

THE Connection

Fall 2022 Volume 4, No. 3



VEAL
Farmers
of Ontario

IN THIS ISSUE

Prioritizing farmer mental health

Knowing your cost of production

***Ontario's Best Veal Sandwich*
crowns a winner**



FUEL YOUR CALVES, RIGHT FROM THE START™

Blending the art and science of young animal nutrition to bring you premium products with innovative ingredients

Our team of Young Animal Specialists can assist you on your farm with quality products, custom feeding plans and troubleshooting

Contact us today to learn how we are **more than milk replacer**

GroberNutrition.com | 1.800.265.7863 |   

Contents

The Connection is published quarterly by Veal Farmers of Ontario.

Reproduction, in whole or in part, of the editorial or advertising content is expressly forbidden without the written consent of the editor.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the author and/or editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Veal Farmers of Ontario. *The Connection* always welcomes letters to the editor.

Publication of advertisements does not constitute endorsement or approval by *The Connection* or Veal Farmers of Ontario of products or services advertised.

Editor in Chief: Jennifer Haley

Managing Editor: Jennifer Bullock




For advertising inquiries contact: Jennifer Bullock

Design: Lynn Schouppe

Printed at: Sportswood Printing, A Division of The Aylmer Express LTD. 2022

Address correspondence to:
Veal Farmers of Ontario
449 Laird Road, Unit 12
Guelph, ON N1G 4W1
519-824-2942
info@vealfarmers.ca

Canadian Publications Mail Product
Sales Agreement # 40026642
Postmaster:
return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Veal Farmers of Ontario
449 Laird Road, Unit 12
Guelph, ON N1G 4W1

 @OntarioVeal
 @CalfCareCorner
 @CalfCareCorner



4 Chair's Message

5 Executive Director's Report

6 Nutritional components of neonatal diarrhea in calves

8 What's the impact of transportation?

10 Bedding, the simple solution

12 A high-cost world—How producers can stay ahead

14 Quality veal, what producers need to know

16 Promoting the appeal of Ontario Veal

18 CVA continues to advocate for Canadian veal sector

20 An overview of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

21 Take advantage of the new Farmer Wellness Initiative this harvest season

22 Knowing your cost of production

24 Industry updates

26 Building the foundation for better calf performance

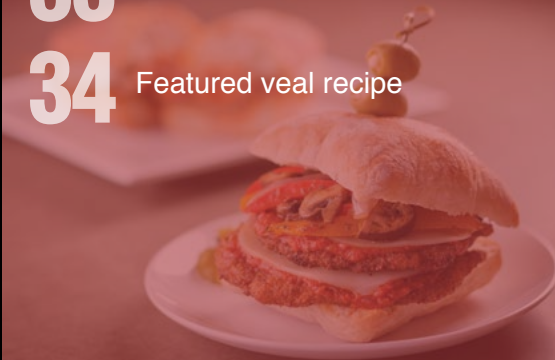
28 Training around livestock transportation emergencies continues from FFCO

30 New study on farmer mental health in Canada

32 Veal Market Information

33 Veal Trade Tracker

34 Featured veal recipe





Chair's MESSAGE



Pascal Bouilly

Prioritizing mental health to support you and your business

We all know that agriculture is a resilient industry, but there are times when as individual farmers we may need more support. In the past few years, the topic of farmer mental health has been really opened up and we are starting to talk about it more and more. A recent study by Drs. Andria Jones-Bitton and Briana Hagen, and M.Sc. student Rochelle Thompson shows that the mental health of farmers is worse now than it was five years ago. Anxiety and depression top the list of concerns, with Canadian farmers having higher scores than the general population. They also have greater perceived stress, exhaustion, and cynicism—the latter two being signs of burnout.

While there may be less stigma associated with mental health challenges amongst farmers and the agri-food industry, it doesn't make them any less present. And our own sector is not immune to the stresses associated with raising livestock and running a farm, especially as the landscape of our industry rapidly evolves. All of this adds to the personal stress that farmers and non-farmers alike experience. It's been top of mind for me lately, and if you find yourself needing someone to talk to, I encourage all of you to reach out and access the Farmer Wellness Initiative (FWI), a new free counselling service available for farm families.

The FWI, a partnership between the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Lifeworks, and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), is available provincially. Enclosed with this issue, producers will find a magnet with the phone number on it—keep it on the fridge, in the barn, or in the tractor. Intake callers and crisis counselors are available 24/7/365, and this program truly fills a gap, offering confidential in-person, virtual, and over-the-phone counselling that farmers need, when they need it. You can also learn more in the article on page 21 and by visiting farmerwellnessinitiative.ca.

As I write this, VFO staff are gearing up for our first back-in-person event at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock. I hope you will have a chance to drop by our booth and pick up a few of our helpful resources. Conversations we have with our members at events like this contribute to our future projects and hearing concerns directly from producers impacts which issues we focus on as an organization. It also helps us create unique professional development opportunities for you through webinars and in-person events, including the return of our tenth biennial Healthy Calf Conference this year in Stratford.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there and want to emphasize the importance of investing in yourself, your farm business, and your industry by attending these events. It's a great opportunity to get off the farm to learn something new and socialize after a stressful harvest, or to offer the calf-raisers on your farm as a chance to strengthen your calf management as a team. We hope to have all of you join us either in-person or via the live-stream on Zoom. You can learn more about the agenda and how to register in the brochure included with this issue and in the article on page 26.

Farming may be isolating at times, but you're not alone and I hope you join our calf-raising community as we come together and learn more about practical, implementable changes we can make on-farm and chat with our neighbours, friends, and industry partners. Sometime a fresh perspective can make a difference, and we know the in-person networking that happens at these events is good for yourself and your calves. Remember, it is okay to not be okay all the time. Please make sure to prioritize your own mental health and wellness.

Wishing you all a safe and successful harvest. ■





Jennifer Haley

Investing in our social licence to support the agri-food sector

As farmers, the work you do is vital to the agri-food supply chain. Without your primary production the businesses further upstream in the supply chain would need to import ingredients for further processing. Consumers would not be able to enjoy the bounty of the many commodities that are grown and raised here in Ontario and would need to rely on imported food to feed their families, likely at a much higher cost than what they are spending now on their grocery bills. We know that Ontario cannot have a food security plan without first ensuring and investing in primary production.

At the same time, the agri-food sector depends on various provincial and federal government programs to help us manage the risks associated with growing food that are well beyond anyone's control. Whether you participate in programs like AgriStability, AgriInvest, Ontario's Risk Management Program, crop insurance or other funding programs to help with best management programs, nutrient management plans, drainage, and implementing innovative new technologies on farm, our sector relies on important government funding to help offset the cost of these programs.

There have been several market research surveys over the years that continue to show that the consumer places a high level of trust in the farmer. However, it is as equally important to maintain that level of trust we have with the consumer. Some organizations refer to this as our 'social licence' with the consumer. Social licence refers, in general, to the consumer's ongoing acceptance of the agri-food sector—our farming practices, our people and our standards.

Social licence is created and maintained slowly over time as we build trust with the consumer and other stakeholders. But it is also equally important to remember that in order to protect and build social licence we must first do the right thing and then be seen to be doing the right thing. This is also known as the 'triple bottom line' where the focus is on financial, social, and environmental impacts of businesses. Our social licence with the consumer builds on and enhances public trust.

Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO), like other commodity organizations, has several different programs that help to build public trust with the consumer while at the same time help us achieve our organization's goals to promote the sector and increase veal consumption. For example, the search for *Ontario's Best Veal Sandwich* contest, while primarily a consumer-focused

campaign, also supports our goals of sharing important information about the Ontario veal sector with the consumer while also supporting the many family-run restaurants. The *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Veal Cattle* is another tool in building public trust.

VFO also partners with organizations like Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO) to build public trust by supporting events like their very popular Breakfast from the Farm program. We have recently partnered with FFCO to put our new "All About Veal" brochure into the swag bags of attendees going to the both the upcoming Elora and Milton events so that consumers can learn the facts about veal production. VFO Director Phil Kroesbergen also volunteered to be part of the popular *Faces Behind Farming* campaign that highlights those involved in the agri-food sector and the jobs that they do.

The agri-food sector has a social licence with the consumer and more and more it is important that this relationship be maintained and nurtured. More consumers are farther removed from farming than ever before, but yet they have a huge interest in knowing more about where their food comes from. But more importantly, the consumer is also the taxpayer. And the taxpayer funds the work of our governments.

If we want to continue to lobby and advocate for not only maintaining the important investment that government makes in our business risk management programs, but also growing that investment, then we need to ensure our relationship with the consumer is valued and that the consumer continues to place their trust in us to do what we do. It is a symbiotic relationship and the investment now in our social licence will show a return on investment in the long run. ■

Nutritional components of neonatal diarrhea in calves

Juliette Wilms, Research Scientist at Trouw Nutrition R&D and PhD Candidate
Dr. Michael Steele, Associate Professor
Dr. David Renaud, Assistant Professor

University of Guelph



Digestive disorders remain the leading cause of calf morbidity and mortality on dairy farms within the first three weeks of life. Management and nutritional factors causing diarrhea in calves are numerous and the choice of feeding strategies is crucial. Low plane of nutrition (10 per cent birth body weight (BW)) remains common under the perception that high milk volumes (20 per cent birth BW) induce diarrhea and reduce preweaning starter feed intake. Feeding low planes of milk can cause alterations of the immune system that can lower the ability of calves to fight infections from enteric pathogens. While feeding adequate levels of milk to calves is important, the choice of liquid feed requires careful considerations.

What shall I consider when feeding whole milk?

A clear distinction should be made between saleable whole milk (WM) taken from the milk tank and waste milk including milk from treated cows that may contain antimicrobials. Feeding of saleable WM may be appealing when considering its optimal nutrient composition, however, feeding of raw milk (saleable WM and waste milk) can expose the calf to enteric pathogens that can be introduced either from the udder or when handling the milk and is therefore not recommended when hygiene on-farm cannot be ensured. The use of commercial on-farm pasteurization systems allows a substantial reduction of pathogenic bacteria in waste milk resulting in lower morbidity and mortality rates in calves. However, this does not alter the activity of most antimicrobials that may be present in waste milk, which can cause gut microbial imbalances predisposing the calves to enteric infections. In addition, the composition of waste milk can be highly variable: a high somatic cell count in milk leads to changes in the percentage of solids and in the mineral composition. Thus, waste milk is unlikely to represent a suitable option for feeding high levels of milk to calves.

What shall I consider when choosing a milk replacer product?

In contrast to waste milk, milk replacers (MR) provide a consistent nutrient supply to calves and do not contain antimicrobial residues. However, the use of low-quality raw materials in MR can increase diarrhea prevalence in calves.

Osmolality. Whereas WM has a low osmolality, defined as the number of particles in solution, MR osmolality can be very hypertonic (Figures 1 and 2). This is due to higher lactose and minerals, as well as a high percentage of solids per litre of solution (15 to 20 per cent) in MR. Other feeding practices such as the addition of milk balancers to WM, mixing oral rehydration solutions into MR or WM, as well as mixing errors will substantially increase milk osmolality. Although the link between osmolality and diarrhea in calves is not clear, high milk osmolality can reduce water absorption by the intestines leading to what is called “osmotic diarrhea”. Feeding of hypertonic MR to young animals may also impair gut health, which could facilitate susceptibility to pathogens causing diarrhea.

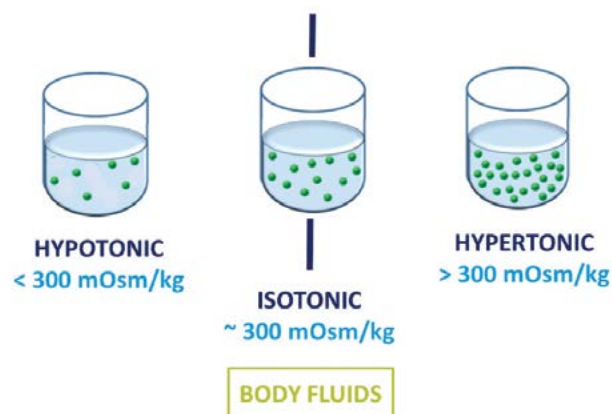


Figure 1. A solution is hypertonic if its osmolality is above 300 mOsm/kg.

