

THE Connection

Fall 2023 Volume 5, No. 3

VEAL
Farmers
of Ontario



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calf nutrition**

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Fall 2023 Volume 5, No. 3

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Chair's MESSAGE



Phil Kroesbergen

Looking forward to 2028 with the VFO strategic planning update

Like all other commodity groups, agricultural organizations, non-profits and even for-profit companies, Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) is guided by our strategic plan. Some may not see the value of a well-constructed strategic plan, but it is necessary to serve our members in this regard. The purpose of a strategic plan is to bring all the strategies, ideas, and directions that an organization wants to move towards into one document and then execute the plan. A strategic plan is simply a roadmap for a company or organization, and it is what keeps the board and staff all moving in the same direction to achieve our goals.

Part of this roadmap is setting out goals and objectives for the organization to reach for and work towards over a period of time that will make sense for their sector or industry. These goals and objectives are put together after some in-depth analysis of the industry trends as well as the opportunities and challenges that it is currently facing or what might be coming down the road. VFO has worked on a five-year cycle for its strategic planning process, and staff work on annual business plans and budgets that serve to achieve the organization's goals from the strategic plan.

From my experience as a board member, there are many decisions that come before the board for input, feedback, or support. As veal farmers we all have different opinions to bring to the discussion. It is great to have a range of insights on a particular issue or decision that needs to be made. However, the strategic plan is important to reference when making key decisions. When making final decisions, we measure whether we are making the correct one by asking ourselves the question does it help VFO achieve its mission and vision? Our Executive Director helps remind the board members of the strategic plan when we deliberate to ensure we do not overlook or compromise our vision and goals for the organization.

This year, the VFO Board is in the process of updating our strategic plan for the next five-year cycle that will take us to 2028. Over the past few years, we have seen a lot of change in the veal industry with the genetic decisions being made by the dairy sector on calf supply, increasing cost of production, and competition for calves from the beef sector to name a few. What challenges or opportunities will the next five years bring? What role should VFO have in harnessing the opportunities and working on behalf of dairy calf raisers and veal farmers?

Ask yourself these questions: Where do you see the veal industry in the next five years? What do you think should be VFO's top five priorities over the next five years? What opportunities should we look to capture and what challenges should we be aware of so we can plan ahead for these hurdles? Do you think VFO should put more emphasis on research or consumer marketing, for example? These are the types of questions the board is tackling as it reviews the strategic plan and prepares to bring an update forward.

I have had the pleasure of being on this board long enough to go through this strategic planning process twice. While it can be a tiresome process, it has given me the insight of where the organization was five years ago and how the plan evolved and concurrently how the plan played out over those five years. We will update our plan, with these things in mind, to continue to work proactively on behalf of our members.

You will see an email come out in the next while looking for your feedback on the strategic planning process. While the board and staff are currently doing the leg work, it is important to have feedback from all our members. Please consider taking a few minutes to help us out with your thoughts and views that impact your farm business. As always, if you have any input or would like to discuss an issue further, please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members. ■



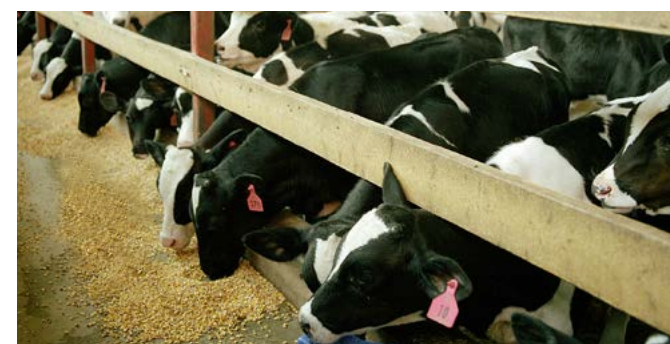
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PRODUCER PROFILE:
KYLE ROES



Tell us a bit about yourself and your operation.

Our farm is located outside of Millbank and prior to 2012 was a dairy operation run by Laverne Erb, my father-in-law. My wife Alison and I have been married for 11 years and have three girls. We market over 800 head of veal cattle direct-to-packer each year, raise some beef cattle and crop 220 acres of corn, beans, hay, and wheat. Day-to-day chores are done by just Laverne and myself, and we get family to help out at busier times of the year (i.e, straw, hay).

Initially, my father-in-law was going to pick up a bob calf for himself, so I asked him to get one for me as well and we started raising them in an empty barn on the farm. We kept getting calves from that farm and within six months started picking up calves from a few more farms. By 2017, the existing barn was very full, and we started looking into building new.

In 2018, we built our first barn for finishing cattle while continuing to use the existing barn and a few hutches to raise them to three months of age. In 2021, we decided to continue growing our operation and we added another barn that attached to the barn we built in 2018, so that all the animals could be moved under a roof without a trailer.

I went to Conestoga College for Materials and Operations Management and worked for Wallenstein Feed Mill for five years as a supervisor and dispatcher, moving to part-time as an AZ driver two years ago when we built the calf barn.

How do you source calves?

Calves are picked up every week from local dairy farms. When we built the new calf barn, I started buying some calves from sales barns to keep

the barn full until I can source more direct calves. I look for calves that are alert and energetic, with a dry tail and navel. When they arrive, I give them selenium and they're vaccinated a day later.

