplement	Straw	Mix Ratio & Protein %
Birth to 2 months of age	Follow milk or milk replacer and calf starter feeding guidelines from feed manufacturer(s)			
2 to 3 months	61.1 kg	30.5 kg	1.9 kg	2:1 - 17% protein
3 to 4 months	91.2 kg	30.4 kg	2.5 kg	3:1 - 14.5% protein
4 to 5 months	121.9 kg	30.5 kg	3.1 kg	4:1 - 13% protein
5 to 6 months	151.9 kg	30.4 kg	3.7 kg	5:1 - 12% protein
6 to 7 months	176.6 kg	35.3 kg	4.3 kg	5:1 - 12% protein
7 months to finish	202 kg	40.4 kg	5 kg	5:1 - 12% protein
Total amounts fed	805 kg	198 kg	20 kg	

- \* Target final veal finishing body weight used for calculations was 750 lbs. (341 kg)
- \* Supplement recommendations and protein statements are based on a generic 36% protein pellet
- \* Amounts provided are approximations, and are values for a one month timeframe for one (1) animal based on an average dry matter intake (DMI) of 2.5% bodyweight
- \* Timeframe and bodyweights used for DMI calculations based on approximate average daily gain of 2.6 lbs per day, targeting a finish by eight (8) months of age.
- \* Straw inclusions is 2% of total mixed ration
- \* You should always consult with a professional nutritionist before making changes to your feeding program



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# Exploring Canadian Veal export market opportunities in Japan



Jennifer Haley  
Executive Director

Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) is going global and looking at opportunities to develop export markets for Canadian Veal. And when opportunity knocks, as the saying goes, you take advantage of the opportunity as best as you can.

VFO, together with Montpak International, has partnered with Canada Beef to leverage not only funding but valuable industry expertise, insights, and connections to interested retailers and foodservice companies in Japan who are looking to increase their sales of Canadian Veal.

Canada Beef has an agreement with the federal government to administer Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funding focusing on export market development for both the beef and veal sectors. This program provides up to 50 per cent funding towards eligible projects. Partnering with Montpak International, VFO is the lead organization working with Canada Beef to guide the projects. Canada Beef will provide expertise and administration as well as access to their network of international

marketing specialists located in various key export markets—including the Canada Beef representatives in Japan.

Starting off small, the initial Canadian veal project will support Japanese requests for marketing materials including retail product labels and promotional posters for restaurants. The Yappari Steak House, a fast-growing restaurant chain, has 80 locations across Japan where they are featuring the Canadian Veal T-bone Steak.

On the retail side, Ebisu Garden Place—the flagship store of Life Corporation—has been carrying a number of Canadian Veal products and using the Canadian Veal promotional items such as on-package labels, rail strips, and posters in-store.

While it is still early in the project to be talking about the metrics of sales or volume increases, the overall goal is to increase sales of Canadian Veal in Japan. However, this is a long-term strategy that attempts to develop not only a presence in the marketplace but sustainable and incremental





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gains that will support the demand for Canadian Veal. That being said, the project does involve evaluation and analysis with feedback and reporting provided by the Canada Beef Japanese team.

An additional element has now been added to the export development project with funding being allocated by VFO, Montpak and Canada Beef to support and promote Canadian Veal at eight industry tradeshows happening over the next several months throughout Japan. The tradeshow presence is critical to attracting additional foodservice and retail customers interested in selling Canadian Veal to the Japanese consumer. At the same time, VFO and Montpak are able to utilize the

Canada Beef Japanese team to represent the sector alongside their promotions of Canadian Beef.

Looking at the opportunities to grow demand for Canadian Veal, in a marketplace that is looking for our product and already values the Canada brand, will help to diversify our markets, provide options for processors to help balance carcass utilization and ultimately grow demand for veal cattle, which will benefit and support veal producers. Most importantly, developing partnerships with key industry partners to leverage expertise, funding and support is critical for VFO on the path forward. Stay tuned for more on these exciting opportunities as they continue to develop. ■

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# VFO supports dontlabelmybeef.ca campaign opposing warning labels on ground meat

*CVA joins others requesting an exemption for ground veal, beef*

As part of their Healthy Eating Strategy, Health Canada has proposed an unwarranted 'high saturated fat' label for ground veal, beef, pork, and lamb sold in retail. Front-of-Package (FOP) warning labels for single-ingredient foods contradict the principles of healthy eating and only serve to confuse consumers making important food choices for their families.

Unlike other countries that have implemented similar requirements and exempted all single-ingredient whole foods based on nutritional value, Canada is the only nation proposing this unwarranted warning label for ground meat. Due to the nutritional value of ground veal, limited impact on Canadians' saturated fat intake, and to also protect against possible trade impli-

cations, the Canadian Veal Association (CVA) sent Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada a letter requesting an exemption for ground veal, and all single-ingredient ground red meats, from FOP regulations.

The veal industry is part of the cattle sector, and because we're stronger together, Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) has encouraged veal producers and industry partners to share their concerns on social media and visit the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) website [dontlabelmybeef.ca](http://dontlabelmybeef.ca) to sign-up and show our opposition to this misleading label. We must ensure Canadians continue to have affordable, accessible, and whole nutritious foods, like ground meat, available.

Canadian veal farmers take pride in producing a lean, nutrient-packed protein that is high in iron, zinc and B12. VFO strongly believes ground veal, along with all other ground red meats, should be exempt from Health Canada's proposed FOP labelling. By showing our support of this campaign, we are telling Health Canada that this is the wrong message to send consumers and along with the CVA, supporting an exemption to protect ground meat, a nutritious staple for vulnerable populations and Canadian families, from harmful labels. With inflation and food prices at an all-time high, the negative consequences of a warning label on ground meat will be felt more strongly by consumers and throughout the supply chain. ■

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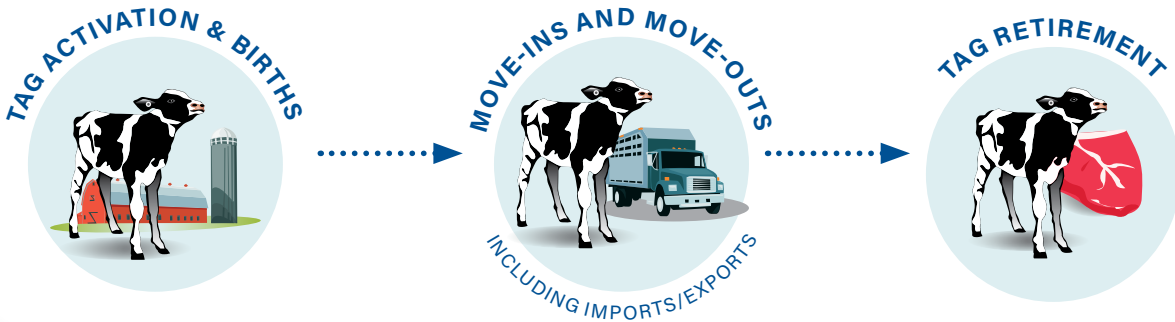
In Canada, livestock traceability includes all stakeholders from farm of origin to terminal site. All have different recording and reporting responsibilities depending on their place in the production chain. DairyTrace aims to make every aspect of traceability convenient and easy.