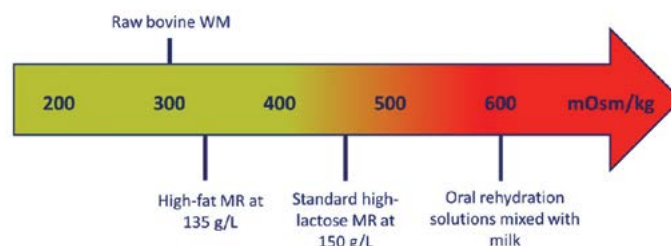


Figure 2. Osmolality scale.

Protein quality. During the pasteurization and evaporation process of WM, high heat can damage the proteins as indicated by a low (less than three mg/g) whey protein nitrogen index (WPNI), a parameter which is only relevant for WM powders and dry skimmed milk-based MR. Damaging milk proteins alters the protein structure causing a reduction in pro-

tein digestibility in calves. Furthermore, in MR containing a high inclusion of non-dairy proteins, protein availability is reduced. Although some interesting vegetable sources such as hydrolyzed wheat proteins exist, unprocessed soy proteins include antinutritional factors causing gut mucosal damages. Unlike casein, whey and vegetable proteins do not curd in the abomasum leading to a faster gastrointestinal transit which can lead to an overflow of proteins arriving in the gut. This may negatively affect protein availability when feeding larger meals or elevated level of nutrient intake. Impairment of digestive processes related to the presence of low-quality proteins is often associated with severe digestive disorders, which is critical for calves younger than three weeks of age.

Fat amount and composition. Milk replacer for calves usually contain lower levels of fat (16 to 20 per cent dry matter (DM)) and higher levels of lactose (40 to 45 per cent) than WM (Figure 3). Increasing the fat content in MR was associated with a reduced number of medical treatments, lower fecal scores, and reduced mortality in preweaned calves. However, the fat composition should also be evaluated as MR contain alternative fat sources to milk fat which have a different fatty acid profile and triglyceride structure. Factors related to the oil saturation level, the oil dispersion, and emulsification can affect digestibility of dietary fats. When the composition of the oil largely differs from that of milk fat, diarrhea has been observed in calves.

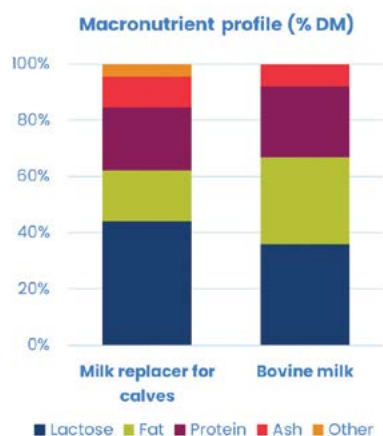


Figure 3. Macronutrient profile of MR for calves.

Calves should be fed high quality WM or MR and the nutritional factors related to calf diarrhea should be evaluated by your nutritionist and veterinarian. ■

Take home message

- Calves need an adequate energy supply
- Waste milk and low-quality MR are not a suitable feeding strategy
- Highly hypertonic MR (greater than 500 mOsm/kg) meals should be avoided
- When feeding WM powder and MR with high skimmed milk, WPNI should be above three mg/g
- MR containing a large inclusion of vegetable proteins should be avoided, especially within the first three weeks of life
- MRs with high fat levels are preferable and fat composition of MR should be as close as possible to that of WM



BEYOND NUTRITION

bwfeed.ca | 1-800-267-8194 | New Hamburg, ON

- colostrum replacer •
- milk replacer •
- calf starter •
- 36% Red Veal •

Maximize Growth → Reduce Costs



What's the impact of transportation?

New regulations and research



Dr. David Renaud, Assistant Professor

University of Guelph

Beginning in February of 2022, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has begun to enforce new transportation regulations in cattle. With respect to young calves, they cannot be transported for more than 12 hours without feed, water, and rest. In addition, calves that are eight days of age or younger cannot be transported to auction facilities or assembly stations and must go directly to their final destination. Clearly, this has had a big impact on the calf market and will continue to do so moving forward, but what does the research say?

Recent work completed at the University of Guelph and funded by Veal Farmers of Ontario, Dairy Farmers of Canada, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has highlighted some of the impacts of transporting young calves. In this study, calves, picked up from five commercial dairy farms, were assigned to be transported on the same trailer for six, 12, or 16 consecutive hours. At the end of the transportation period, calves were weighed, had blood samples taken, and were followed for 14 consecutive days at a grain-fed veal facility where health scoring was conducted to evaluate for diarrhea and respiratory disease. Some interesting results were found that shed light on how stressful transportation is in young calves.

Increased disease and indicators of poorer welfare in calves transported for 16 hours

One of the major findings of this study was that calves transported for 16 continuous hours had 25 per cent more days with diarrhea compared to calves transported for six continuous hours (see Figure 1). As diarrhea is a major cause of mortality and antimicrobial use in the veal industry, reducing the time in transit could be an important preventative practice.

Beyond diarrhea, an effect was also found with respect to respiratory disease. Calves transported for 16 continuous hours that were less than seven days of age at transport were more likely to have respiratory disease in the 14 days following transportation. Beyond the markers of disease, markers of animal welfare were also explored. Specifically, lying and standing time in the two days before and five days following transportation were evaluated. For calves that were transported for 12 and 16 hours, they stood for a longer period of time on the day of transportation and

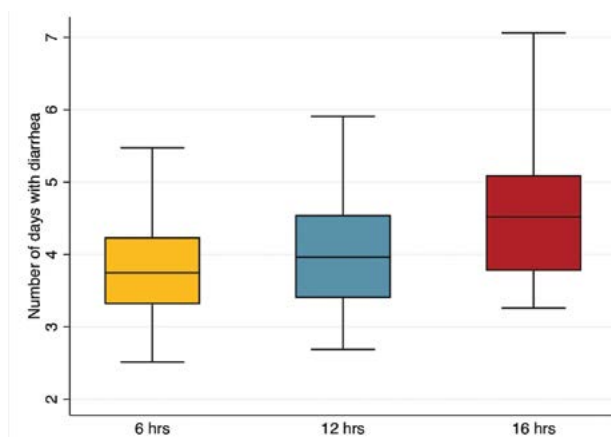


Figure 1. The number of days with diarrhea in the 14 days following transportation in calves transported for six, 12, and 16 continuous hours. The line in the middle of the box indicates the median, the edges of the box the 25th and 75th percentiles, and the tails the 95th percentiles.

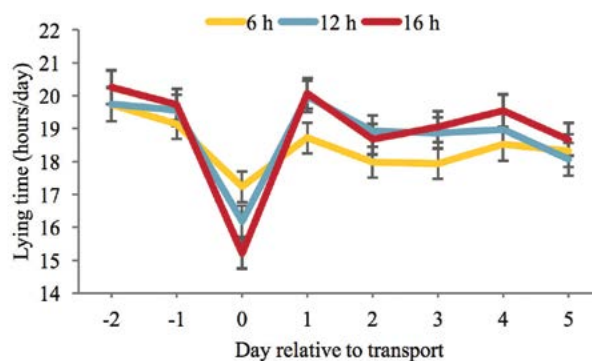


Figure 2. The number of hours calves are lying down from two days prior to transportation to five days following transportation in calves transported for six, 12, and 16 continuous hours.

laid down for longer periods of time one, two, and three days following transportation compared to the six-hour group. In addition, in the 16-hour group, they were lying down for longer on the fourth day following transportation (see Figure 2). This suggests that it may take up to four days for calves to recover from the stress of long-distance transportation.

What about age at transport?

In this trial, a variety of different ages were evaluated with calves transported between three to 21 days of age. It was found that calves transported at an older age not only had lower levels of diarrhea and respiratory disease but also gained much better in the 77 days following transportation. This suggests that purchasing calves that are older than seven days at the time of transport will improve health and overall productivity.

Take home messages

There are a number of new regulations that are now being enforced, including the length of time calves can be in transit and the age that calves can leave the source dairy farm. Through research conducted at the University of Guelph, it has been demonstrated that calves subjected to long-distance transportation can experience higher levels of diarrhea and respiratory disease. In addition, calves leaving the dairy farm at seven days of age or less will have higher levels of disease and poorer growth. When thinking about transportation, try to minimize the duration of transport and buy older calves or calves with a high body weight (greater than 47 kg (103.6 lbs.)). ■



**CHRISTIAN FARMERS
FEDERATION OF ONTARIO
CFFO**

**WORKING FOR
ONTARIO FARMERS**

BECOME A CFFO MEMBER TODAY!
✓ Access to expert advice.

KEEPING FAITH IN FARMING

www.christianfarmers.org



Maplevue Agri Ltd.

**Give your
calves a Sure
Start in life.**

Maplevue Agri

**MILK REPLACER
LAIT DE REMPLACEMENT**

**PRODUIT DU
PRODUCT OF CANADA**

INFO@MAPLEVIEWAGRI.CA 519-638-3769 WWW.MAPLEVIEWAGRI.CA



Bedding, the simple solution

Resource helps producers evaluate nesting scores

Lilian Schaer

Agricultural Writer

The power of bedding is often overlooked on the farm, but it's actually a simple and economical solution to some leading calf health challenges. In fact, deep straw bedding can help farmers minimize respiratory disease, scours and reduced growth—three of the leading calf health problems—and it's a good place to start if a herd is experiencing health issues.

Veal Farmers of Ontario has released a resource called *A producer guide to evaluating nesting scores* that offers practical tips and photos for farmers about how to get the most bang out of the bedding buck. It's based on the nesting score system developed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison to help guide producers in their calf bedding management.

Why does good bedding matter?

Calves spend up to 20 hours a day or 80 per cent of their time lying down and research suggests that just like cows produce more milk when they spend more time lying down, calves that spend more time resting are also better performers.

It's important that calves use the milk and feed they consume to grow and not to keep warm, especially in the cold winter months. Calves that experience cold temperatures can become stressed, making them more susceptible to disease and lower growth rates. That's why clean, dry, and plentiful bedding is an important part of ensuring animal welfare and keeping calves healthy.

Good bedding is also critical for newly born calves, especially as their navels are drying out and healing. If navel infections are a particular challenge, evaluating and making changes to calf bedding could be a simple and economical solution to better early calf health.

A bed of straw

Straw provides the best insulation for calves and it's also very absorbent—both characteristics that are key to encouraging good calf health. Make sure straw bedding it is at least about three inches (eight centimetres) deep and that it is clean and dry.

If the straw looks clean, but you're not sure if it's dry all the way through, there's a quick and easy way to find out: the kneel test. Kneel in the straw for 20 seconds and if your knees get wet, add another layer of bedding, or change the bedding entirely. Do this test regularly to monitor bedding quality.

Add smaller amounts of bedding multiple times instead of putting all the straw out at once. This keeps the top layer from becoming compacted and helps with dryness.

The nesting score

How much straw is required will depend on the time of year and whether or not the animals are wearing calf coats. Use the University of Wisconsin-Madison's nesting score system to determine what your calves need:

Nesting score 1: the bedding doesn't cover any part of a calf's foot or leg when the animal is lying down. This score is not appropriate for winter but is observed in the summer when calves are bedded with sand or wood shavings.

Nesting score 2: the calf is nestled slightly, with the lower leg partially covered by bedding and part of the upper leg remaining visible. In winter, this score would only be appropriate if the calf is also wearing a calf jacket, which increases the nesting score by one. Without the jacket, there is not enough bedding for the calf to nest in and stay sufficiently warm.

Nesting score 3: the calf's legs are not visible when it is lying down in the straw. The straw is deep enough to allow the calf to nest, trapping warm air around its body. The ideal depth is three to four inches (7.6 to 10 centimetres) of shavings, topped with 12 inches (30 centimetres) of straw.