Can you describe your feeding program?

Young calves are all fed milk replacer and we begin weaning when they have started eating two pounds (lbs.) of grain per day. They are started on a 2:1 corn:supplement ratio, as I found it worked better for me than calf starter and it was easier to switch them to their 3:1 grower ration. I feed a 2:1, 3:1, 4:1 and 5:1 ration as they grow and all of them except the 2:1 have chopped straw mixed in.

I only started using straw in the rations a year ago and wish I had started from the beginning. Before using straw, I would ship them out at 730 to 750 lbs. in order to get as close to the 400 lbs. carcass weight. Since adding straw to the ration, I noticed a more consistent gain throughout all cattle and an overall gain in yield, so I now aim to ship at 705 to 725 lbs.

Can you tell us about your experience implementing technology in the new barn?

When we built the new calf barn, we decided to purchase an Uddermatic Rail Feeder to help with the workload and allow us to feed calves three times per day. There was a learning curve when we started to work with the automated feeding system – we had to figure out what works for our farm compared to the advice I received from the sellers and farms I visited with machines, as they were all dairy.

We also learned which information can help with early disease detection and at what point I need to intervene with a calf (i.e., missing one feeding vs. two or three in a row or a certain number of feedings missed in a couple days). When directly feeding a calf, you get an instant feel for the calf's health based on how they drink. With the automated system, I rarely see calves drink, so it requires other ways to notice sick calves early on. The system has a report for drinking speed and if any calves didn't finish their batch. Overall, I am extremely happy with the purchase and have seen many advantages for our operation.

What do you enjoy most about farming?

I really enjoy being my own boss and it's never boring – you can learn something new every day. I lean on my father-in-law for his past experiences with calves and crops, and he has helped me a great deal.

What are you looking forward to as VFO's newest director?

I think VFO does a great job continuing to push the veal sector forward through different marketing opportunities, the Healthy Calf Conference, and involving the dairy industry, as we work together so closely. I wanted to join the VFO Board to help with that in any way possible, as well as gain connections throughout the industry. Farming can be hard – raising young calves, you can feel alone in the issues you're facing when there are likely many other farmers who have faced similar difficulties and can help guide you through it. ■



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A deep dive into calf health: Challenges and solutions in record-keeping



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Dr. Kristen Edwards, veterinarian and PhD student

University of Guelph

Calf health is not just a matter of animal welfare – it's intrinsically linked to the future productivity and profitability of both dairy and veal farms. Early life health can influence its future growth rates, age at first calving or marketing, and even its milk yield. With the rising public concern over antimicrobial use in livestock, it becomes even more crucial to have complete calf health records. But how accurate are these records currently? A recent study from the University of Guelph investigated this question, revealing some interesting insights and solutions.

A snapshot of the current scenario

Surveying 88 dairy producers in Ontario, Canada, researchers found that less than 25 per cent of farmers consistently recorded all calf illnesses. Even more concerning, less than half documented all administered antimicrobial treatments. This lack of comprehensive recording presents a challenge, especially in an era where understanding and reducing antimicrobial use is of utmost importance.

Key findings of the study

- The majority of farmers had incomplete calf health records.
- Recording using paper-based methods resulted in poorer records compared to using computer software systems.
- One of the key motivators for farmers to record calf health data was the feedback derived from the analysis of their calf health data.
- Farmers that kept calf health records in close proximity to their calves were more complete in their recording.

Understanding the barriers

Several challenges stand in the way of complete and accurate calf health records. Among these, time constraints were identified as a significant

barrier. This was especially the case when calf health records were not kept in or near the calf barn, leading to delays and sometimes omissions in recording. Additionally, records kept in paper booklets, as opposed to digital formats, were also associated with poorer recording practices and were less likely to be consistently updated and analyzed.

Another critical insight was that when calf health records weren't analyzed and feedback wasn't provided, farmers were less motivated to maintain records. Feedback based on records analysis fosters interest and accountability, and without it, producers were less willing to spend their limited time recording calf health data.

Opportunities for improvement

So, how can calf health records be improved? The study provides some clear directions:

1. Digital solutions: An overwhelming number of respondents indicated that a mobile app would make recording more efficient. Such an app, if designed to be user-friendly and equipped with data analytics capabilities, could offer timely feedback. This would not only streamline the recording process but could also provide actionable insights.

2. Location of records: Keeping calf health records in the calf barn (or at least near the calves) significantly improved record completeness, likely by allowing data entry to occur soon after an illness was identified, or a treatment was administered. Point-of-care data capture, which is where data is recorded close to the time and place of its generation, is known to improve the completeness of human health care records by minimizing the time required to record data, as well as the opportunity for forgetfulness.

3. Analysis and feedback: One of the most important motivators for recording calf health data was feedback from the analysis of that data. When farmers saw the value derived from their calf health records in the form of actionable insights, they were more likely to be diligent in maintaining their records. By regularly setting time aside to review calf health data with key employees and the veterinarian, it brings greater meaning to the data collection process and unlocks business insights.