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By knowing where animals come from and where they reside, consumers and suppliers alike can feel confident in their food supply chain — thanks to transparent livestock traceability.



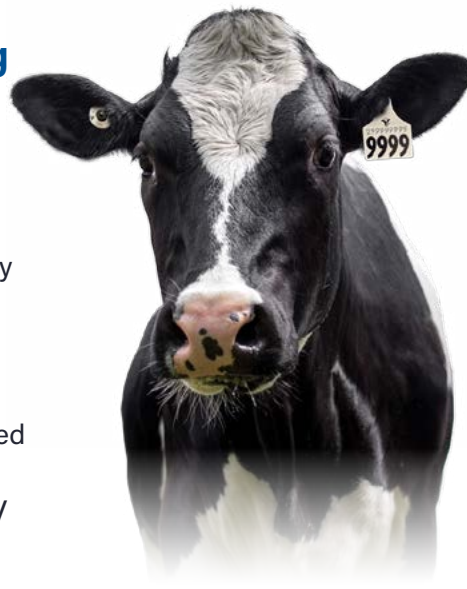
## On-Farm Recording and Reporting to DairyTrace is Mandatory for Dairy Producers



## Our NEW Single White Button Tag

If a veal farmer receives a calf with a white button ID tag, the best way to view tag ID and event reporting information is to visit the DairyTrace portal where all traceability data is neatly stored. The portal also allows quick and easy access to tag ID reports.

Additional white tags can be purchased as part of the DairyTrace program at [dairytrace.ca/traceability/animal-id/](https://dairytrace.ca/traceability/animal-id/)



## How It Works For Veal Farmers

1. Visit [dairytrace.ca](https://dairytrace.ca) and create your account.
2. Enter the portal from your desktop or FREE DairyTrace app.
3. Verify age of calf with move-in reporting, access your herd inventory, review account reports for the care of animals and more!



# Building connections for a stronger veal sector



Patrick MacCarthy  
Projects and Policy Coordinator

Ahead of the recent provincial election, Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) launched a campaign to highlight our provincial election priorities and raise awareness of the many challenges and opportunities that impact the veal industry and rural Ontarians. VFO looks forward to working collaboratively with the new provincial government to ensure that our priorities remain at the forefront of the government's agenda.

"We are looking forward to working with our government colleagues to continue building upon the Risk Management Program that will support primary agricultural production and our farmers in their efforts to continue to build a robust domestic food supply chain for all Ontarians," says Pascal Bouilly, VFO Chair.

Thank you to our members for sharing VFO's election priorities in conversations with their local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) candidates. In the coming months, VFO members are encouraged to continue connecting with their MPP and other elected officials to share the significant role agriculture plays in building vibrant rural communities and a stronger province.

VFO's priorities are developed in consultation with members to align with our vision to build a proactive and engaged dairy calf and veal industry in Ontario. We develop these key issues through conversations with veal farmers and industry partners. We want to hear from you! Tell us what concerns, ideas, and goals you have for the veal industry.

If you would like further information on our priorities or want to share the opportunities you see for the veal sector, please email Patrick MacCarthy, Policy and Projects Coordinator, at [pmacCarthy@vealfarmers.ca](mailto:pmacCarthy@vealfarmers.ca) or call the VFO office at 519-824-2942. We look forward to connecting with all our producer members and collaborating to build a stronger veal sector. ■



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# VEAL FARMERS OF ONTARIO PRIORITY ISSUES FOR THE VEAL SECTOR

## INCREASE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING BY \$100 MILLION

An investment in a stronger Risk Management Program (RMP), a critical tool for veal farmers, will allow the industry to remain competitive and build domestic food security amidst supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressure, and rising input costs.

## SUPPORT FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC MARKETING INITIATIVES

Grow Ontario's share of the grocery aisle, through increased domestic marketing funding to highlight the diversity of made-in-Ontario food. Investing in local food strengthens food security, creates jobs, and ensures that our province is self-sufficient.

## PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Recognize the role Ontario farmers play in carbon sequestration and ensure that farms receive sufficient support in any carbon pricing program. Work with federal counterparts to remove the carbon tax on grain drying.

Create additional financial supports to help farmers adapt new technologies and environmental practices.

Preserve farmland through adopting new provincial land use policies that will recognize the value of agricultural lands to all Ontarians and will ensure that Ontario farms will continue for generations to come.

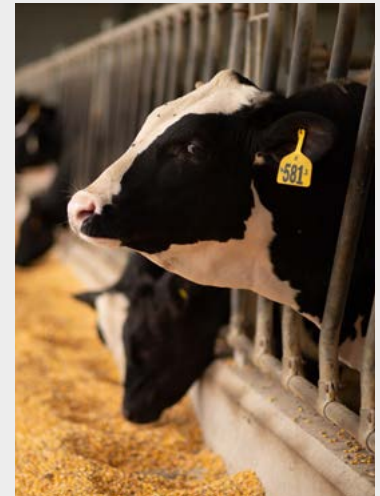
## ENHANCE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Farmers and those living in rural communities face high levels of stress and isolation, and often lack local support networks. Commit to expanding mental health supports, resources, and services for farmers and rural Ontarians.

## EXPAND ONTARIO'S MEAT PROCESSING CAPACITY

Work with the agriculture industry to recruit and train workers across the meat value chain.

Invest in new infrastructure projects at provincial facilities to expand processing capacity. This will reduce wait times, create competition, and secure domestic food supply.



Ontario's veal farmers generate over \$475 million in economic activity: creating employment opportunities and building stronger rural communities for all Ontarians.