Good bedding and plenty of it is the most economical way to keep calves healthy. Preventing or minimizing illness means avoiding costly treatments and other losses down the road. ■

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




A PRODUCER GUIDE TO EVALUATING NESTING SCORES

Calf managers want simple and economical solutions to their calf health challenges. Not every problem can be solved with an easy solution, but three calf care challenges-respiratory disease, scours, and reduced growth-can all be minimized with an easy fix: deep straw bedding.

Nesting scores should be evaluated when the calf is lying down. It is important to provide lots of dry, long, straw bedding when it is cold to provide insulation for the calf. There should be enough bedding

for the calf to nestle down in it to reduce heat loss and for further protection from drafts. Add bedding often instead of adding large amounts all at once. This will keep the top layer fluffy (rather than compacted) and dry.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has developed a nesting score system. During different times of year, producers may be looking for a different type of score. Adding a calf coat can also impact the nesting score.

Nesting Score		Description
1		When the calf is lying down, bedding does not cover any part of the foot or leg. This nesting score would be observed in the summer, when the calf is bedded with sand or shavings, but is not appropriate for winter.
2		When the calf is lying down, it is nestled slightly in the bedding. Part of upper leg is visible, and part of the lower leg is covered by bedding. In the winter, this score would indicate there is not enough bedding to nest in, unless the calf is wearing a calf jacket, which can increase the nesting score by 1.
3		Deep straw bedding allows a calf to nest and trap warm air around their body. When calves are lying down, their legs should not be visible. Usually 3 to 4 inches (7.6 to 10 centimetres (cm)) of shavings topped with 12 inches (30 cm) of straw is ideal.

Do not forget to do the kneel test!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.CALFCARE.CA

 @OntarioVeal

 @CalfCareCorner

 @CalfCareCorner

A high-cost world—How producers can stay ahead

Lauren Yanch M.Sc., Technical and Operations Specialist

Grober Nutrition



Over the past few years, global crisis has resulted in multifaceted challenges that have been difficult to mitigate and has affected nearly every household. Particularly when it comes to the agriculture industry, overall expenses continue to be a prevalent issue as producers continue to ensure animal health and welfare are not influenced by these challenges. As such, producers have experienced tremendous financial impact as they continue to care for their animals and ultimately provide sound product to be consumed worldwide. These challenges, although difficult to simply define, can allow for strategy to assist in alleviation of cost hardship, while animal well-being is still optimally maintained. The following will discuss in detail areas in which producers can optimize their return and minimize overall margins during a time of striking inflation.

Recent research has placed abundant attention towards antimicrobial alternatives that can allow for more controlled bacterial growth on-farm. Although not recommended to replace conventional practices, supplementing medicinal plants with these properties can assist in enhancing overall health, thereby reducing detrimental outcomes as it relates to animal well-being. For instance, oregano has received generous attention due to its discovered potency as it relates to bacterial mitigation and gut health promotion in calves. Others such as rosemary and green banana continue to be developing areas of research to further validate their benefit toward calf health and performance. Supplemented at the correct inclusion, these medicinal properties can be a viable enhancement to your calf program, minimizing detrimental losses while providing your animals with optimal nutrients.

With increased costs, comes increased stress when managing livestock. Ensuring animals are receiving optimal nutrition and efficiently utilizing nutrients can all contribute towards a minimized cost margin. Ensuring that all animal feeds, such as milk replacer and supplements, are fed following the recommended protocol found on the label or in consultation with a nutritionist, will help ensure that overfeeding and misuse is avoided, making the most out of your current supply. Nutritionists and nutrition-related members of the industry continue to keep these global trends in mind as they relate to on-farm challenges. This ensures that feed is formulated to least cost, nutrient specs are attained with the same quality ingredients, and products are managed to optimize overall return. Strategies such as these continue to be all the more beneficial with continued cost increases internationally.

While strategies of cost-saving and supplementation are useful, an optimal form of practice that will prevail in terms of farm success and optimized economics, is herd management at the individual level. It remains crucial that calves are monitored closely to not only ensure optimal treatment is received, but also to detect early signs of illness right from the start. Early detection and management will minimize the detriment to herd health. It is recommended that each calf should receive a general analysis on feces, eyes, alertness, and attitude regularly in order to detect any early signs of misbehaviors that may lead to compromised health or mortality. Early detection of these will not only be of benefit to the calf but will ensure a healthy and thriving herd is achieved, creating fewer long-term costs and increased farm economics.

Global challenges will continue to prevail, so ensuring producers are well equipped to strategically manage their animals while not compromising animal feeding, care or performance will be vital in an ever-changing world. ■



DUAL XL Hutches

- For Paired Veal Calves up to 8 weeks old
- Largest inside growing area for 2 calves
- Feeding options available on Fence or inside Hutch

AGRIPLASTICS
The Calf Housing Specialist®

1-888-231-3575 • 1-905-945-3116

CALFHUTCH.COM

A Perfect One-Stop-Shop For Veal Farmers

Protection. Prosperity. Peace of Mind.

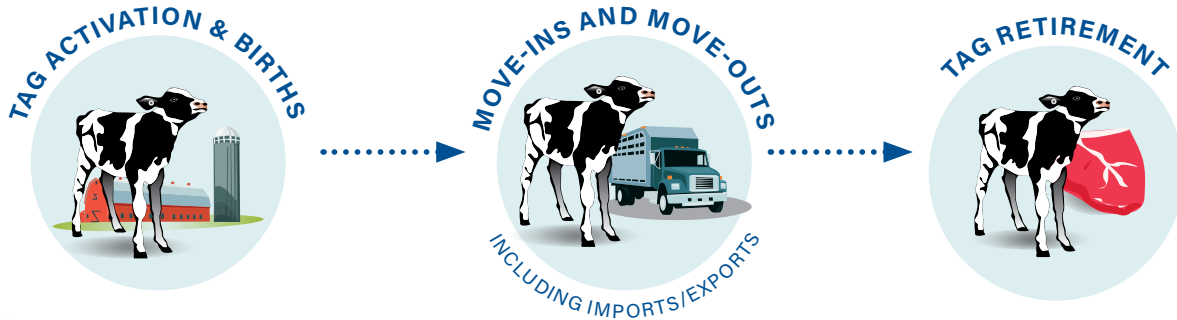
In Canada, livestock traceability includes all stakeholders from farm of origin to terminal site. All have different recording and reporting responsibilities depending on their place in the production chain. DairyTrace aims to make every aspect of traceability convenient and easy.

Consumer Trust — From Farm to Table

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.



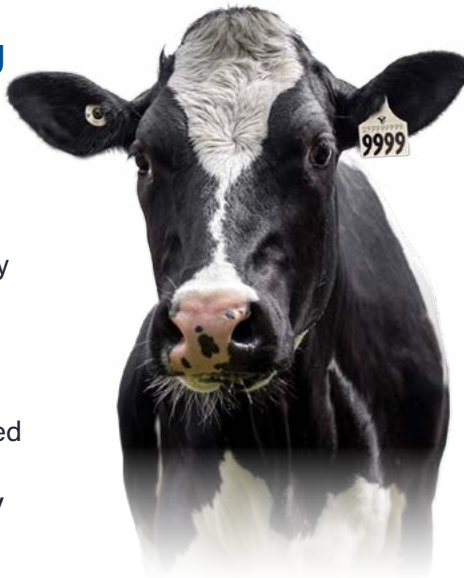
On-Farm Recording and Reporting to DairyTrace is Mandatory for Dairy Producers



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/



How It Works For Veal Farmers

1. Visit 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!





Quality veal, what producers need to know

Kendra Keels

Industry Development Director



The hip, it should be full and free of depressions. The overall profile of the leg should be straight to convex down the leg.

The loins should be wide and thick.

The racks (ribs) should be well covered by flesh.



What makes one veal animal sell better than another, especially in the sale ring? When comparing Holstein veal to each other, some bring a higher dollar value than others, why is that? What does the buyer see that maybe a producer does not? There are many factors to consider, and this article will highlight some key areas producers should focus on to receive top dollar.

What is finish?

To begin with, the most important characteristic is a good meat to bone ratio, the overall muscling on the animal. The key areas to look for is good muscling over the loin, hip, and flesh over the ribs. The animals should have wide shoulders and not a big gut (hay belly).

Buyers want to see loins that are wide and thick, the racks (rib area) well covered and the hips full and free of depressions. Imagine an upside-down U. The overall profile of the hip area should be straight to convex down the leg. When looking at the back of the animal (where the money cuts are) you want to see that area full and rounded. The squareness of the finished animal is important; animals with wide, square shoulders tend to have wide, thick loins, a desired characteristic. Something to consider when purchasing bob calves.

Buyers also evaluate the amount of fat over the tail head, which could be

a sign of the amount of marbling in the carcass which is not desired for grain-fed veal.

The above points make the overall conformation of the veal animal and what buyers are evaluating at the time of purchase.

In addition to conformation, below are other points to consider that contribute to quality.

Veal weight

Veal, unlike other commodities, is defined after harvest under the Canadian Beef, Bison and Veal Carcass Grade Requirements. The upper limit for veal is 190 kg (419 lbs.) however Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) encourages producers to market veal with a target of 180 kg (397 lbs). The extra 10 kg (22 lbs) provides a 'sleeve' intended to provide flexibility when marketing and processing veal cattle. Veal carcasses that go over

the maximum weight limit of 190 kg (419 lbs.) are considered ungraded beef carcasses.

Colour

One highly desirable attribute of veal is colour. This is a bigger concern with milk-fed veal, but still important with grain-fed veal. Colour is determined by the feeding program and age of the animal.

Bruising and blemishes



Care must always be given when working with veal cattle, rough handling will result in bruising and blemishes, affecting not only the meat quality but the amount of meat trimmed at the time of harvest. This trim is discarded and affects carcass weights.

Injection site blemishes can also cause a large area of meat to be trimmed. This has improved over the years and producers now know to always inject in the neck where the less expensive cuts are.

Cleanliness

Not only are dirty cattle not aesthetically appealing, but they also represent a food safety risk. This directly contributes to the quality of veal. Depending how dirty the cattle are can contribute to a 0.9 to 1.4 kg (two to three lbs.) yield loss for the producer. Veal sold in the sales ring that are clean will always bring more money than dirty cattle.

Selling dirty veal cattle direct can result in deductions due to the additional labour to reduce E. coli exposure to the meat. The meat plants are increasing surveillance of dirty cattle, it is a risk to the industry and one that is easily fixed with proper bedding.

Whether you market your finished veal direct to packer or through a sales barn, buyers know who they come from. These animals are a direct reflection of how good of a manager you are on your farm.

Yes, sometimes the calves that you start may not be the best suited for meat production, after all most of them were supposed to be heifers. It is our job as veal farmers to make the best possible veal we can with what we have. If that means fine-tuning the feeding program, adding more bedding, and taking time when handling your cattle that could mean more money in your pocket. Veal is a special commodity; we need to treat it as such. ■

A future with full bottles

Heifers that have had bovine respiratory disease produce up to 525 kg less milk than their healthy counterparts in the first year of lactation.¹

Talk to your veterinarian about how vaccination with INFORCE 3[®] can prevent BRD.



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.

Zoetis[®] and INFORCE 3 are registered trademarks of Zoetis or its licensors. ©2022 Zoetis Services, LLC. All rights reserved.



 **HEALTHY CALVES**
PART OF DAIRY WELLNESS

zoetis

Promoting the appeal of Ontario Veal



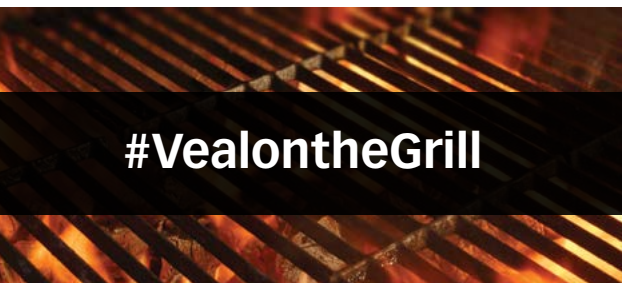
Jennifer Haley
Executive Director

Veal Famers of Ontario (VFO) has been hard at work promoting the value and appeal of Ontario Veal with a number of different consumer promotions and programs over the past several months. While often considered a specialty meat, Ontario veal provides the consumer with a variety of meal solutions.