Conclusion

The importance of complete and accurate calf health records cannot be overstated. Not only do these records offer insights into the well-being of the calves, but they also play a pivotal role in understanding and managing antimicrobial use and driving management changes on-farm. However, the current gaps in recording calf health data are a concern. Fortunately, with the right tools and strategies, these gaps can be bridged. By leveraging technology, prioritizing point-of-care data capture, and working with industry advisors to ensure continuous data analysis and feedback, calf raisers can ensure a healthier future for their calves and, by extension, for their farms. ■

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New approaches to calf nutrition:



Thinking differently about colostrum and weaning can lead to greater life-long productivity

Lilian Schaer

for Livestock Research Innovation Corporation

There is a strong relationship between health and growth in a calf's early life and that animal's total lifetime production. This means what happens to a calf in its first few hours and days is extremely critical, particularly what it is fed.

According to Dr. Michael Steele, a professor in the University of Guelph's Department of Animal Biosciences, what we've known to date about what, how much and when to feed calves is changing and opens new opportunities for producers to impact the long-term health, growth, and productivity of their animals.

"You can mold the calf when it is born; we call this developmental plasticity, which is strong early in life and goes down as time goes on," Steele explained during a presentation at the most recent Healthy Calf Conference, where he focused his remarks on evolving perspectives around colostrum and weaning.

Colostrum quality and quantity

Measuring immunoglobulin (IgG) levels is currently the only way to assess colostrum quality. Producers should strive for an IgG level of at least 60 grams per litre (g/l), a level that's been gradually increasing over the last 20 years as the industry develops new recommendations on what those thresholds for calves should be.

Producers with low quality colostrum should consider enrichment with colostrum replacer. The biggest benefit to the calf, research has shown, lies in enriching low quality maternal colostrum with IgG levels of 30 g/l with a dry colostrum source to get the IgG levels to 60 g/l.

"The key takeaway here for producers is that there are ways of dealing with low quality colostrum such as enriching with colostrum replacer to ensure passive transfer," he said. "We're also really under-estimating how much colostrum we should be feeding calves."

Producers should be feeding a calf volume of colostrum greater than 10

per cent of its body weight within the first 12 hours of life. That means a 40-kilogram calf should get four litres of high-quality colostrum, but Steele suggests producers should feed more if the calf will drink it, especially during its first two meals of life.

Quickness also matters; the faster a calf gets its first colostrum feed after birth, the bigger its response will be.

"There is a lot more to colostrum than we give it credit for. Immunoglobulins are the main bioactive, and although our lab is now also starting to look at the carbohydrates and fats in colostrum, there are many other proteins that we don't talk about," he says.

Extended colostrum feeding

Producers should also consider feeding colostrum for a longer period of time. Research has shown that calves that received a second feeding of colostrum during their first day also received a big boost in IgGs. Extending colostrum feeding to days two and three after birth, even with a 50-50 mixture of colostrum and milk, improves gastrointestinal development, increases IgG levels and decreases mortality risk. And in days two to 14, feeding a mix of 10 per cent colostrum replacer and 90 per cent milk replacer has been shown to increase body weight and average daily gain, as well as lower the risk of calf death.

Milk feeding levels

Steele cautioned that calves today are heavier and grow faster than they did even just two decades ago. At that time, it was rare to see a 10-week-old calf weighing 100 kg, or recording an average daily gain above one kilogram so older feeding recommendations may no longer apply.

Calves will show more growth in the first month of life the more milk they are able to consume. That's because they don't eat as much calf starter as they should during that time, so they lose out on growth opportunities that will never come back.

"Milk consumption changes how the animal grows. Calves fed 1.3 kg of milk replacer per day showed larger mammary glands, liver, pancreas, and kidneys than calves only fed 600 g of milk replacer per day," he explained. "There are a lot of things we need to re-evaluate around milk replacers. We've seen in studies, for example, that high fat versus high protein milk replacers can generate the same average daily gain but have completely different metabolic footprints but what the impact of that is, we don't yet know."

Delayed weaning with a step-down approach

Weaning is another area where it could be time for some new thinking. Feeding plenty of milk early doesn't mean producers should wean calves earlier; instead, a farm's weaning and milk feeding strategies should work in tandem to avoid the growth loss that comes with early weaning.

This doesn't apply to farms feeding less than five to six litres of milk daily, Steele noted, but for those feeding higher amounts, the highest benefit comes from extending weaning from six to eight weeks of age.

"If you wean too early, it can take six weeks to get them back to the same level of energy intake, so you'll lose all the growth you gained from feeding higher levels of milk," he said.

A step-down approach to weaning instead of an abrupt end to milk feeding is important, and although a one-step weaning approach used to be acceptable, Steele now recommends producers strive for at least two steps. That's easily achievable with automated feeders, but also doable with manual feeding. And when milk is being taken away, calves should be transitioned to high concentrate diets to keep the energy in their ration.

Starch is one of the main calf starter ingredients in Ontario, with levels varying from 10 to 50 per cent. Here too, Steele believes the formula should be tied to a farm's milk feeding program as research is showing a drop in average daily gain in calves coming from a high milk to a high starch ration, for example.

"Maybe producers feeding lower levels of milk should use a different starter mix than those feeding high milk levels. This is very preliminary yet, but feeding high levels of energy and concentrate is important for this age," he said.