# Cash and accrual accounting: What is it all about?



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

Did you know that there are two ways for a farm business to record its financial transactions? A farm business can record its financial transactions either using the cash accounting method or the accrual accounting method. In this article, we will explain what the different accounting methods are and look at the process to make the switch, if needed.

## Cash accounting

Under this method, your farm business will record financial transactions that have been paid (expenses) and where money has been received (revenue). Financial transactions under cash accounting will be the same transactions that occur in your bank account. This method does not specifically record accounts payable, accounts receivable and prepaid expenses. Most computerized software will still record accounts payable, accounts receivable and prepaid expenses, but these transactions would not affect your financial statements prepared under cash accounting rules.

### Advantages and disadvantages of cash accounting

#### Advantages

- Easier to use for smaller and simpler business operations
- Easier to balance your books to the bank account

#### Disadvantages

- May not provide the full financial picture as it only records transactions that effect your bank account
- Some taxation requirements may not allow you to file using cash accounting

## Accrual accounting

Accrual accounting is when you record your revenue and expense transactions when they occur, not when they affect your bank account. This method uses accounts payable, accounts receivable and prepaid expense accounts. It is easier for the owners of the farm business to see how well the farm is doing financially, as all expenses and revenues would be recorded, whereas under cash accounting, some of these transactions may not be recorded because of timing of payments. Most businesses are required to use accrual accounting. Farm businesses are one of only few industries that can choose which accounting method they want to use.

### Advantages and disadvantages of accrual accounting

#### Advantages

- Provides a more accurate financial picture
- More information provided in the financial statements for readers to fully understand your farm business

#### Disadvantages

- Requires more work to complete compared to cash accounting
- More complex than cash accounting

## I'm thinking about changing my accounting method, what should I do?

If you are considering switching accounting methods, one of the first steps that you need to take is to talk with your accountant or income tax preparer. These professionals are a great resource to help you determine whether your current accounting method is suiting your business. Your accountant or income tax preparer can also help with any forms/paperwork that you may have to file when making the switch.

Another consideration for switching accounting methods is the size and scope of your farm business. As a farm business gets bigger and the transactions become more complex, accrual accounting may be the better option for the business because accrual accounting can adapt to these transactions. Cash accounting is a good method for farm businesses that are just starting out or smaller in size.

## I have made the decision to switch accounting methods, what's next?

If after discussions with your accountant or income tax preparer, you decide that it is time to make the switch, there will be some paperwork that will need to be completed.

### Financial statements

If your financial statements are prepared by an accountant, your accountant will need to update the notes section of financial statements that outline the change in accounting methods. For financial statements that are prepared by the owner of the business, there is no specific requirement for you to disclose the change in accounting method, but it would be good practice.

### Income tax returns

If you are switching from cash accounting to accrual accounting, you will need to submit a written request to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) outlining the request before you can file your income tax return.

If you are switching from accrual accounting to cash accounting, you can file your income tax return using the cash accounting method, but you will need to attach a statement that outlines the adjustments that had to be made because of the change in accounting methods.

Your accountant or income tax preparer will be able to help you make sure all the paperwork is completed and filed on time.

## Summary

As a farm owner, there are many decisions that you must make on a regular basis. How your farm business accounts for its revenues and expenses can be a major decision. Both cash and accrual accounting have their advantages and disadvantages, but your accountant or income tax preparer can help you make the right decision for your farm. ■

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# INDUSTRY

## updates



### Ontario Veal Appeal celebrates June's Local Food Week with media tour



Local Food Week is a celebration of the bounty of fresh, healthy food grown, produced and processed right here in Ontario. When you choose local, you help create jobs and support economic growth in Ontario. Ontario Veal Appeal celebrated with a media tour in collaboration with several of our commodity group partners as part of a #30DaysOfLocal campaign. A recipe demonstration with Chef Ted Reader grilling up Ontario veal and other locally grown favourites was featured on a TV segment with CHCH Morning Live. Ontario veal was also part of an online and print feature in the *Toronto Sun*, *Ottawa Sun*, *Edmonton Sun*, *Calgary Sun*, and *Winnipeg Sun* by National Food Editor Rita DeMontis.

VFO also engaged with consumers through our social accounts, sharing where to find our Farm-Food360 video so they can meet real Ontario veal farmers, and directing them to the Meat & Poultry Ontario website to source veal locally. Producers were encouraged to get involved on social using the hashtag #loveONTfood and sharing their favourite way to choose local.

### VFO Chair testifies at court challenge

The *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act* (the Act) protects Ontario's food supply chain, from farm to table, without infringing on the right to peacefully protest. VFO has been a strong supporter of this legislation since it was first introduced, and we continue to stand behind it now that it is being appealed as a constitutional challenge by special interest groups.

As part of the appeal process, VFO Chair Pascal Bouilly, along with other industry stakeholders, testified in court on June 16, defending the Act and its importance to Ontario veal farmers. VFO will continue working on this priority issue to protect our livestock, our farms, and our families.

### Join VFO's private Facebook groups for producers

VFO has two private Facebook groups to help foster connections between members, share timely sector updates, and provide a space for discussing production and industry issues. The *Marketing of male dairy calves in Ontario* group is designed for dairy and veal producers, and for those starting calves for the dairy-beef market. The *Finishing grain-fed veal in Ontario* group is geared towards producers finishing male dairy cattle for veal markets. To join, send a request! Both are great forums to ask questions and start important conversations.

### Grain-fed veal fact sheets

VFO has developed a series of fact sheets that will help answer common questions about starting and operating a grain-fed veal farm. Releases for 2022 include feeding fibre, dehydration, and bedding. Learn more at [bit.ly/GFfactsheets](https://bit.ly/GFfactsheets) and watch for more bi-monthly releases.

### Farmer Wellness Initiative

Through the Farmer Wellness Initiative, farmers across Ontario and members of their household will have access to **free counselling sessions with a mental health professional**. The mental health professionals have received training to understand the unique needs of Ontario farmers.

Accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, in English and French, farmers can call 1-866-267-6255 to speak to a counsellor. This service is provided by LifeWorks.

### Producer programs offered by ACC

The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has two programs designed for producers to assist their cash flow needs; the Advance Payments Program and Commodity Loan Program. View a summary of the programs at [bit.ly/3vPKnQF](https://bit.ly/3vPKnQF).