With a limited budget, VFO diligently works with industry partners to stretch marketing dollars and bring the greatest return on investment. For example, through our various social media channels, we continue to engage and build relationships with our stakeholders and followers by

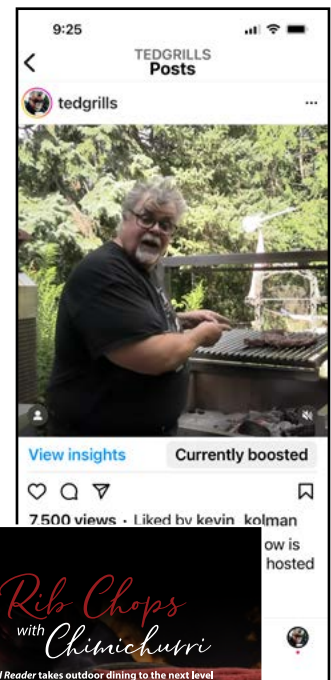
providing content focused on recipe and meal inspirations. Consumers seem to prefer Instagram compared to other channels with a higher engagement rate and an increase in followers.

Our “*Vealing Delicious!*” e-newsletter arrives bi-weekly in over 3000 subscribers’ inboxes, filled with veal recipes, menu inspiration, cooking techniques and other targeted information to help consumers add veal to their planned meals. And of course, the ontariovealappeal.ca website is a resource for all things veal with recipes, photos, cooking information, instructional videos and more!



This summer, VFO launched an online contest to encourage consumers to purchase veal and get it on the BBQ at home. Traditionally, the summer months are the lowest sales period for the veal category and market research tells us that consumers just don't think about veal on the BBQ. In order to raise awareness for all the great ways veal can be cooked on the grill, VFO partnered with the Godfather of the Grill himself, Ted Reader! Through the Instagram contest, consumers are challenged to show us their veal on the BBQ, and they could win one of six prize packs valued at \$100 and one Grand Prize of Ontario Veal Appeal dinner for 10 at Ted Reader's restaurant—The Joint BBQ.

VFO also collaborated with Ted Reader once again this year with new and delicious veal grilling recipes that are promoted not only on VFO's social media channels but Ted's as well, enabling us to reach even more consumers craving great meat grilling inspiration! As part of our media outreach, VFO partnered with *Canada's Food & Drink magazine* (distributed through the Globe & Mail) with a mouth-watering veal BBQ print ad as well as digital campaign displayed on various billboards on Ontario's highways.





Ontario's Best Veal Sandwich crowns a winner!

We began planning for the return of the search for *Ontario's Best Veal Sandwich (OBVS)* contest in the midst of Covid restrictions last fall and the uncertainty of what the re-opening would look like. To manage risk, we chose a tournament-style format this year that saw restaurants go head-to-head to reach the finale! To qualify, mystery diners were sent out in advance for every sandwich that was nominated to determine their veal sandwich score.

Our goal was to support the many different independent family-run restaurants that serve Ontario veal and who have weathered their share of challenges due to Covid. The restaurants all expressed appreciation to VFO for hosting the contest once again and providing marketing opportunities that they could leverage for their business. Of course, VFO also verified their

suppliers to ensure the veal was from Ontario or at the very least Canadian. It was interesting to note that restaurant operators are not educated on exactly where their products come from. There is room to improve these relationships and there are many different businesses along the supply chain trading wholesale veal.

Over the course of three weeks, eight semi-finalists competed head-to-head in a tournament-style elimination draw with the final restaurants being Pronto Café in Mississauga and Mettawas Station from Kingsville. The final competition took place at the historic St. Lawrence Market on June 18, hosted by John Catucci from Food Network Canada. With in-person judging and a live-stream, consumers were able to see our veal sandwich-makers compete for the OBVS 2022 title. And with their



signature 'trainwreck veal sandwich', Anthony and Janet DelBrocco from Mettawas Station took the crown! Not only did they win bragging rights and lots of publicity, but their prize also featured a custom promotional video with John Catucci as well! Mettawas has created a unique 'trainwreck pizza' fashioned after their winning veal sandwich. Their menu also features a delicious Veal Marsala dish and an amazing Ontario Veal Chop!

Celebrating the holidays with Ontario Veal

The marketing experts are predicting that this holiday season will see celebrations and gathering return with a bang. Consumers have been waiting a long time to get back to 'normal' and are craving the dinner parties and holiday celebrations once again. VFO will be pulling out all the stops with a consumer-focused campaign that will encourage them to splurge on premium cuts of Ontario Veal and building their entertaining plans with Ontario Veal at the center of the plate!

With an integrated marketing campaign including digital, social, print, and broadcast media channels, VFO will amplify our message that a special meal deserves a special cut of Ontario Veal. Included in the media plans will be advertisements in the very popular *Food & Drink magazine* which aligns perfectly with our key consumer demographic. ■



CVA continues to advocate for Canadian veal sector



Jennifer Haley
Executive Director

Canadian Veal
Association



Association
canadienne du veau

The Canadian Veal Association (CVA) continues to meet virtually to collaborate and address important veal industry issues. Here are some highlights of the work being undertaken by the CVA to continue to advocate for the Canadian veal sector.

Updating CVA mandate

Part of the work of the CVA lately has been to refine the mandate of the CVA to ensure there is no duplication of the work being done provincially by Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) and Les producteurs de bovin du Québec (PBQ). With limited financial and human resources, it is important to ensure all organizations are as efficient and focused as possible. The CVA has identified seven organizational goals and priorities that will help focus the work of the CVA while also supporting VFO and PBQ. At the heart of the new focus will be identifying issues and priorities for the CVA that are more national or international in scope.

US Country of Origin Labelling

The CVA has been meeting with industry partners and Agriculture Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to discuss potential American voluntary Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements. These requirements will change the regulations for which meat products can be labeling as "Product of the USA". With Canada and the United States (US) having highly integrated supply chains, any changes to regulation in the US will ultimately flow upstream to Canada. Federal veal packers, for example, will often send primal cuts of Canadian veal to be further processed in their facilities in the US. Currently, because the veal is processed in the US it is eligible for a "Product of the USA" label. Americans look for "Product of the USA" labels and these changes could put Canadian veal at a competitive disadvantage, a serious challenge for the Canadian veal industry as over 90 per cent of veal exports are destined for the US. The CVA is grateful to AAFC for taking a proactive approach on this issue and will continue to advocate with our industry partners for policies that support Canadian producers.

Five-year Code Review Committee

2022 marks five years since the release of the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Veal Cattle* (the Code). The CVA is working with a Code Review Committee, comprised of a small group of focused industry representatives, to review the Code and report back to the National Farm Animal Care Council Board. The review process will look at any research that has been done since the Code release and the progress on research priorities and highlight any challenges. The process is set to be complete by late Fall 2022.

Calf supply

The CVA has formed a calf supply committee to review and analyze current trends in the calf supply market with regards to the impact on availability, based both on breed and sex. The shift in breeding patterns and strategies with dairy producers has created some hurdles for the veal sector. The committee has been working with several industry partners to better understand the dairy reproductive strategies being used and the impact of the dairy-beef sector's draw on the calves for feedlot placement. Research is needed to help veal farmers transition production to dairy-crossbred calves that will ensure optimal carcass quality and feeding programs. ■

The Canadian Veal Association is the national voice of Canada's veal farmers collaborating with industry partners to achieve common goals for the veal sector.



Automatic Calf Feeder

- Needs-based fresh feeding several times a day
- All calf data at a glance also via CalfApp and CalfCloud
- Optionally expandable by the **HygieneBox**
 - Teat rinsing from the inside and outside
 - Fully automatic circulation cleaning of the suction hoses and all milk-carrying parts
 - Enables the natural udder bumping behaviour

Foerster-Technik North America Inc. | foerster-technik.com |
Phone: 519-239-9756 | jan.ziemerink@foerster-technik.com

****it shouldn't happen, but when it does, there's Calf-Lyte**



Calf-Lyte II and Calf-Lyte II HE

- As an aid in the treatment and prevention of dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, acidosis and as a supplementary nutrient source for newborn calves with diarrhea
- Designed for maximum absorption following oral administration
- Eligible for **Vetoquinol Club** points

vetoquinol.ca
vetoquinolclub.ca

vetoquinol
ACHIEVE MORE TOGETHER



An overview of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Patrick MacCarthy

Projects and Policy Coordinator

Recently, the federal and provincial agriculture ministers announced the framework for the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP). The SCAP is the new five-year Federal-Provincial-Territorial agreement which will begin on April 1, 2023. Building on the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP), SCAP will provide \$500 million dollars in additional funding for cost-shared activities, a 25 per cent increase from the current CAP program.

Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) was able to participate in the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Roundtable with Minister Thompson and provide feedback into the development of this policy framework. VFO advocated for further funding for Business Risk Management (BRM) programs, which are critical tools to ensure food security for Ontarians, and new resources to recruit and train workers in the agriculture sector, especially at processing facilities. We look forward to further collaboration with Minister Thompson to ensure the SCAP framework recognizes the environmental stewardship and best management practices that are already put into practice on veal farms across Ontario.

What major changes should veal farmers be aware of?

The new framework comes with commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector by three to five megatonnes and increase sector revenues and exports. The framework also looks to create new programs to recruit and train agriculture workers and reduce barriers to interprovincial trade.

The Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program (RALP) is a new cost-sharing program for farmers to promote the conservation of natural areas and implement projects that maintain or improve the health of local watersheds. Veal farmers should evaluate possible projects on their operation such as establishing buffer strips, wetland conservation, and woodlot management that will now be eligible for cost-share funding.

The SCAP will also look at linking BRM program funding with environmental practices. VFO expresses concern that pursuing multiple objectives within a single set of programs will increase the risk of BRM programs becoming ineffective. The ability for the government to verify compliance with any environmental goals is limited and any additional administrative costs reduces the funding available to farmers. BRM programs are necessary to ensure food security and give Ontario farmers the stability

to continue feeding their communities and the world. Linking these programs to environmental outcomes deviates from their original intent and weakens their effectiveness.

The AgriStability compensation rate will be increased from 70 per cent to 80 per cent and changes are being made to make the program simpler and more predictable. This coupled with the removal of the reference margin limit has made the program more responsive to changing market conditions. Veal farmers who previously elected not to enrol in AgriStability are encouraged to re-evaluate the program considering these changes and consider enrolling their operation.

If you have suggestions about how to further improve AgriStability, please let us know. Reach out to Patrick MacCarthy, Policy and Projects Coordinator at pmacCarthy@vealfarmers.ca or call the office at 519-824-2942. The province will be hosting consultations in the New Year and understanding your insight and past experience is important. ■

Supplying Ontario Veal Producers



- Veal Feeding Programs - birth to market
- Milk Replacers
- Pelleted & Textured Calf Starters



Wallenstein, ON

1-800-265-8858 | www.wfs.ca



Take advantage of the new Farmer Wellness Initiative this harvest season



As the summer wheat harvest wraps up and the next fall harvest season approaches, we prepare for one of the busiest times of the year.

As the busy season approaches, the stressors are on the rise for most farmers and their families. Whether it be the increasing cost of fuel and inputs, family challenges, uncooperative weather patterns, equipment breakdowns, sick animals or personal challenges, there are many stressors that work in combination, making each day feel longer and more difficult.

Living with these struggles can be a full-time job on its own, and it is important to remember that you are not alone. With the rising mental health concerns in the agricultural sector, the Farmer Wellness Initiative (FWI) was created to offer mental health and wellness support to farmers and farm families across Ontario. This initiative was developed and launched by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)—Ontario Division, in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) earlier this year.

The FWI was introduced earlier this year to provide farmers and their families direct access to mental health support. The helpline is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, in English and French, as well as up to 30 different languages. To work with the busy schedules of farmers, counselling services are available by phone, virtually, or in-person. All mental health professionals have also received training to understand the unique needs of farmers and their families.