With the support of Veal Farmers of Ontario and other funders, Steele has just launched a multi-year research project to help address the knowledge gap in the nutrition and performance of dairy-beef calves. ■



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How calves digest milk replacer

Serena Lamont, Young Animal Specialist

Grober Nutrition Inc.

Understanding how a calf digests milk replacer allows us to better manage our feeding programs to optimize calf health and feed efficiency. Calves are born with four stomach compartments: the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum. All four stomach compartments will be used to digest feed in the future, however, when a calf is first born the only stomach compartment used for digestion is the abomasum.

Milk is able to bypass the other stomachs through the formation of the esophageal groove, a tunnel that delivers milk straight to the abomasum. This occurs naturally for calves when suckling and ensures that no milk ends up in the rumen, resulting in fermentation. Once the calf starts to consume solid feed, the rumen will slowly develop, and all four compartments will begin to be used.

Digestion of milk replacer begins in the mouth. Whether milk is fed through a nipple or a pail, the milk and suckling action stimulate the esophageal groove to close. Nipple feeding promotes more consistent closure of this groove which could promote better digestion. Nipple feeding also increases saliva production which helps with fat digestion, as enzymes that are found in calves' saliva start digesting fat before it makes it to the stomach.

When milk hits the stomach, it is digested differently depending on the protein source. Skim milk powder will enter the abomasum and form a clot. This is because the casein proteins found in skim milk powder react with the enzymes of the abomasum, similarly to how cheese is made. The clot will slowly release into the small intestine where the nutrients are absorbed into the blood stream. However, when skim milk is subjected to high heat during the drying process it becomes denatured (changes its molecular shape). This change makes the casein molecules unable to form a clot in the abomasum, allowing the milk to pass through the calf too quickly. When this happens, the calf is not able to utilize all the nutrients fed to them. High quality protein sources like low heat-treated skim will result in clot formation and a more regulated abomasal emptying rate, resulting in optimized nutrient digestion and absorption.

Another protein source is whey. Unlike skim milk powder, it does not form a clot. Whey products will pass through the abomasum into the intestines where enzymes will break it down for absorption. The reason for the quicker emptying rate of whey products is due to the lactose, or milk sugar, being digested in the small intestine quickly. The fast release of whey protein combines well with the slow release of skim milk powder to optimize calf digestion.

Plant protein is another source of protein that can be used in milk replacers. The addition of plant protein is often a more economical option compared to an all-milk formulation. While some believe calves are not able

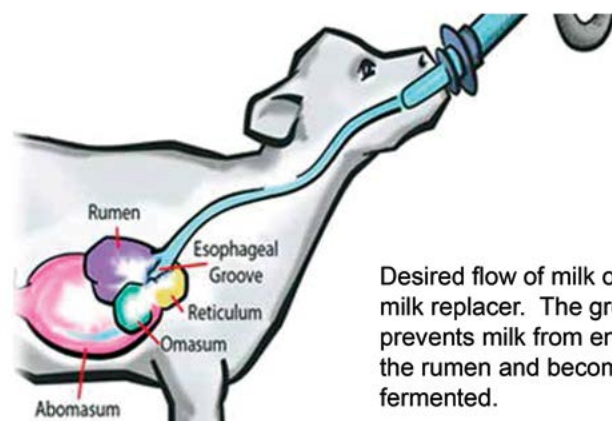
to digest plant protein, it actually depends on selecting the right source and how it is processed. Hydrolyzed sources of plant proteins are ideal for use in milk replacer; hydrolysis breaks down the length and complexity of the proteins using water. The breakdown allows for the proteins to be more easily digested by the calf by also increasing starch digestibility.

Fat digestion, as mentioned earlier, starts in the mouth with enzymes found in saliva. From there digestion depends on the fat source, fatty acid profile and age of the animal. Fats containing more small- and medium-chain fatty acids are more easily digested and supply a quick release of energy. Fat sources like coconut or milk fat are a great source of medium-chain fatty acids where fats like lard, tallow, and soya are slower to digest due to containing long-chain fatty acids. Age of the calf also has an impact on fat digestion as calves do not have a functional pancreas until two to three weeks of age. Before the pancreas is fully developed, calves must rely on saliva and stomach enzymes to break down the fats.

Each ingredient plays a different role in fueling your calves. How these ingredients are digested will impact calf health and performance. The abomasal emptying rate is an important factor of calf health and can be affected by feeding concentration and fluctuations in solids. If the abomasal emptying rates are too slow, the milk will sit in the calf's abomasum for longer periods of time. This keeps the abomasum at a more neutral pH for longer, which is more favourable to bacteria growth. Excessive bacterial growth can lead to ulcers and bloat. However, if the emptying rate is too quick, nutrients will pass out the back end of the calf without being properly digested and utilized by the calf, and in turn costing you money.

Feeding milk replacer made with high quality ingredients and formulated for optimal calf digestibility plays a crucial role in calf development, health and performance. ■

Esophageal groove anatomy and function



Desired flow of milk or milk replacer. The groove prevents milk from entering the rumen and becoming fermented.