To find out more or apply over the phone, please contact ACC at 1-888-278-8807. ■



# FarmFood360° veal tour rates high in online testing

Amber Anderson, Communications Manager

Farm & Food Care Ontario



Most participants were put at ease about veal farming because of the knowledge they gained in the videos. One participant said, “[The] video was very well done. It showed the outside and inside of the farm, the pens, the animals, the farmers looking after the cows. It keeps the viewer interested and focused. It also paints a nice picture that this is a family farm that’s well-maintained.”

On the whole, these results show that this project is of great value for veal farmers in Ontario. The newly launched project opens the door to how veal cattle are raised in Ontario and will be a great resource to consumers looking for more information. A new educators’ guide, also available at FarmFood360.ca, provides classroom activities for educators interested in incorporating the tour into their lesson plan.

Earlier this year, Farm & Food Care Ontario launched a veal farm tour on FarmFood360.ca that was developed in conjunction with Veal Farmers of Ontario. The tour, and its accompanying classroom guide, is available for Canadians to experience a virtual reality walk-through of a real working veal farm. In total, 22 tours of Canadian farms are available to see how food is made up close and virtual.

As part of this process, Farm & Food Care Ontario annually conducts focus group testing of the tours to see what people learned, what they liked and didn’t like about the videos and whether the website can be improved with subsequent projects. This year, the testing took place over three days in March, with 20 non-farming Canadians participating from across Canada.

The results were overwhelmingly positive about the veal farm and the farm family interviewed. While some participants admitted to being skeptical before watching the tour, many liked and found things interesting by the end. In particular, here are some of the findings:

- Most respondents did not know that veal cattle are free to roam around their pens and are generally housed with other cattle.
- Most respondents were surprised that veal cattle weigh more than 700 lbs. when they go to market.
- Over half of participants are very comfortable with veal farming after seeing the video, with a few asking more questions.
- Key takeaways from the videos included: “The cattle are well cared for and treated.” “The cattle live longer than I thought.” And, “Veal can have a negative connotation but can be raised well.”

**To the end of April 2022, the tours had been viewed 37,000 times by 29,743 visitors. ■**




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# Update on animal health and biosecurity

Susan Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council



## Annual Meeting

The Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council (OLPC) held its annual meeting on June 17, 2022. Gord Coukell was acclaimed as Chair. The Vice-Chair will be elected by the Board at their July meeting. Jennifer Bullock, Veal Farmers of Ontario will be assuming the Board seat representing minor livestock for a two-year term. The Board is comprised of:

Chair – Gordon Coukell

Minor Livestock – Jennifer Bullock, Veal Farmers of Ontario

Major Livestock – Darby Wheeler, Beef Farmers of Ontario

Poultry – Klaus Schneeberger, Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg and Chick Commission

Individual Agri-Business – Julie Harlow, Small Farms Canada

Agriculture and Food Associations and Coalitions – Jean Howden, Livestock Research Innovation Corporation

Veterinarian Associations – Steve Roche, Acer Consulting

## Farm & Food Care livestock transportation emergency resources

Farm & Food Care have compiled a Livestock Transportation Emergency Manual and Contact List. These resources are designed for farmers who truck their own livestock and smaller livestock truckers who travel regular routes. The Emergency Contact list would be useful to First Responders (and others) as an advanced planning tool to identify resources in your area that could be called upon in the event of a livestock transport accident. Find the contact list here [bit.ly/TruckerEmerg](http://bit.ly/TruckerEmerg) and Emergency Manual here [bit.ly/LivestockManual](http://bit.ly/LivestockManual).

## Two Ontario cases of lone star tick causing red meat allergy

(CEZD Weekly Intelligence Report – May 22 to 29, 2022)

Lone star ticks, which can cause a rare allergy to red meat called alpha-gal syndrome, are expanding into Canada as temperatures rise. So far, there have only been two reports of cases of alpha-gal syndrome in Canada: a woman from Windsor and a man from Eastern Ontario. The location of the tick bites that led to the two cases is unknown and could have occurred during travel to the US. Data from [etick.ca](http://etick.ca) shows the number of lone star ticks reported in Canada is roughly 10 each year, with seven lone star ticks reported in the country this year, mostly in Ontario and one in Nova Scotia. These numbers may increase, as migration patterns of ticks are changing due to warmer temperatures, deforestation, and the building of highways.

## Emergency transit of regulated animals

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service officially agreed to implement an Emergency Transit Policy for Regulated Animals. The policy makes it easier and faster to evacuate regulated animals, such as livestock, birds, pets, and companion animals, across the border during emergencies such as flooding, forest fires, extreme weather conditions or disasters, or when routine transportation routes are impaired without feasible alternatives. Animals transiting through the other country during an emergency will be instructed when and where they will have to re-enter their country of origin.

Under the joint policy, the country declaring an emergency will inspect animals, apply official seals to transport conveyances, and issue a simplified export health certificate either at the port(s) of exit by an official veterinarian or at the premises of origin by an accredited veterinarian or official veterinarian. You can read the full statement here [bit.ly/CANUSprotocol](http://bit.ly/CANUSprotocol).



### Leading Dairy Farming with Passion and Purpose

Ontario dairy farmers are committed to the sustainability of their farms, their animals and the land, and take pride in producing high-quality, nutrient-rich milk for Canadians from generation to generation.



## Updated standards of care for outdoor dogs

Updated standards of care for outdoor dogs will come into force on July 1, 2022. The updated standards replace the previous standards of care for dogs that live outdoors under the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act* and create more comprehensive requirements related to:

- General care – including access to shade, food and water, grooming and nail care, and health and welfare maintenance.
- Outdoor dog shelter – including when an outdoor dog shelter is required (with exceptions for livestock guardian dogs and dogs that have access to a structure housing livestock), as well as design features and size-related specifications for an outdoor dog shelter.
- Use of tethering – including when dogs cannot be tethered, the safe usage of tethers, minimum space requirements when a dog is tethered, and maximum time a dog can spend on a tether (with limited exceptions).
- Use of housing pens – including the use of housing pens, minimum housing pen size and restrictions on outdoor dogs that can be penned together (with limited exceptions).
- Tethering and housing pen containment area – including adequate cleaning and sanitation, as well as features to support the physical comfort and welfare of a dog while they are contained outdoors.

A fact sheet and commonly asked questions document are available on the OLPC website here [bit.ly/OLPCnews](https://bit.ly/OLPCnews).