Anyone in an immediate crisis will be connected with a counsellor by phone who will assist them through the crisis. Depending on the urgency, the caller will be referred to an in-person counselling session either the same day or the next business day. Any information shared during your counselling sessions will be confidential and protected under the *Personal Health Information Protection Act* (2004).

The National Survey of Farmer Mental Health performed research with 1100 producers in 2016 to evaluate farmers' mental health concerns. According to the findings, more than 35 per cent of producers matched the criteria for depression, 45 per cent met the criterion for high stress, 58 per cent met the criteria for anxiety, and 40 per cent said they are hesitant to seek professional treatment because of what others might think.

The FWI is making strides to break down barriers and end the stigma surrounding mental health. We want producers to know that they are not alone, and that help is available—all they have to do is take that first initial step. Counselling isn't just for those who are in dire crisis—anyone who is struggling can benefit from it.

Our sector's most valuable asset is its people. Just as you take the time to care for your crops or livestock, ensure you are doing the same for yourself. If you or someone you know is struggling, take the first step and call 1-866-267-6255 today. For more information, visit the FWI website at farmerwellnessinitiative.ca. ■

Let's break this silence together.



Bovilis® Nasalgen® 3-PMH
Protect smart from the start.

Mixed viral and bacterial BRD infections were identified in MORE THAN 50% of positive samples submitted to a major Canadian diagnostic laboratory in 2019.¹

Bovilis® Nasalgen® 3-PMH:

- Helps provide **broad respiratory protection** against five of the most common viral and bacterial causes of BRD* in just **ONE convenient dose**.
- Allows for vaccination as early as **one week of age**, without having to worry about potential maternal antibody interference.²
- Contains a proprietary **BluShadow™** diluent that helps clearly **identify vaccinated animals** - no more second-guessing!



Combined viral and bacterial BRD protection is IN

...with the **ONLY INtranasal vaccine** that helps provide **5-IN-1** protection against bovine respiratory disease (BRD)

*Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis virus (IBRV), bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV), parainfluenza 3 virus (PI3), Mannheimia haemolytica and Pasteurella multocida

For more information about Bovilis® Nasalgen® 3-PMH, or for technical support, please contact your Merck Animal Health representative, call 1-866-652-7628, or go to 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 Brous A. Bovine respiratory profiles summary v. 2019. *Bovine Animal Health News* (2020) Available at <https://bovine-inc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Bovine-Animal-Health-News-2019.pdf> (Accessed November 2020).

² Savard C, Brous A, Brous A, and Brous A. Maternal antibody of infectious bovine respiratory disease (IBRD) in calves. *Can J Vet Res* (2008) 72:487-510.

³ BluShadow™ is a trademark of Intervet International B.V. Used under license.

BLU/BLU is a registered trademark of Intervet International B.V. Used under license.

MANNHEIMIA is a registered trademark of Merck Group B. Used under license.

© 2020 Intervet Canada Corp. All rights reserved.

CA-NH-21000001-113



Knowing your cost of production



John Molenhuis, Business Analysis and Cost of Production Specialist

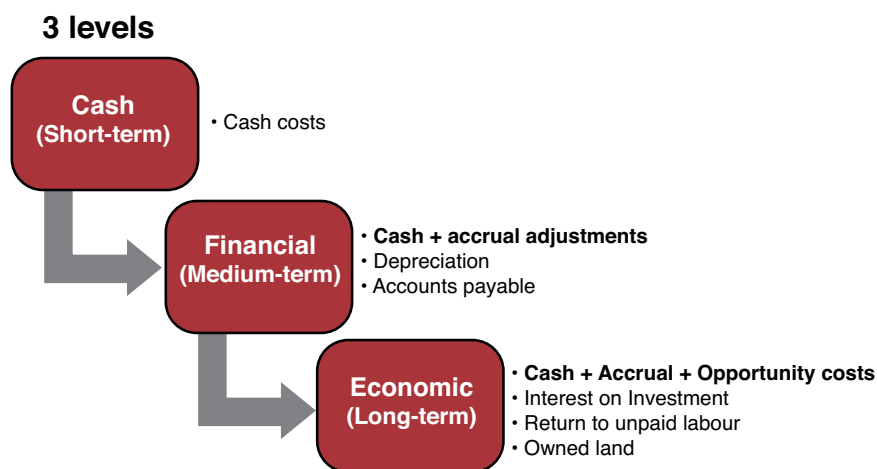
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Previous issues of *The Connection* looked at knowing your financial ratios. Knowing your overall cost of production (COP) is also an important part of managing your farm enterprises and is important as input costs increase. As well, knowing the COP for each level outlined below can assist in making farm-level decisions. Looking at COP in a stepwise approach can help you identify and manage costs.

The three levels are outlined in Figure 1: cash or short-term, financial or medium-term, and economic or long-term. Each level builds on each other and gives you more insight into farm financial performance.

Cash, as it implies, looks at actual cash costs, financial then includes non-cash costs with depreciation being the main cost, and economic considers the opportunity costs of your labour, owned land, and the equity portion of your investments.

Figure 1. Cost of Production



Cash—Short-term profit

Important in assessing cash flow, cash profit looks at the cash going out in expenses and cash coming in as sales. It helps answer the immediate question, “Can I pay my bills today?” As input costs put the squeeze on margins, it is key to have an answer. Especially in times where cash and margins are tight; cash comes first, and non-cash and opportunity costs come later.

Feed costs, purchased and homegrown, represent around 50 to 55 per cent of the total costs of a veal operation so it makes sense to concentrate planning time on knowing your feed costs especially with current feed prices. Purchased feeds are straightforward, but how do you account for homegrown feed?

There are one of two ways to handle homegrown feed costs; they can be valued at cost (or cash) or at market value. Homegrown feed cash costs will be spread across all the crop-related costs like seed, fertilizer, fuel, labour, machinery insurance, custom work, and interest.

Using the market value approach involves “selling” the homegrown feed

crops to the veal enterprise at market value. Market value represents the opportunity (economic) cost of feeding the crops to livestock rather than what you would have received selling them.

Livestock purchases are the next biggest cost at 20 to 25 per cent of total costs. On a cash basis, having a good handle on your livestock purchases and feed costs will have you more than three-quarters of the way to knowing your total COP.

Financial—Medium-term profit

Medium-term costs include cash, but also non-cash costs or accrual adjustments. If there are any bills currently due but not paid, include them as accounts payable. Depreciation is typically the biggest non-cash cost factor and recognizes that assets like machinery and buildings decrease in value over time and will at some point need to be replaced. Profit after medium-term costs gives the farm an indication if it can reinvest in its capital infrastructure when machinery or buildings are due to be replaced.



Economic—Long-term profit

Opportunity cost is what you could have received if you chose the next best alternative. You could work off-farm so the opportunity cost is what you could be paid working off-farm. Land can be rented out instead of being used for the veal operation. Your equity could be invested in other farm or non-farm investments. It is a measure of what is the best use of your land, labour and capital.

The estimates used in the development of the COP tool for veal were economic costs. Feed was valued at market value, a wage rate was applied to all estimated operating hours and the capital investment was charged an interest on investment rate. There have been significant changes in costs since the COP tool estimates and some initial work has total COP increasing close to 20 per cent.

The estimates depend on the assumptions made on production, returns and costs but it does allow you to see how they impact your financial performance. It is important to work through this exercise on your own operation to arrive at your COP.

Many farms cover cash and financial costs but depending on the year can struggle to cover economic costs. Knowing costs at the three levels can help determine if negative margins are short-term or long-term issues depending on the operations ability to cover their costs at these levels.

Using a market price of \$165 and \$202 per hundred weight (July 8 market report) for finished veal and bob calf price respectively in the COP tool, the veal model covers its cash and financial costs but does not cover all economic costs.

Changing the expected market price and bob calf price can then give you a picture of how sensitive returns can be. A \$244 bob calf price and \$149 market price (2022 average prices to date) are \$50 per head shy of covering cash costs.

The biggest impact in using market value versus cash costs is typically in feed. Feed valued at market value is an estimated \$80 more per head purchased compared to cash feed costs. The cash estimates are based on the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) field crop budgets (omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/pub60.pdf).

Measuring economic profits will give an indication of long-term viability of the farm and of the sector. However, knowing COP on a cash and financial level can tell you if your farm can ride out current cash flow pressures or your ability to reinvest in your veal enterprise.

The veal COP tool is available at bit.ly/COP-VFO. ■

NEW AND IMPROVED NATURAL ALTERNATIVE FOR SCOUR TREATMENT & PREVENTION

WGS

is a multi-vitamin,
electrolyte, and
polyphenol extract
supplement for gut
regulation in calves.



- Use it as a preventive tool for scours, or double dose for treatment
- Use WGS on resistant scours that won't go away

Scours are frustrating, time-consuming and expensive.
Administering WGS is quick and easy and the calves
love the taste and aroma. And it works!

EASY -SIMPLE-EFFECTIVE



Mount Elgin, Ontario
1.800.376.8861
triplepconsulting@execulink.com
www.triplepconsulting.net

**"Locally owned / Family Operated
Truly Canadian"**



OCEANFEED™ BOVINE

IN TUNE WITH NATURE

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



Call Bio-Ag Consultants today!
1.800.363.5278 or visit
www.bio-ag.com



INDUSTRY

updates



VFO applauds Health Canada's decision to remove FOP labelling on ground meat

Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) supports Health Canada's decision to exempt ground veal, and all ground meats, from the "high in" saturated fat Front-of-Package (FOP) labelling requirements. The new FOP labelling requirements, which exempt ground meat, were published in the Canada Gazette Part II on July 6, 2022. This decision aligns ground meat with other whole cuts of meat protein, as well as other nutritious, single-ingredient foods such as milk, eggs, fruits, and vegetables.

"We are pleased to hear that Health Canada has recognized the importance of ground meat as a nutritious, affordable protein in Canadian's diets and has now provided this exemption," says Pascal Bouilly, VFO Chair. "Ontario veal farmers are proud to produce a lean, nutrient-packed protein that is high in iron, zinc, and vitamin B12."

VFO re-appointed to Agency marketing committee

Jennifer Haley, Executive Director of VFO, was re-appointed to the Marketing Committee of the Beef Cattle Marketing Agency (the Agency) following their Annual General Meeting in Penticton, British Columbia held in conjunction with the Canadian Beef Industry Conference. Haley is part of a progressive committee of elected producers, processors, and foodservice/retail professionals.

The Marketing Committee is responsible for planning and establishing Canada Beef's strategic, business, and operational goals and objectives and for the overall management and operation of the business and affairs.

"I am pleased to be part of this great group of people and together we are focused on promoting and growing opportunities for Canadian beef and veal and look forward to the year ahead," said Haley.

VFO and the Agency entered into agreements to strengthen Canadian veal marketing as a part of the larger Canadian beef and veal marketing initiative in early 2020.

VFO joins roundtable with Standing Committee Chair

VFO Director Judy Dirksen represented the Ontario veal sector in a mid-August roundtable meeting with the Chair of the federal Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. Kody Blois, Member of Parliament (MP) for the Nova Scotia riding of Kings-Hants, toured farms in the Niagara-area and met with industry leaders about the issues and priorities of Ontario farmers.

The roundtable discussion focused on conversations around labour shortages/supply chain issues, fertilizer tariffs and the government's nitrogen reduction plan, Bill-C234 (which would remove carbon tax from barn heating and grain drying), and calf transport. MP Blois asked the group about the greatest challenges facing the agriculture and food sector today and some of the solutions that the Government of Canada can help with. He also asked Ontario's industry leaders to highlight the specific bills, government activities, and programs or issues related to Canada's agriculture and agri-food industry that we feel the Standing Committee should dig into.

This roundtable was part of MP Blois' listening tour, and as an MP from Nova Scotia he was interested to hear the different challenges facing Ontario producers versus those in his home

province. VFO was pleased to join this conversation with our fellow industry organizations to communicate the concerns and issues impacting our sectors and offering suggestions for a path forward.