Graphic credit: Building the Foundation for Healthy Calves II

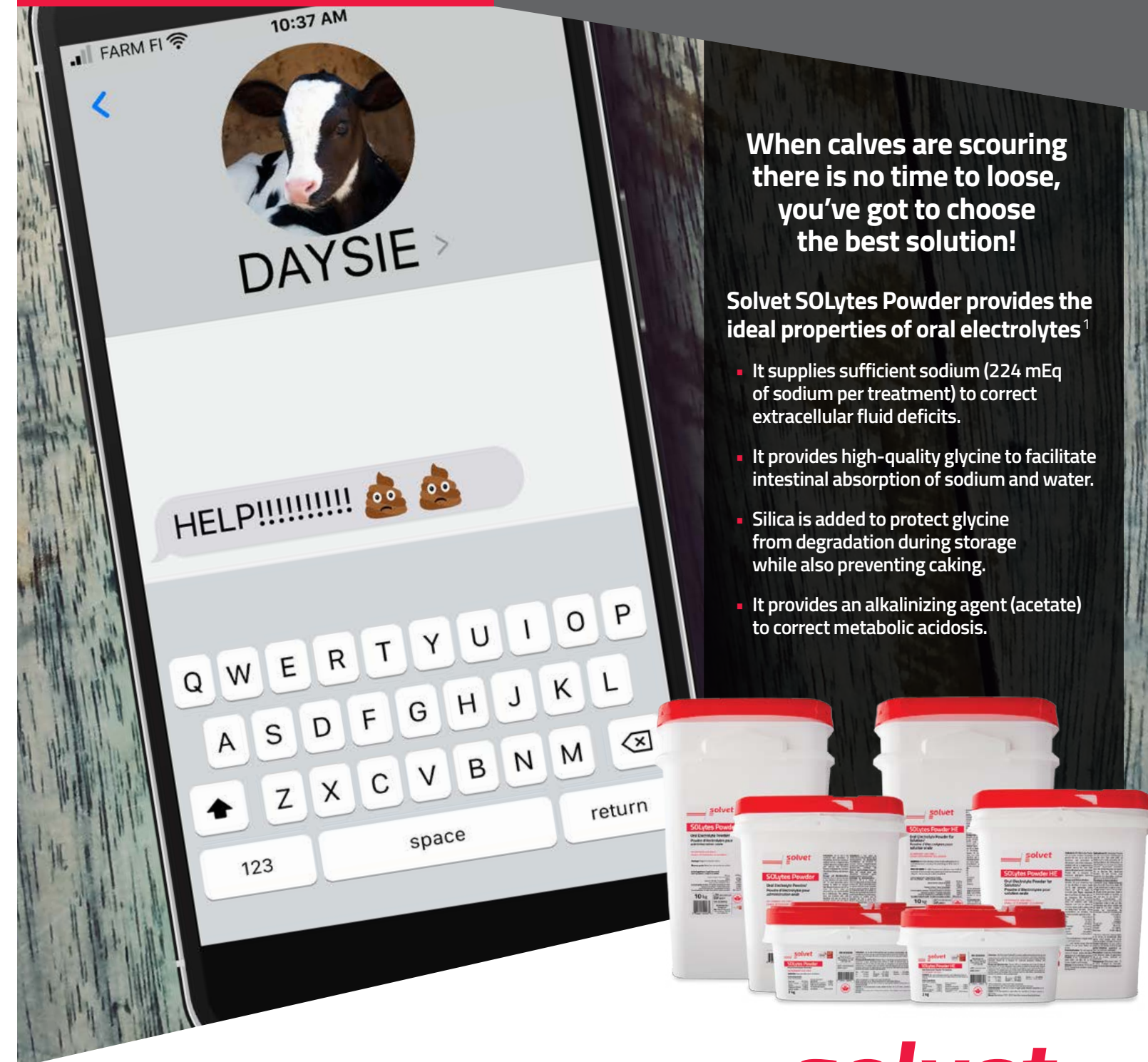
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Back to basics calf care: How do I know if my calves are fit to ship?

Lilian Schaer
For Veal Farmers of Ontario

Transport is stressful for calves. Possible co-mingling with a new group of calves and exposure to new pathogens, and even the actual activities of transport like loading, unloading, and being in transit are all things these animals have to be able to handle if they're moving to a new farm location or being shipped to market.

In order to ensure the best possible transportation experience, it's absolutely essential that only healthy animals leave the farm. But how do you know if your calves are fit to travel?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has regulations for the humane transport of livestock that must be followed, and animals that are considered compromised or unfit can only be transported under special circumstances.

A calf is compromised if it displays one or more of the following conditions:

- Bloated but no signs of discomfort or weakness
- Acute frostbite
- Is still healing from a procedure like castration or dehorning
- Shows signs of lameness other than what is described as unfit (see below)
- Has a deformity or a fully healed amputation, but doesn't show signs of pain from that condition
- Displays any other signs of infirmity, illness, injury or a condition that might make the calf less able to withstand the rigours of transport

A calf is unfit if it displays one or more of these conditions:

- Is non-ambulatory (can't walk)
- Has a fractured leg that prevents it from walking or causes it to show pain
- Is lame in one or more limb, showing pain, halted movements, reluctance to walk or can't walk on all four of its legs
- Is in shock or dying
- Has laboured breathing
- Has a severe open wound or laceration
- Is hobbled for treatment of an injury
- Is extremely thin; shows signs of dehydration, exhaustion, hypothermia or hyperthermia; or has a fever
- Has a hernia that hinders its movement, causes pain, touches the ground when the calf is standing, or has an open wound, ulceration or infection
- Has an unhealed infected navel
- Has severe bloat that is causing pain or weakness
- Has any other signs of infirmity, injury, illness or condition that cause the calf to suffer during transport



What do I do if I have compromised or unfit calves?