## Wild pig fact sheet

A revised wild pig factsheet is now available here <https://bit.ly/ONPigs>. It is available in English here [bit.ly/ONPigFAQ](https://bit.ly/ONPigFAQ) and in French here [bit.ly/ONPigFAQF](https://bit.ly/ONPigFAQF).

A wild pig is any pig that is outside of a fence that is not contained or under the physical control of a person. This includes free roaming pigs that are:

- Domesticated pigs (for example, pot-bellied pigs and farmed domestic breeds, including heritage breeds)
- Eurasian wild boar
- Hybrids of domesticated pigs and Eurasian wild boar

Wild pigs are not native to Ontario and can have a negative impact on native wildlife and ecosystems. They have high reproductive potential which means that they can increase in number and spread rapidly, making their impacts more severe. Impacts to the natural environment include:

- Preying upon native plants and wildlife
- Competing with native wildlife for food, water, and space
- Rooting into the ground with their tusks and snouts to dig for roots, tubers, bulbs, worms, insects, slugs, and snails
- Trampling and wallowing, which can cause erosion, impact water quality, and degrade natural areas
- Spreading disease to wildlife

Wild pigs also pose a significant risk to the agricultural industry. They damage crops, pasturelands and spread disease to livestock, pets and humans. ■



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# Workplace inspections

Cheryl DeCooman, CHRL, President

People Management Group/UdderlySAFE



Completing workplace inspections is a requirement under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The employee health and safety representative is responsible for completing a workplace inspection every month and the manager must examine the results of the inspection and take action to correct any unsafe conditions. It is important to remember that everyone in the workplace have the responsibility to maintain a safe work environment. This means that hazards should be identified and corrected throughout the month, not just when the monthly inspection is conducted.

## Why do we do inspections?

Inspections are needed to critically examine all factors in the workplace including equipment, processes, materials, buildings, and procedures. The goal must be to complete meaningful inspections that actually impact the health and safety of the employees by:

- Identifying hazards
- Reducing unsafe conditions and practices
- Improving housekeeping
- Reducing workplace injuries and other accidents
- Ensuring prior solutions and corrective actions are working
- Monitoring compliance and the effectiveness of policies and procedures

This process cannot just be about ticking off boxes or making sure the document is submitted.

## How do we complete the workplace inspection?

### Prepare for the inspection

Review previous inspections to be sure items have been resolved. Find out if any incidents or injuries have occurred this month. Always bring a note pad to make notes as you go so you don't forget. Use the map to check all fire extinguishers, exits and other safety items. Determine who you will need to talk to during the inspection and what documents you will need to review (e.g., pre-use inspections).

### Complete the inspection

Walk through every area of your workplace and thoroughly review each line item on the workplace inspection checklist. If you have racking, a separate rack inspection checklist must be used.

Don't stop at the end of the checklist, ensure you assess all the workplace conditions and practices. Every workplace is different, and each month will be different.

Identify actual and potential hazards and document them on the inspection checklist. Record the location of hazard and describe the hazard in detail, use additional paper if required. Ensure that you indicate if it is a repeat item. If you observe a high hazard situation, stop the work, and report it to the supervisor immediately. Once complete, sign and date the inspection checklist.

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## Create an action plan

The safety representative and the manager must review the inspection and discuss any unsafe items. Also review any items that have not been resolved from previous inspections. Determine what corrective actions are required to address each of the items identified. The corrective action should eliminate or lower the risk of injury or other incidents. Consider what controls might decrease the likelihood of an accident or the severity of the consequences of the accident. Ask for feedback and recommendations from other employees.

Determine if there is already a control in place that is not working or not being followed. When determining the appropriate controls, you must consider the likelihood that the control will fail. For example, how likely is it that employees will not wear their safety glasses?

Sometimes more than one control is needed to address unsafe items. Create an action plan document and assign each item to a specific person to address. Discuss unfinished items from previous inspections with the responsible person to determine why they have not been completed.

## Implement the corrective actions and controls

Once you have determined what corrective actions are needed, you must put them in place. Involve the employees and ensure they completely understand any new requirements. After implementation, monitor the corrective actions to make sure they are being followed. Evaluate corrective

actions to determine if they have effectively reduced the hazard and/or if additional or alternate controls are needed.

It is important to understand that putting corrective actions in place is just as important as identifying the hazard on the inspection. If an unsafe item is identified on the inspection, but no steps are taken to correct it, that item will continue to put the health and safety of individuals in the workplace at risk.

The current monthly inspection MUST be posted on your Health and Safety Board and a copy must be retained in your files.

Don't forget about the requirement to inspect your work area, equipment, and tools before each use. Correct hazards right away, you do not need to wait until the monthly inspection to correct an unsafe situation. Never use damaged or defective equipment or tools, mark unsafe equipment and tools as out of service and report it to your supervisor right away.

## How do we complete meaningful inspections?

### Focusing on details and potential hazards

Thoroughly understand what the requirement is for each item and look carefully at each item. Be thorough; test equipment, open doors, look all around each room. Consider what "could" go wrong. Talk to the employees in each area to get their input. Don't make assumptions, especially about compliance with existing procedures.

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## Successful approach

Using a supportive approach when addressing health and safety items can go a long way. Focus on positivity towards improvements and proactive problem solving. Involve employees by encouraging ideas and asking for suggestions. Acknowledge success and show appreciation for efforts and results.

If you see someone doing something unsafe, step in. Suggest a better, safer way, observe their actions, and praise them for working safely. Work with supervisors to clearly describe the expectations in terms of results and behaviors.

Inspections can only be successful if corrective action is taken to eliminate the hazards found.