Ask the Expert Virtual Producer Workshops

VFO has launched a new virtual workshop series for grain-fed veal producers throughout the fall and winter covering business risk management programs, feeding veal cattle and financial management. VFO encourages you to come with your questions—following a short presentation, producers have the floor to ask the expert themselves! All sessions will be held via Zoom from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. EST.

Registration for individual webinars is free but required. Learn more and register for upcoming sessions at bit.ly/22ExpertWSTkt. Missed a session? Watch for the recording of the presentation to be made available at a later date.

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.

Dairy Code update

Since the public comment period ended, the entire Code Committee (or subcommittees) have met 17 times. These meetings initially focused on how best to organize and analyze the input from the more than 5884 comment period participants. Later meetings focused on general principles of the Code update, namely economic implications of some potential changes, general comments on the Code overall, and other topics.

Committee members, observers, the industry liaison, and National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) personnel collaborated on summaries of the input received during the comment period. Given how important housing is to all stakeholders and the especially high volume of input on the housing chapter, additional analysis of the housing comments was done to identify main themes from all the input.

Thanks to the committee's hard work, they have finalized the Feed and Water chapter, Husbandry

Practices chapter, most key housing topics, and a short first chapter on training and responsibilities. Meetings in the fall will focus on cattle health, euthanasia, preparation for transport, and the remaining housing topics.

Learn more at bit.ly/dairyupdate.

Transport Code update

An update to the 2001 transportation Code has been underway since December 2018. This multi-species Code of Practice, covering animals from 14 national on-farm Codes, has been a massive undertaking.

At the outset it was recognized that this complex Code required all the time afforded under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's (CAP) AgriAssurance Program time allowance. Unfortunately, over the last several months it has become apparent that a finalized transportation Code is not achievable by the CAP program

end date of March 31, 2023. Initially, attention was focused on finding alternative means for completing this Code. However, in recent months further challenges surrounding the lack of national lead organizations have led to concerns with proceeding to update the transportation Code. It has become prudent to take stock of the issues being raised and consider alternative approaches for addressing humane transportation of livestock and poultry.

After deliberations with varied perspectives being brought forward, the NFACC board agreed, and secured support from our project funders, to pursue a Risk Assessment (RA) coupled with a Collaboration Planning Exercise (CPE). Both the RA and CPE are expected to provide possible approaches for further consideration (e.g., incorporating transportation within commodity-specific Codes of Practice).

Learn more at bit.ly/transportcode. ■

Selenium & Vitamins A, D & E Dosing has Never Been Easier

Vitaferst-Care™ is a convenient oral supplement designed to address the neonatal nutritional needs of calves, lambs and goat kids.

Vitaferst-Care's Oral Formulation Includes:

- Selenium** to promote growth
- Vitamin A** for promoting neonatal immunity
- Vitamin D** to support growth and metabolism
- Vitamin E** to stimulate the immune system
- Vitamin B₁₂** for cell growth and support of the immune system
- Iron** to support feed intake and growth



Available from
your local farm retailer

Available from
your veterinarian

One Oral Dose instead of multiple needles

Draw off cap and oral syringe
included with every bottle



Canadian Patent No. A8144435CA



Give your livestock
the best start possible
with **Vitaferst-Care™**



avetlabs.com



solvet.ca

Building the foundation for better calf performance

Biennial Healthy Calf Conference brings Canadian experts to hybrid platform this fall

Building the Foundation

Healthy Calf Conference 2022

Healthy calves are the building blocks of every successful dairy, veal, and dairy-beef operation. Investing in calf health and welfare can translate into lower mortality rates, reduced use of livestock medicines, improved cost of production, and ultimately, less stress for calf-raisers, all while laying the foundation for future performance and profitability.

Hosted by Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO), the Healthy Calf Conference (HCC) will bring together producers, industry partners, and an all-Canadian line-up of calf care experts to address common calf-raising challenges. The late November event will be offered as a hybrid for the first time ever, providing the same exceptional experience conference participants expect, whether attending in-person or joining via interactive live-stream from the farm or workplace.

“Our last in-person event in 2018 sold out at one of two locations, and our virtual event in 2020 saw over 350 attendees join us from around the world. Producers are still looking for those practical tips that they can implement on-farm right away, a hallmark of the Healthy Calf Conference, and we’re pleased to bring the event to calf-raisers both in-person and via an interactive live-stream this year,” said Kendra Keels, Industry Development Director, VFO.

In-person registration includes a full day of presentations, calf-focused trade show, and hot lunch. Online registration includes the Zoom link to watch a full day of live-streamed talks. Providing further value, all attendees will be able to view the recorded presentations after the conference, and the registration packages also include access to exclusive calf care resources and a digital copy of the proceedings.

The program

This year’s interactive, hybrid conference will feature a dynamic program covering health, nutrition, welfare, and housing, with some of the most respected professionals in the field of calf management. Attendees will

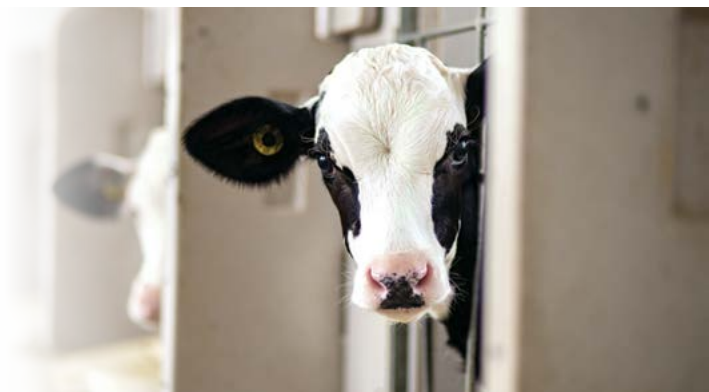
gain insight into practical ways to take their calf management to the next level and improve the well-being and performance of their calves.

Dr. Frédéric Beaulac, Triple V Veterinary Services, headlines the program, sharing his over 10 years of experience managing *Salmonella* Dublin (S. Dublin) on veal farms, including the kinds of clinical symptoms he expects affected calves to present, and how he works with producers to control the disease. His presentation will be followed by Dr. Cynthia Miltenburg, Lead Veterinarian Animal Health and Welfare with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, who will share data on the prevalence of S. Dublin in Ontario, and why we need to continue to prioritize prevention and control.

Associate professor at the University of Guelph and NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Dairy Cattle Nutrition, Dr. Michael Steele will outline the newest concepts in preweaning and weaning feeding regimens and discuss how they may be related to future health and performance. His current research is focused on the mechanisms that control gastrointestinal health and development in cattle.

Also joining the program is 2021 American Association of Bovine Practitioners “Bovine Practitioner of the Year” Dr. Kelly Barratt, partner at Heartland Vet Services, who will review colostrum guidelines, practical techniques, and equipment you can implement on your farm to manage, monitor, and improve calf health and welfare.

The day-long event will also feature Harold House, M.Sc. P.Eng., Dairy-Logix, who will break down ventilation requirements for healthy calves, options for ventilation systems, and how to trouble-shoot ventilation issues in calf facilities, as well as the University of Guelph’s Dr. Devon Wilson, who will bring some context to current calf transport practices in Canada, and highlight new and ongoing research that aims to understand how farms can ensure their calves are fit to ship. Aaron Keunen, Maplevue Agri Ltd. will discuss effective alternatives to antimicrobials.



For veterinarians

VFO welcomes bovine practitioners to join our full conference at their convenience, and to access our Veterinarian Portal at calfcare.ca/veterinarians for more resources.

"Your veterinarian is an extra set of eyes in the calf barn and can be key in overcoming common calf challenges," said Keels. "Animal care is a top priority for VFO, and this conference has been an important way for us to bring the latest information to Ontario producers, veterinarians, and industry partners. We look forward to extending our reach even further as we host our tenth Healthy Calf Conference this year with an all-Canadian line-up of experts." ■

Event details

The Healthy Calf Conference will be held Wednesday, November 30, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST.

In-person tickets are \$100 and the live-stream program rate of \$75 per person will be offered this year, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. Applicable taxes and fees are extra. More details can be found in the registration brochure enclosed with this issue.

Registration is available online at HCC2022.eventbrite.ca until Friday, November 18, or until tickets are sold out, or by contacting the VFO office at 519-824-2942 or info@vealfarmers.ca.

Find more details at calfcare.ca/healthy-calf-conference and follow and like us on Facebook for updates.



CalfCareCorner



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.

**DAIRY
DONE
RIGHT.**




serval

HIGH-QUALITY MILK REPLACER

We have a solution to all your feeding needs


**100%
DAIRY
PROTEIN**


**EASY
MIX**


**READY IN 2
MINUTES**

High-level milk based feed products.

Serval milk replacer is available from selected feed dealers and distributors across Canada


SERVALCANADA.COM

Training around livestock transportation emergencies continues from Farm & Food Care Ontario

Amber Anderson, Communications Manager

Farm & Food Care Ontario

In 2022, Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO) has continued holding training sessions for first responders to walk them through what to do in the event of a livestock transportation emergency, such as a truck roll-over, or a crash involving animals on their way to another farm or market.

“Making sure first responders know what to do if they come to a scene that involves livestock—whether its cattle or hogs or poultry, at whatever age—is invaluable. While responders are very well-trained for most types of accidents, those that involve livestock present unique challenges. We want to make sure that if such an emergency does arise, with some pre-planning and knowing where they can get resources such as penning panels or low-slung trailers in their area, they are better prepared for an incident. With this training, the animals involved in the accident will be cared for in a timely manner,” stated Bruce Kelly, FFCO’s Program Consultant for this training program.

The course is delivered by Kelly and large animal rescue expert Victor MacPherson. It is designed for first responders and emergency personnel and covers factors that are important to the decision-making processes for accidents involving livestock trailers, including trailer design and the implications for extrication points, animal behavior related to stabilizing the animals and easier re-loading, laws and regulations, euthanasia protocols, and how to develop response teams.

So far this year, 570 first responders—mostly fire-fighters—from such locations as Listowel, North Bay, Carling, Huron Shores, Norfolk, Wellington North, Stratford, and others across the province have received the training.

The course has been offered since 2018. With support from sponsors such as Heartland Farm Mutual, Trillium Mutual Insurance, Northern Ontario Livestock Innovation Alliance and the Beef Farmers of Ontario, the program has really taken off in 2022.

“The feedback from the first responders taking the training has been overwhelmingly positive,” stated Kelly. “It’s a really valuable tool for them to have in their toolbox when keeping their communities safe.”

In addition to this training, a need for targeted information for farmers who truck their livestock was identified. FFCO has created a fact sheet which includes templates where you can fill in resources available along your route. In an accident, a driver may not be able to help find resources and information stored on a cell phone may not be readily available to first responders, so a printed sheet is a valuable resource. The Farmer Trucker Guide is available here: bit.ly/F22transport

If you have a connection to local first responders who would be interested in arranging training, contact Bruce Kelly at bruce@farmfoodcare.org. ■



PROBIOTECH
INTERNATIONAL

Creator of alternative solutions for
animal nutrition, health and welfare

INSPIRED BY THE BOREAL NATURE

APPROVED BY
HEALTH CANADA
Veterinary Health Product





NEW-START
NEW-START OP
ORGANIC

Instestinal
Health
Immunity



BoviHealth
ELECTROLYTE+

Optimal
Rehydration



LactiproFLX | Calf

Healthy Rumen,
Increased Average
Daily Gain



Backed by
Scientific Research

probiotech.com



VFO needs your help to provide key communications to our members.

VFO doesn't receive your email address when licence fees are remitted, and signing up for our email communications service is a great way to stay informed about the veal industry.

Scan the QR code and sign-up to have the weekly e-newsletter delivered straight to your inbox, along with other important and timely notifications.



You can also sign-up by visiting:

<https://bit.ly/VFOsignup>



At RLB, our relationship focused team is passionate about client success. We take pride in providing accounting and consulting services to a wide variety of clients, from primary producers to agri-businesses and all of those who support the sector.