Calves that are compromised can only be transported in isolation from other animals. They must be loaded and unloaded individually without having to go up or down a ramp, and they can't be taken to an assembly yard.

Unfit calves can only be transported at the recommendation of a veterinarian and only to a location where they will receive veterinary treatment.

Good transport matters for healthy calves too

New livestock transport regulations came into effect in Canada in February 2020.

Calves may be transported for up to 12 hours at a time as long as they aren't subject to dehydration, starvation or exhaustion. After 12 hours in transit, they must be given feed, water and rest.

Calves eight days of age and younger under may only be transported once and can not be shipped to assembly yards.

For more information, visit www.calfcare.ca.

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

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Before shipping dairy calves off the farm follow this simple checklist.

Description	YES	NO
IS THE CALF HEALTHY? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bright, alert and well hydrated• Ears up, breathing well• Normal calf temperature 38.5°C		
WAS THE CALF FED COLOSTRUM AT BIRTH? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feed four litres within six hours of birth• First feeding should be as soon as possible		NOTE: Send record indicating calf was not fed colostrum.
IS THE CALF OVER 90 LBS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong and healthy• Standing and walking on all four legs		
DOES THE CALF HAVE A DRY, HEALED NAVEL?		NOTE: If the navel is unhealed or infected it is unfit.
DOES THE CALF HAVE SCOURS?		NOTE: Do not ship! Treat, if necessary and observe meat withdrawal.
IS THE CALF NINE DAYS OR OLDER? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send proof of age	NOTE: The calf can go to a sale barn or assembly centre.	NOTE: The calf is prohibited from going to a sale barn or assembly centre.
WAS THE CALF FED IN THE LAST HOUR? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calves can only travel for 12 hours from the time of the last feeding• The final destination is not known• Send record of time of last feeding		NOTE: Feed before leaving farm.
DOES THE CALF HAVE AN EAR TAG? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Male dairy calves leaving the farm must be identified with a single, approved RFID ear tag		

If no was answered on any question, retain on dairy farm until the calf is ready.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.CALFCARE.CA

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VEAL Farmers of Ontario

VFO comments on amendments to PAWS Act

Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) continues to work on the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019* (PAWS Act, 2019), most recently commenting on Bill 102, *Strengthening Safety and Modernizing Justice Act, 2023*. VFO was supportive of the proposed amendments which outline the process and procedures that are to take place when animals are in distress, when there is an active investigation taking place, and for the follow-up required. VFO stressed the importance of collaborative working relationships amongst all parties to ensure successful outcomes for all involved. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for later in September to discuss the proposed amendments. VFO is supportive of continuous improvement of the PAWS program.

VFO joins roundtable with Minister MacAulay

VFO was represented at a roundtable hosted by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) with Minister MacAulay at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. With Minister MacAulay coming back into the portfolio as the federal Minister of Agriculture, the roundtable was a good opportunity to remind the Minister of the many different commodities produced in Ontario, the unique challenges Ontario's farmers face, as well as some of the common issues all Canadian agriculture will need to address to succeed in the future.

CCA, CMC, NCFA launch 'Say No to a Bad Deal' campaign

The Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), the Canadian Meat Council (CMC) and the National Cattle Feeders Association (NCFA) launched a public government relations campaign aimed at delaying the federal government from allowing the United Kingdom (UK) to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Canada was one of the first adopters of CPTPP and has exclusive veto on any new members who may want to join the trade agreement. Until now, the CPTPP has provided a high standard of fair access to markets for participating countries, but the UK agreement would see the ability to send up to \$50 million of its meat products to Canada every year, while allowing the UK to accept little or no Canadian meat in return. The campaign calls on the federal government to stand up for Canadian farmers and the industry by negotiating a fair deal. To sign the petition or for more information go to: <https://saynotoabaddeal.ca>. ■

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Work with what you have, control what you can! Preventing calf illness

Kendra Keels

Industry Development Director

As calf producers you have heard this before, the importance of good hygiene. Good hygiene is the best way to prevent calf illnesses. It really is that simple.

I know it is easier said than done, but that is part of being a responsible livestock owner and the standard producers are held to in the Codes of Practice.

Lowering mortality (death) and morbidity (sickness) on-farm is how to stay in the black, especially with the prices of calves these days. The calves must stay alive and to do that you must give them a clean place to live.

When calves arrive on-farm the health status is unknown. Did they have colostrum, how old are they, have they been sick, how far did they travel, these are all questions producers do not know the answer to. In order to overcome those unanswered questions, we must look at what we do know and what we can control – the environment the newly arrived calves are entering. It must be clean and well-bedded with excellent ventilation.

As producers, you work with what you do know. You know the pen or hutch conditions the calves are living in. You look at that environment twice daily and make mental notes. More bedding is needed, the water buckets are slimy and need to be scrubbed, the feed bucket has manure in it, etc.

These are all observations made every day. How fast you act on your observations will make the difference on the overall health and welfare of the calves. Sometimes producers feel they are too busy take the time to clean right away. Not taking those extra few minutes can lead to sick, underperforming animals. When that happens, everyone loses.