## Potential roadblocks

Keep in mind that it can be hard to notice unsafe items if you are too familiar with the area or job. You may not notice something you walk past everyday. It may be difficult to see the risk in a task that you have seen be completed before without any problems. Remember to consider what “could” go wrong. The inspector may genuinely believe things are being done properly and therefore does not feel the need to check them. This often occurs with paperwork or tasks you are not familiar with. When inspecting our own work environment, it is easy to get distracted with our day-to-day job or feel forced to rush through the inspection. Make sure you take the time to complete a thorough inspection. ■

## What are some common hazards/unsafe items to look for during your inspection?

- **Health & Safety Board** – all required documents, safety talk and previous inspection, emergency response plan
- **Entrances and exits** – clear access, exit signs, no slip/trip hazards
- **Floors** – look indoors and outdoors for all slip/trip hazards – debris, clutter, tools on the ground, cords, leaks, oil, water, ice, mud, drainage, damaged floors
- **General housekeeping** – garbage, tool storage, washrooms, material storage, clear aiseways
- **Material storage** – items not leaning/blocking aisles, flammable material stored properly
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – is the right PPE available, in good condition, USED when needed
- **Ladders** – right type of ladder, in good condition, inspected, PPE used with ladders over three metres
- **Building components** – overhead doors in good condition and inspected, adequate ventilation, no leaks
- **Material handling equipment** – pre-use inspection, annual inspection, in good condition, trained employees, safe operating procedures followed
- **Stairs** – in good condition, kept clear, top rail and mid rail
- **Lighting and electrical** – adequate lighting indoors and outside, electrical panels in good condition and accessible, no damaged electrical components, appropriate use of extension cords, lockout tagout followed
- **First Aid and eyewash** – accessible/clean, kits fully stocked, certificate posted, continuous flow eyewash
- **Fire extinguishers** – hung on wall, accessible, charged, annual inspection, tag signed monthly
- **Compressed gas** – safe location, cylinders are secured, propane outside in locked cage
- **Flammable liquids** – away from ignition sources, approved containers, storage tanks have barricades
- **Tools** – in good condition, inspected, guards in place, right tool for the job, used properly, correct PPE used
- **Equipment and attachments** – inspected, good condition/no damage, trained employees, safe operating procedures followed, safety devices in place (ROPs, seat belts, mirrors), PTO guards
- **Conveyors/augers** – in good condition, inspected, guards in place, safety procedures followed
- **Chemicals** – stored safely, in proper containers, labeled, mixed safely, adequate ventilation, correct PPE is used including respirators, spill kit, safe disposal
- **Wells, tanks, manure pits** – adequately covered/gated, access restricted, signage in place
- **Grain bins, silos, bunks** – in good condition, safe operating procedures, signage
- **Animals** – safe animal handling procedures followed, gates/restraint equipment
- **Medication** – properly stored, access restricted, safe needling procedures followed, proper sharp disposal
- **Commercial motor vehicles** – pre-use inspection, annual inspection, in good condition, no smoking, first aid kit/fire extinguisher/PPE, cargo securement requirements followed

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For more information about Bovilis® Nasalgen® 3-PMH, or for technical support, please contact your Merck Animal Health representative, call 1-866-683-7838, or go to [www.merck-animal-health.ca](http://www.merck-animal-health.ca). Always read and follow the label instructions to ensure this product is suitable for the animal to be vaccinated.  
1. Savard C and Bross A. Bovine respiratory profiles summary © 2019, Bovine Animal Health News (2020) Available at <https://bovineinc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Bovine-respiratory-profiles-summary-2019-1.pdf>  
2. Gupta V, Myerovik SK, Stott SL, and Ezzamel LA. Maternal Antibody of Vaccines in Domestic Animals. *Vet Res* 2009; 40:487-510. DOI: 10.1007/s12085-009-9112-4 Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19260349> (Accessed December 2021)  
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**MERCK**  
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# Grilled Veal Rib Chops with Chimichurri

Grilling guru *Chef Ted Reader* takes outdoor dining to the next level with this simple but sumptuous recipe made with local Ontario veal chops.

Chimichurri is an Argentinean sauce made with fresh herbs. You can pick some up at your favourite grocery store or visit [OntarioVealAppeal.ca](http://OntarioVealAppeal.ca) for the full recipe. It is full of flavour and is an excellent sauce for Ontario grain-fed veal chops.

4	Ontario Veal Rib Chops, approximately 8 oz each and 1 inch thick
¼ cup	steak spice
Drizzle	olive oil
1 cup	chimichurri sauce
4 tbsp	blue cheese (or substitute feta cheese)

Lightly brush the veal rib chops with olive oil and rub the chops with the steak spice, pressing the seasoning into the meat.

Fire up your grill to medium high to high 500-650°F (260-345°C).

Grill veal rib chops for 3 to 5 minutes per side for medium rare doneness (135°F/57°C), basting with chimichurri sauce after the flip. Top with a tablespoon of crumbled creamy blue cheese, close grill lid for 1 to 2 minutes to allow cheese to melt while the steaks finish cooking.

Remove chops from grill and let rest for 3 minutes. Serve drizzled with extra chimichurri sauce.

Ontario  
**VEAL**  
appeal

For more delicious recipe ideas visit [OntarioVealAppeal.ca](http://OntarioVealAppeal.ca)

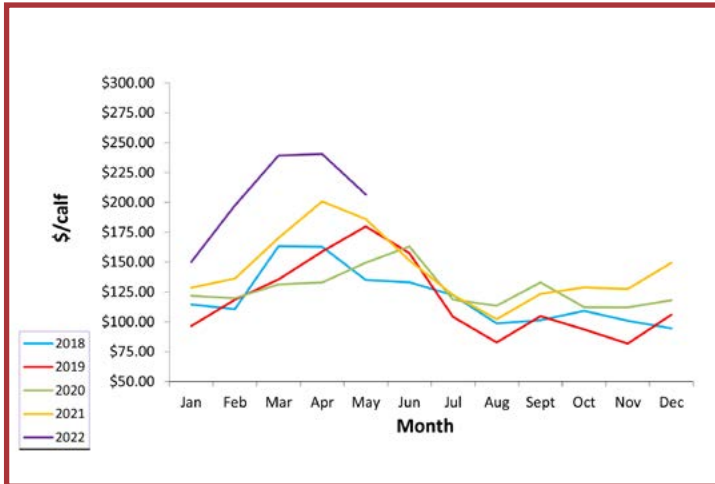




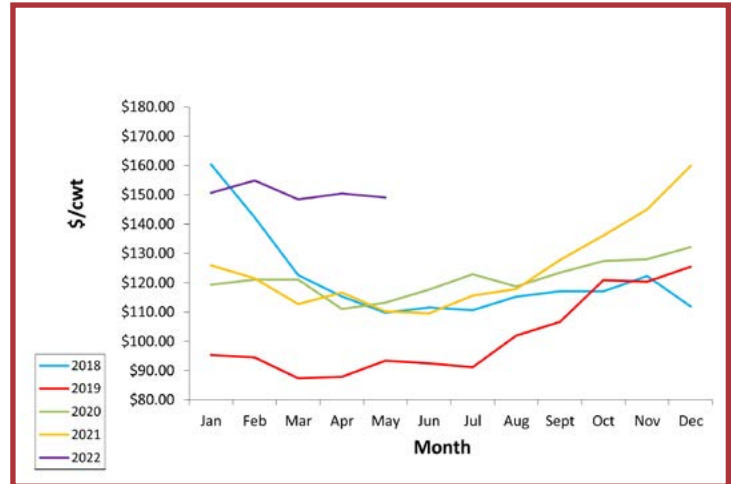
# Veal Market Information

This information is collected from various sources and disseminated by Veal Farmers of Ontario.