Our team of experts will partner with you to understand your farming operation needs.

- Accounting
- Business Advisory Services
- Business Valuations
- Estate Planning
- HR Consulting
- Tax Planning
- Succession Planning

Expertise Beyond Accounting.

Fergus • Orangeville • Shelburne • Guelph • Kitchener
519-884-4445 (Fergus) • 519-822-9933 (Guelph)
rlb.ca

New study on farmer mental health in Canada

A new study by University of Guelph researchers Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton, Dr. Briana Hagen, and M.Sc. student Rochelle Thompson, shows that farmers' mental health is worse than the general population in almost every outcome investigated.

This includes stress, anxiety, depression, emotional exhaustion and cynicism (two components of burnout), suicide ideation, and lower resilience.

"It's a very troubling situation," says Population Medicine Prof. Andria Jones-Bitton.

The research also revealed that mental health problems were higher amongst women than men, in every aspect except alcohol use. The team saw women with higher scores in their 2015-16 survey too, but Jones-Bitton says the differences now seem more pronounced. She believes these findings relate to what she calls role conflict, whereby women – in addition to on-farm and potentially off-farm work – are often responsible for other roles like household operations and being the 'default parent' and go-to person for support, too.

"This, in addition to the pressures of farming and the pandemic, places a large burden on women farmers," she says.

The research involved nearly 1200 farmers from all commodity groups across Canada, from February to May 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic was reported to exacerbate the issues. During that time, mental health problems related to high stress, burnout, anxiety, and depression accelerated across all of society, including the farm community, says Jones-Bitton.

While many farmers used active coping techniques, other behaviours like social withdrawal, sleeping more, changed eating patterns, using alcohol, and self-blame were very common. "These avoidant coping behaviours can set farmers up for other issues down the road," says Hagen. In managing stress, "We encourage farmers to talk with others to problem-solve, shift mindset, and to do something they enjoy," she says.

Jones-Bitton and Hagen have long advocated for a strong call to action for evidence-based, coordinated research and programming to provide support for farmer mental health and well-being in Canada. Thompson joins them from a psychology background and being a co-operator of her family's century chicken farm. "Farming can be an isolating occupation," says Thompson, "Farmers with poor mental health need to know they are not alone. I hope this research will help bring attention and needed resources to address this important issue in Canadian agriculture."

The team says this study highlights opportunities for stress management training to better support Canadian farmers' resilience and growth. As well, they say, it also confirms the need to bring together and support professionally trained individuals to develop and deliver mental health programming for agriculture, and work with farming stakeholders and researchers to formally evaluate the programming to ensure safe and effective mental health treatment and prevention.

"The more we learn from research, the more we understand the problems and possible ways to address them," she says.

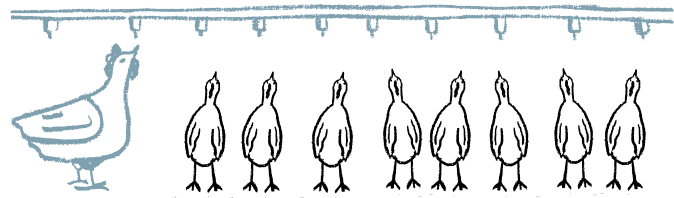
Jones-Bitton says that in addition to new research they're conducting, the research team plans to update the survey findings every five years. The survey was funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. ■

FLORADALE
FEED MILL LIMITED
Finest in Feeds and Service

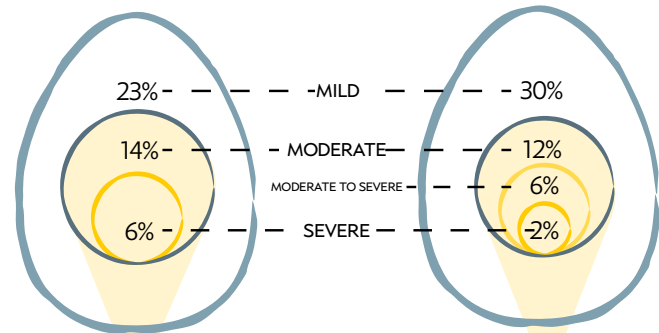
SERVING THE VEAL PRODUCERS OF ONTARIO
Milk Replacers, Calf Feeds, Rations, Supplements, Minerals and Premixes

519.669.5478 | 1.800.265.6126 | [f](#) [t](#) [ffmltd.com](#)

RESULTS FROM THE 2021 SURVEY OF FARMER MENTAL HEALTH IN CANADA



APPROX. **83%** OF FARMERS HAD LOWER
RESILIENCE SCORES
THAN THE U.S. GENERAL POPULATION



76% OF FARMERS WERE CLASSIFIED AS EXPERIENCING MODERATE OR HIGH



20% MODERATE TO SEVERE
ANXIETY
DISORDERS

SIGNIFICANTLY **HIGHER**

15% — THAN THE CANADIAN GENERAL POPULATION DURING COVID-19

20% MODERATE TO SEVERE
DEPRESSIVE
DISORDERS

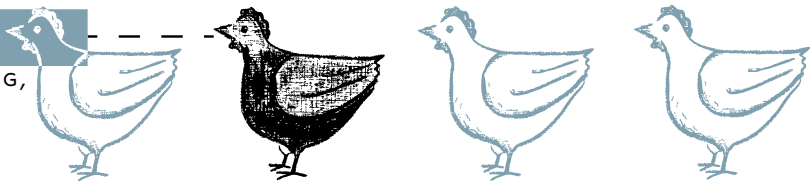
SIGNIFICANTLY **LOWER**

26%

SUICIDE IDEATION IS OVER **2x HIGHER** IN FARMERS THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION:

APPROX. **1 IN 4** CANADIAN FARMERS

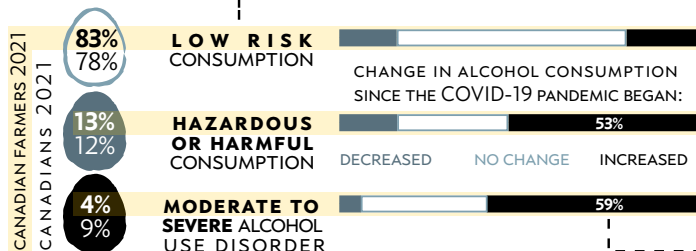
FELT THEIR LIFE WAS NOT WORTH LIVING, WISHED THEY WERE DEAD, OR THOUGHT OF TAKING THEIR OWN LIFE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



STRESS COPING METHODS USED BY FARMERS SIGNIFICANTLY **MORE** THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION:



AVOIDING OTHERS DRINKING ALCOHOL SELF BLAME SLEEPING MORE EATING MORE OR LESS



CANADIAN FARMERS HAD SIGNIFICANTLY **HIGHER**
ALCOHOL USE SCORES
THAN SCALE NORMS.

THE MAJORITY OF FARMERS WHO WERE CATEGORIZED AS HAVING HAZARDOUS/ HARMFUL CONSUMPTION OR MODERATE TO SEVERE ALCOHOL USE DISORDER REPORTED AN **INCREASE** IN THEIR DRINKING SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC.

FARMERS HAD SIGNIFICANTLY **HIGHER** SCORES ON ALL 3 SUBSCALES OF THE MASLACH BURNOUT INVENTORY COMPARED TO POPULATION NORMS. HIGH EXHAUSTION & CYNICISM ARE 2 OF THE 3 COMPONENTS OF **BURNOUT**.

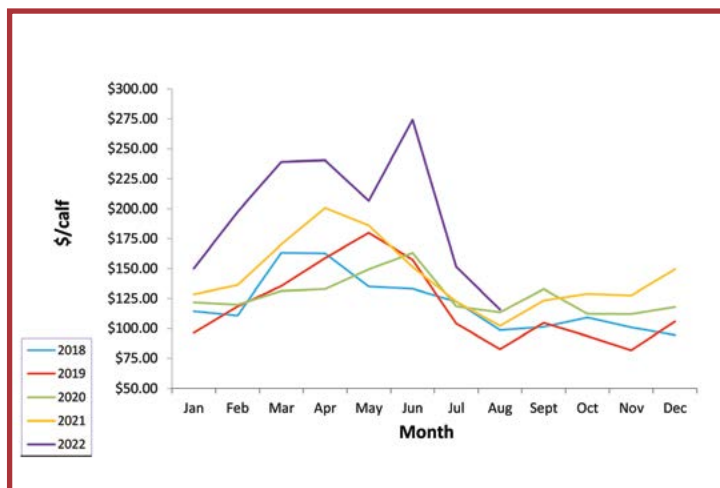




Veal Market Information

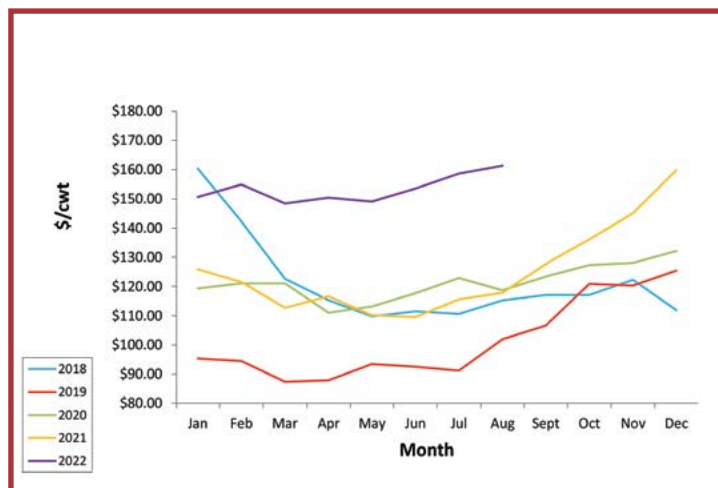
This information is collected from various sources and disseminated by Veal Farmers of Ontario.

Bob Calf Pricing



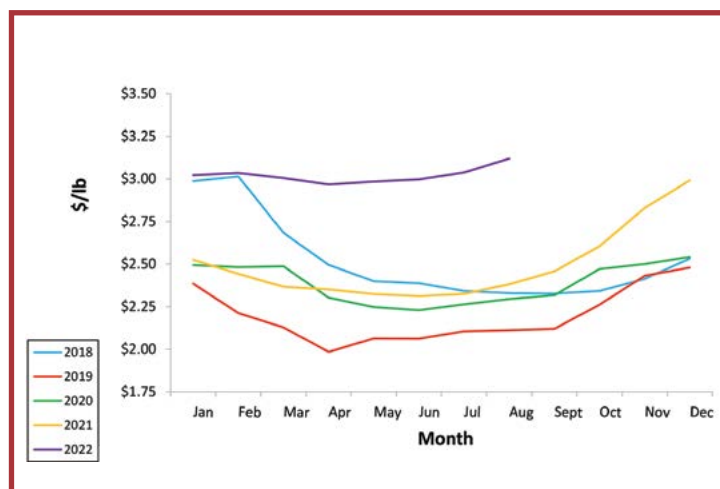
This price range is collected and tabulated from participating sale barns throughout Ontario based on average pricing. This information is used to follow trends.

Sale Barn Veal Pricing



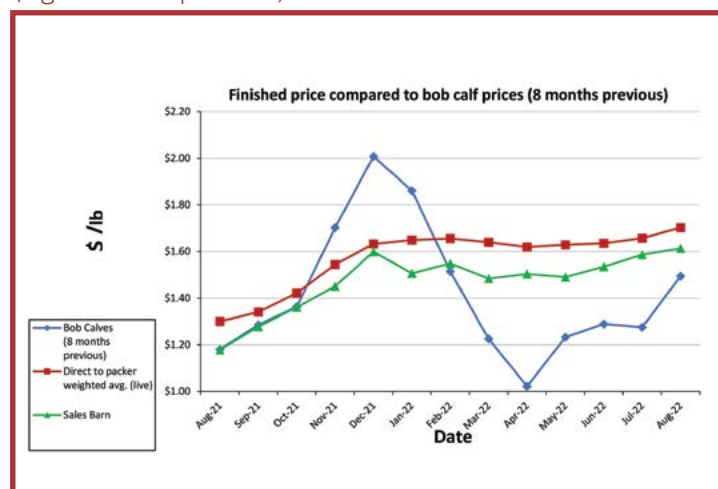
This price range is collected and tabulated from participating sale barns throughout Ontario based on average pricing. This information is used to follow trends.