It is well-proven scientifically that calves with a clean source of water eat more solid feed, leading to better average daily gains and better overall health. Take the time to clean the water bucket, especially during the warmer weather it gets slimy very quickly. That slimy feeling is bacteria build-up.

Poor hygiene can also lead to high pathogen loads like coccidia, cryptosporidium, the dreaded salmonella or even worse *Salmonella* Dublin. There are case studies on calfcare.ca outlining how devastating this disease can be. Take the time to review those.

The best way to avoid these diseases is to prevent them and that is why hygiene is so important. Reducing disease-causing pathogens using proper hygiene protocols is one way to control pathogen load in the calf barn, substantially reducing illness and saving countless hours of unnecessary work, reducing veterinarian costs, and improving the quality of finished animals. Reducing pathogens keeps calves healthier longer, allowing time for the calf's own immune system to develop and reducing the amount of antibiotics used for preventable diseases.

Remember:

- Cleaning and disinfecting breaks the bacterial chain of infection. When disinfecting, follow the manufacturer's instructions for best results. A 10 per cent bleach solution also works wonders. Cleaning buckets/bottles every day is easier than needing calves every day.
- Ensuring water bowls are clean and fresh daily pays back with increased weight gains and overall improved health.
- Adding fresh, clean bedding regularly is easier than pulling dead calves from pens.

Overall, you can only manage what is in your control and providing a clean environment for calves is in your control and something that is manageable with a few extra minutes each day to ensure calves have the best possible start. The next time you are feeding calves and you see that more bedding is needed, take the time to do it right then, you will be glad you did. ■

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Increasing the appeal of Ontario Veal

Jennifer Haley
Executive Director



To the consumer, veal has always been known for its premium quality, taste, and price. With meat prices increasing at retail and in restaurants, it is important to maintain market share with the consumer and ensure veal remains centre of the plate for the veal-eating occasions our consumer is looking for. We know that with the escalating impacts of inflation and market supply, prices continue to rise, and consumers are looking for ways to lower their spending and preparing meals at home is on the rise. Beyond saving money, research shows that ease, health, and time are all factors in what consumers are making, and eating, at home.

However, for many veal consumers, cooking veal at home seems to come with a fear factor and consumers tell us that they are not sure how to cook veal to get that same restaurant-quality experience. Veal Farmers of Ontario's (VFO) consumer messaging approach addresses these concerns by educating consumers on available cuts and easy to understand how-to cooking tips. For meal inspiration, we've added a variety of new recipes

with professional photography to our recipe library, along with videos with simple step-by-step cooking instructions. And of course, we include the message that Ontario veal is a delicious, lean, nutrient-packed protein.

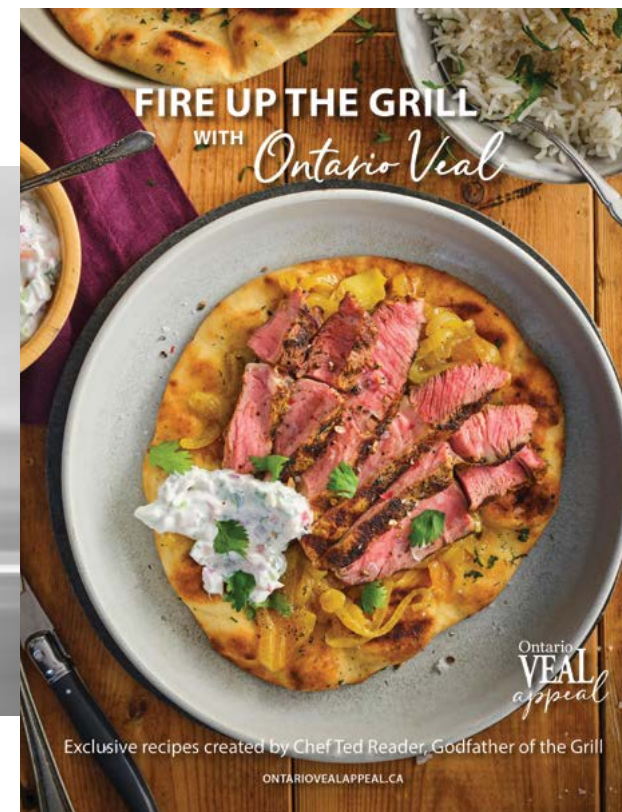
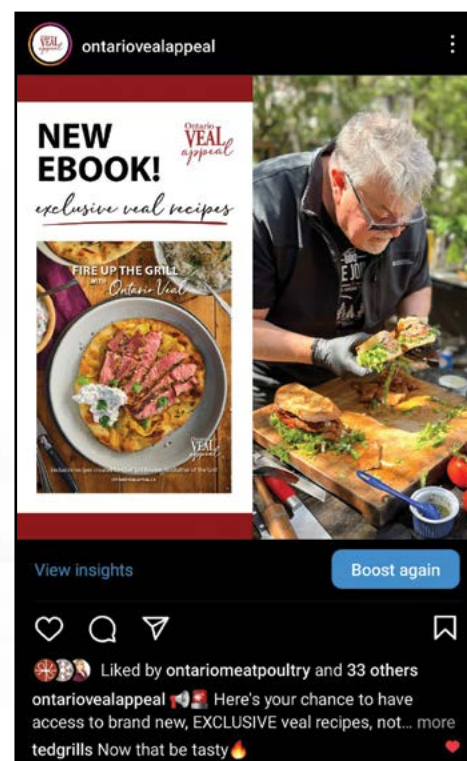
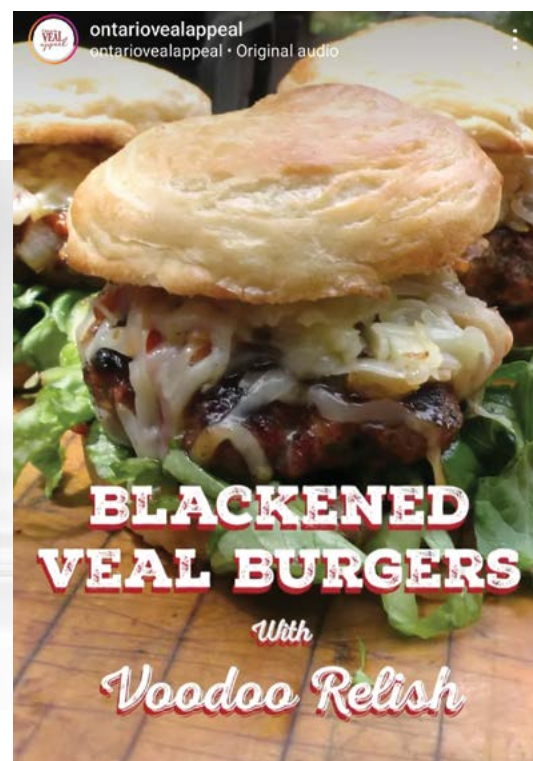
You'll find Ontario veal promoted on all the mainstream social media channels – Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, X, and now on TikTok! Inspiring veal-eating occasions, sharing recipes from influencers, and providing recipe instruction – our reels have proven very popular. For Ramadan and Eid, VFO collaborated with Fariha Ekra (@lifewithfarihaa). Fariha is a micro influencer with a large South Asian following. Her content reaches and encourages veal consumption, especially within the Halal market. Working with Fariha offered us the opportunity to increase and add diverse content to our recipe library for usage in our consumer e-newsletters and our social channels.