## Bob Calf Pricing



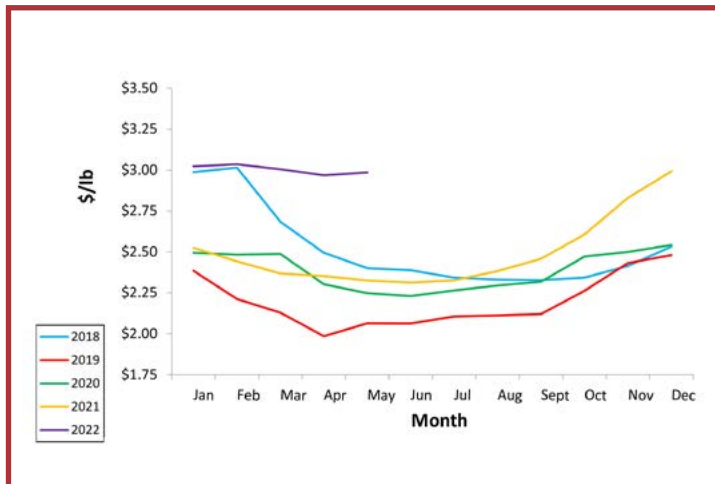
## Sale Barn Veal Pricing



This price range is collected and tabulated from participating sale barns throughout Ontario based on average pricing. This information is used to follow trends.

This price range is collected and tabulated from participating sale barns throughout Ontario based on average pricing. This information is used to follow trends.

## Rail Grade Veal Pricing



## Finished price compared to bob calf prices (eight months previous)

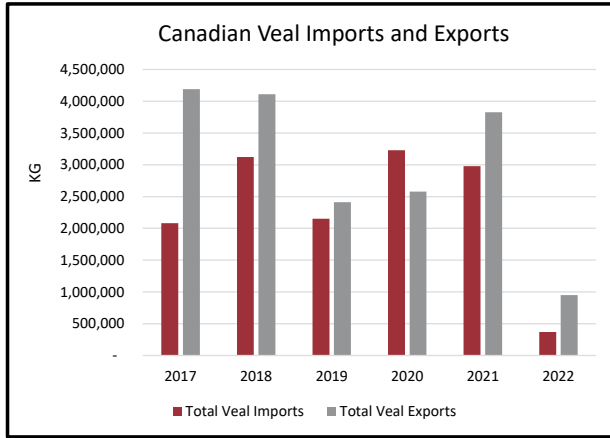


This information is collected from producer contributions on a weekly basis. Once the numbers are collected a weighted average is calculated. The weighted average gives a more realistic price of what is happening in the market. This information is used to follow trends.

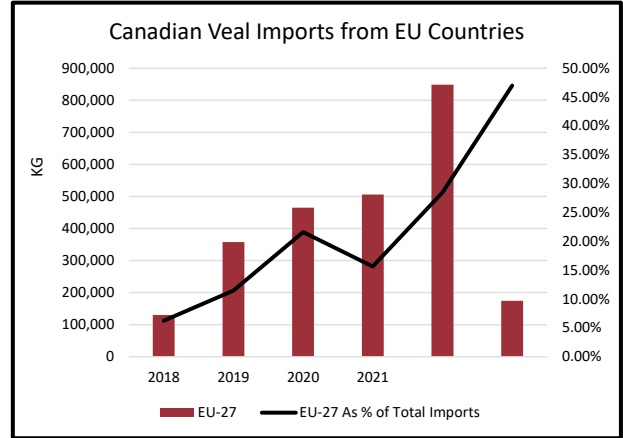
This graph is used to compare the finished price from both the sale barn and rail grade pricing to the bob calf prices eight months prior. This information could help when deciding on the purchase prices of calves and what market they will be shipped in. This information gives a quick glance at both bob calf pricing and finished veal pricing.



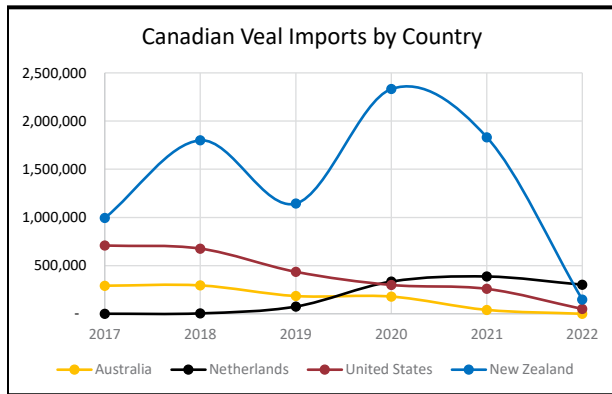
A quarterly snapshot of Canada's veal trade



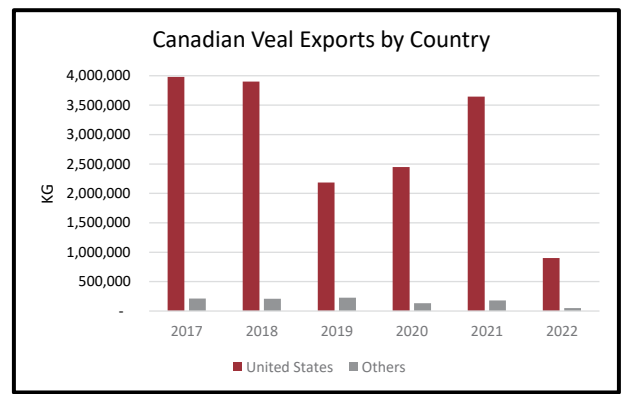
Canada's veal trade surplus continues to grow in 2022. Year to date, Canadian veal exports amounted to 951,000 kgs, a year over year increase of 13% by volume and 42% by value. Conversely, veal imports decreased in volume by 37% and in value by 22% compared to 2021, with import volumes amounting to approx. 371,000 kgs.