Rail Grade Veal Pricing

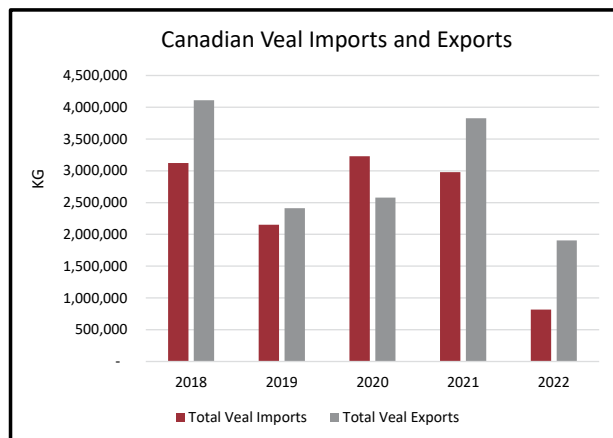


This information is collected from producer contributions on a weekly basis. Once the numbers are collected a weighted average is calculated. The weighted average gives a more realistic price of what is happening in the market. This information is used to follow trends.

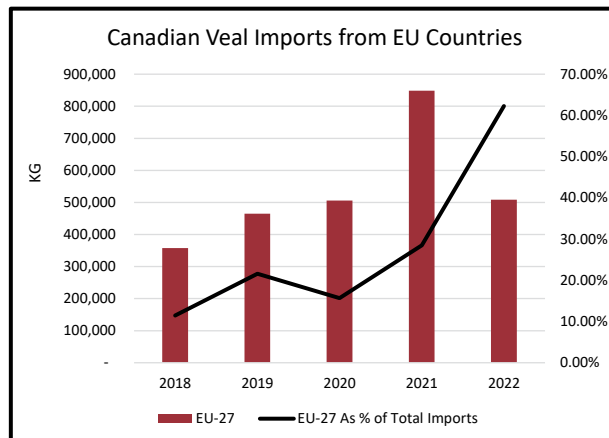
Finished price compared to bob calf prices (eight months previous)



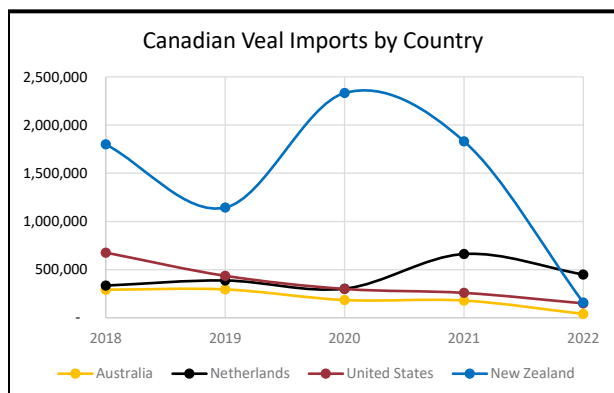
This graph is used to compare the finished price from both the sale barn and rail grade pricing to the bob calf prices eight months prior. This information could help when deciding on the purchase prices of calves and what market they will be shipped in. This information gives a quick glance at both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



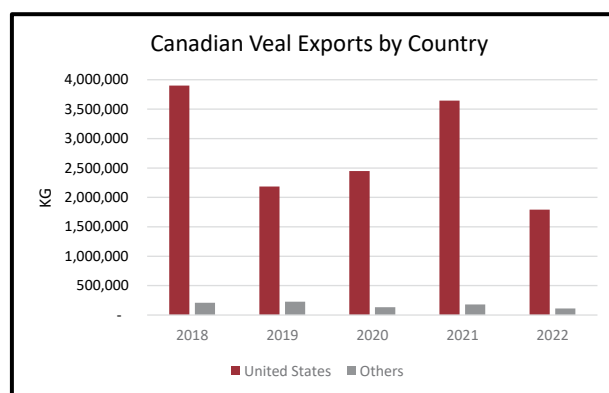
In 2022, Canada continues to maintain a trade surplus for veal. Year to date, Canadian veal exports amounted to 1.9 million kgs, a year over year increase of 3% by volume and 32% by value. Conversely, veal imports decreased in volume by 16% and held steady in value compared to 2021. Inflation is likely causing the disconnect between volume and value.



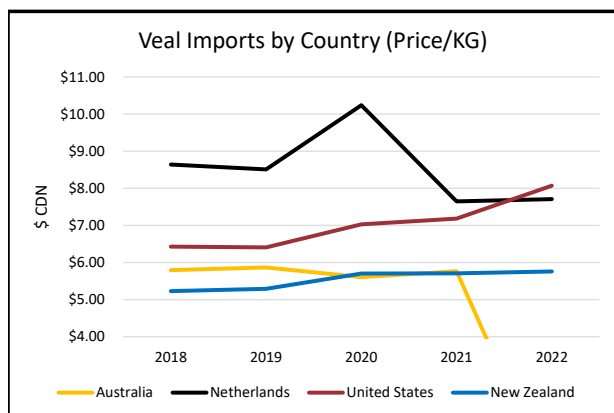
The volume of veal imports from the EU (red) is up 34%, compared to this time in 2021. This is equivalent to 62% of Canada's veal imports (black line); continuing the large increases reported since 2018. The Netherlands is the predominant supplier of European imports, with smaller volumes imported from Italy, France, and Denmark.



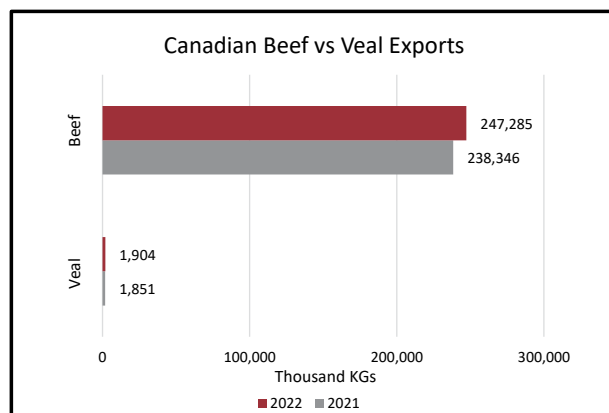
The Netherlands is now Canada's largest supplier of imported veal, followed by New Zealand. Imports from the USA continue to decline. No Australian imports have been reported. Larger import volumes from other EU countries are also being reported.



Veal exports to the USA increased by 3% year to date compared to 2021. This is the highest amount of veal exports since 2018. The balance of Canada's veal exports are sent to the Middle East.



The per kg price of veal imported from the Netherlands has held steady in 2022 from lows set in 2021 at \$7.71/kg. The value of American cuts remains at higher levels in 2022 at \$8.07/kg, while the value of New Zealand imports held steady at \$5.76/kg.



While veal represents just a small fraction of Canada's red meat trade, both veal and beef exports have marginally increased compared to this time last year.

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

Ontario VEAL appeal

Veal Lasagna

Classic flavours of lasagna made with ground veal makes for a delicious family-friendly meal.

Cut: Ground/Minced | Servings: 8

Ingredients:

12 lasagna noodles, cooked and drained
2 cups (500 mL) shredded Provolone or Mozzarella cheese
1/2 cup (125 mL) freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Veal Filling:

1 lb (500 g) lean Ontario ground veal
3 cups (750 mL) sliced mushrooms
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 large onion, chopped
1 sweet green pepper, chopped
2 tsp (10 mL) each dried basil and oregano
1 jar (700 mL) prepared pasta sauce
1 can (156 mL) tomato paste
1/2 cup (125 mL) water
Salt and pepper to taste

Cheese Filling:

1 pkg (300 g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed
2 eggs, beaten
2 cups (500 mL) smooth ricotta cheese
1 cup (250 mL) shredded Provolone or Mozzarella cheese
1/4 tsp (1 mL) black pepper



Instructions:

Veal Filling: In a large pot, brown veal on high heat. Reduce heat to medium-high and add mushrooms, garlic, onion, green pepper, basil and oregano. Cook, stirring, for about 8 minutes or until mushrooms are beginning to brown. Add pasta sauce, tomato paste and water; reduce heat and simmer for about 5 minutes or until thickened. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Cheese Filling: In colander, squeeze moisture out of thawed spinach; wrap in strong paper towel and squeeze again until dry. In bowl, whisk eggs; blend in spinach, ricotta cheese, Provolone and pepper.

To assemble spread a thin layer of veal filling in bottom of greased 13x9 inch (3 L) glass baking dish. Place three noodles lengthwise in dish, trimming to fit as necessary. Spread with one-third of the remaining veal filling; top with three noodles. Spread with cheese filling and top with three more noodles. Spread with half the remaining veal filling and top with remaining noodles. Spread with remaining veal filling and sprinkle with Provolone and Parmesan cheeses. Cover with foil; bake in 375 F (190 C) oven for 20 minutes. Uncover and bake for 20 minutes longer or until bubbling and golden on top. Let stand for 10 minutes. ■



441 McKechney Ave. (Box 175)
Diamond City, AB T0K 0T0
Phone: (403) 715-7482
Email:
info@diamondcityfarmsupply.com

Purple Ludder
DAIRY INDUSTRY CLASSIFIEDS



Futuro Farming
Predict & Prevent

Calf Monitoring System

- Sensor System to detect calf diseases in individual housing before outbreak
- 24/7 Health monitoring of your calves
- 4-6 year lifetime of non-invasive sensor
- Hourly disease risk charts on easy-to-use app

See our product catalog at diamondcityfarmsupply.com



CHAIR

Pascal Bouilly
Mississauga, ON
519-651-9656

VICE CHAIR

Cameron Knip
Lucan, ON
519-200-9928

DIRECTORS

Sid Atkinson
Roseneath, ON
705-395-2146

Phil Kroesbergen
Mount Brydges, ON
226-456-1517

Judy Dirksen
Harriston, ON
519-321-9101

Kurtis Moesker
Stratford, ON
519-276-7314

Aaron Keunen
Palmerston, ON
226-747-8356

Dylan Yantzi
Tavistock, ON
226-880-0849

THE
Connection

449 Laird Road, Unit 12
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 4W1

Tel: 519-824-2942
Fax: 519-824-2534
info@vealfarmers.ca

Licenced dealers

As a veal (bob calves, started/preconditioned calves, and finished veal cattle) producer, you should be dealing with licenced dealers who are remitting veal licence fees (check-off) on behalf of the farmers they are collecting from. If you are selling bob calves from your dairy farm, the \$5.50 check-off is to be collected by the person purchasing those calves. If you sell your calves to a sales barn, the check-off is remitted on your behalf. Please contact the Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) office to ensure we have your updated contact information, including your 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 licenced, ask to see the licence, check the Agricorn website at 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 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 Licencing inquiries, must be directed to Agricorn. Visit bit.ly/agricorp or call 1-888-247-4999 for more information. ■

Coordinates and Staff

Jennifer Haley
Executive Director
jhaley@vealfarmers.ca

Patrick MacCarthy
Projects and Policy Coordinator
pmacCarthy@vealfarmers.ca

Kendra Keels
Industry Development Director
kkeels@vealfarmers.ca

Molly Mazerolle
Administrative Assistant
info@vealfarmers.ca

Jennifer Bullock
Communications Manager
jbullock@vealfarmers.ca

Building the Foundation

Healthy Calf Conference 2022



All-Canadian
speaker line-up!

Wednesday,
November 30
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST

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

Join us for Ontario's
premier calf event!

VEAL
Farmers
of Ontario

Your calf care partners

How to register:

Register on Eventbrite by
scanning the QR code or
visiting HCC2022.eventbrite.ca



Title sponsor:



Supported and sponsored by:



CalfCareCorner
OntarioVeal



CalfCareCorner



calfcare.ca
vealfarmers.ca