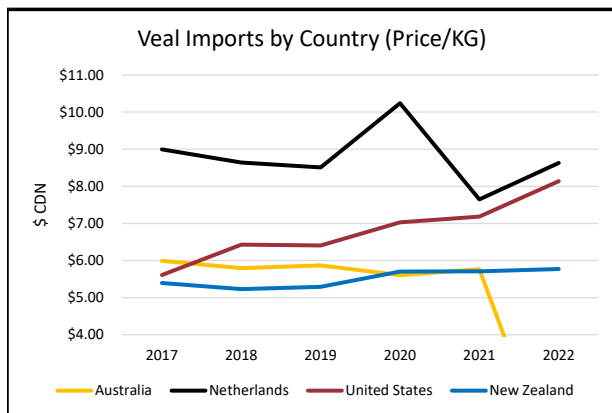
The volume of veal imports from the EU (red) is up 38%, compared to this time in 2021. This is equivalent to 47% of Canada's veal imports (black line); a concerning increase especially considering that these imports are higher value muscle cuts. The Netherlands is the predominant supplier of European imports.



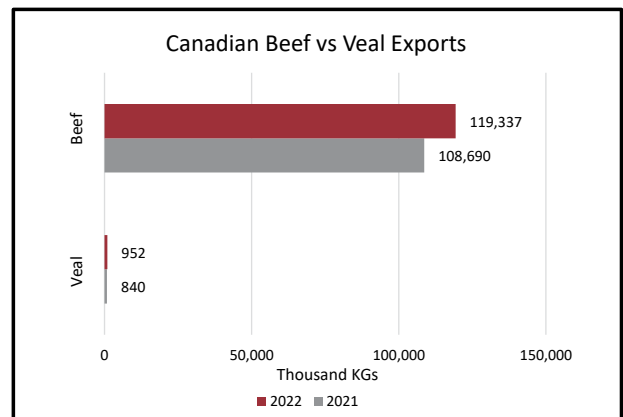
The Netherlands is now Canada's largest supplier of imported veal, followed closely by New Zealand. Imports from the USA continue to decline. No Australian imports have been reported. More than triple the veal is now imported from the Netherlands than the USA.



Veal exports to the USA increased by 12% year to date compared to 2021. This is the highest amount of veal exports since 2018. The remainder of Canada's veal exports are sent to the Middle East.



The per kg price of veal imported from the Netherlands has increased in 2022 from lows set in 2021 (from \$7.65 to 8.63/kg). It remains the highest per kg price of any country. The value of American cuts remains at higher levels in 2022 (\$8.14/kg), while the value of New Zealand imports held steady (\$5.77/kg).



While veal represents just a small fraction of Canada's red meat trade, both veal and beef exports have increased year to date in 2022.

Data retrieved from AAFC and Statistics Canada, red meat section.

# Ontario VEAL *appeal*

## Bacon Wrapped Veal Meatloaf Burgers

Cut: Ground/Minced

### Ingredients:

#### Burgers

- 1 ½ lbs ground veal
- ½ lb ground pork
- ½ cup finely diced onion
- 6 large cloves of garlic, minced
- ¾ cup breadcrumbs
- 3 tbsp ketchup
- 1 lg egg
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh sage
- 1 tbsp potato starch or corn starch, heaped
- 2 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 tsp granulated garlic
- 2 tsp Himalayan salt (or any salt you have on hand)
- 9 slices bacon, uncooked

#### Beer BBQ Gravy (makes 3 cups)

- ¼ cup butter
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 1 tsp chopped garlic
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup craft beer
- 1 ½ cups beef stock
- ½ cup hickory smoke BBQ sauce
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste



### Instructions:

Combine the ground veal and pork, add the onions, garlic, breadcrumbs, ketchup, egg, sage, and potato starch. Add black pepper, garlic, and salt. Mix well and form into 5 equal sized oval patties about 5-6 oz each and about 1 ¼ to 1 ½ inches thick and 4 inches long by 3 inches wide.

Take your bacon and cut 3 in half. Stretch the bacon slices to increase their length. Wrap the half slices around the narrow side of the burger. Wrap the full slice of bacon around the long side of the burger. Your burger should look like a hot cross bun. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour to set.

Prepare the gravy.

Over medium heat, melt the butter in a saucepan, sauté the onions and garlic for 2 to 3 minutes or until transparent. Add the flour and cook, stirring constantly, for 4 to 5 minutes, being careful not to burn the flour. Add the beer and beef stock ½ cup at a time, stirring constantly, until smooth and thickened. Stir in the BBQ sauce, salt, and pepper. Reduce heat, simmer for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Adjust seasoning, set aside, and keep warm.

Fire up your grill to 350° F.

Place the burgers over indirect, medium heat, close lid and cook slowly for 10 minutes, turn, and cook for another 10 minutes until bacon is partially rendered and the burgers are starting to firm. Move the burgers onto the direct side of the grill and cook on medium until the burgers are slightly charred, the bacon is crisp, and the internal temperature reads 160° F.

Serve burgers on top of a pile of mashed potatoes or on your favorite toasted bun ladled with beer BBQ gravy.

Leftovers are awesome! Slice and serve between some toasty buns and dunk into the gravy.

Makes 5 servings.

Source: Ted Reader BBQ ■



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## Licensed dealers

As a veal (bob calves, started/preconditioned calves, and finished veal cattle) producer, you should be dealing with licensed 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 email address. If you are dealing with an unlicensed 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 licensed, ask to see the licence, check the Agricorn website at [bit.ly/Agricorndealers](http://bit.ly/Agricorndealers) or contact the VFO office.

## Licence fee reminders

In order to save producers time doing paperwork for their male dairy bob calf (up to 150 pounds) and preconditioned intact male dairy calf (up to 450 pounds) purchases from private treaty or dealer sales, VFO has a Year End Licence Fee Remittance Worksheet available to assist in calculating monthly remittances from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. 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 are received and to forward the licence fees to the local board. Bob calves and preconditioned 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 emailed, faxed, or sent by regular mail to the office. If you require additional copies of the Year End Licence Fee Remittance Worksheet, Form 1, or Form 5, please visit [bit.ly/LicForms](http://bit.ly/LicForms) or contact the VFO office.

## Ontario Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program

Agricorn is the 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 Licensing inquiries, must be directed to Agricorn. Visit [bit.ly/agricorn](http://bit.ly/agricorn) or call 1-888-247-4999 for more information. ■



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