In the summer, consumers often forget to put veal on the BBQ as they gravitate to the more traditionally known BBQ meats. As a result, our

veal sales are often impacted during the summer months. A key strategic direction for VFO has been to build awareness for Ontario veal on the grill and in the smoker! VFO expanded its longstanding partnership with Chef Ted Reader, 'Godfather of the Grill'. Chef Reader's core audience consists of unapologetic and enthusiastic carnivores who engage with his content, try his recipes, and follow him like fan girls follow boy bands. Charged with producing a series of recipes that appeal to both novice and intermediate grillers while featuring a variety of readily available cuts, Chef Reader produced eight of his trademark "tasty" recipes. VFO also worked with Chef Reader to create several Veal 101 cooking tip videos that have been shared across all our social channels as well as Chef Reader's. VFO also showcased Chef Reader's newly created recipes in a free eBook that was launched in early June and promoted throughout the summer months on VFO's consumer channels.

Print ads in LCBO's *Food & Drink* magazine continue to provide a strong return on investment. The magazine reaches a desirable consumer demographic and suits veal's profile as a premium addition to special-eating occasions. Visits to the ad's featured recipe on the website spike after the magazine appears in-store. For 2023, VFO secured a full page in the early summer issue, at the launch of grilling season, and another full page in the highly-anticipated holiday edition which reaches LCBO stores November 8.

This coming holiday season, Ontario Veal Appeal will be launching a campaign that will once again put veal at the heart of this year's celebrations. However you celebrate the holidays, food is always a part of new and old traditions, and Ontario veal fits perfectly on everyone's menu! Make sure to watch for this campaign and share it in your social feeds to build awareness. ■



Please follow and share our Ontario veal posts with your followers and tag us when you do!

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References available upon request.



Meeting with your lender

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

In order to have a successful farm operation, you need to have a good working relationship with your lender. Your lender(s) can help you maintain your farm business as well as grow it when the time is right. It is a good idea to meet with your lender at least once a year to give them an update on your farm business, but it is also good to connect with your lender throughout the year. In this article we will look at some of the documents you should prepare before you meet with your lender.

What documents should I prepare before I meet with my lender?

Most recently filed income tax return

When discussing your farm business with your lender, they will need to know how you have done financially over the past year. One of the ways that your lender looks at your finances is by looking at your personal or corporate income tax return depending on your business structure. If you are operating your farm as a sole proprietor or as a partnership, then your personal income tax return will be needed. If your farm is incorporated, then you will need to take the corporate income tax return to your meeting.

Net worth statement/assets and liabilities listing

In addition to the income tax return, your lender will need to know what your net worth or equity is. When you subtract your liabilities from your assets the difference is your net worth. In addition to knowing your net worth, your lender will also need to have a detailed asset and liability listing or balance sheet. This information will help them determine which loans or leases might be close to being paid off, as well as what the interest rates and payment requirements are. As part of your assets and liabilities listing, it is also beneficial to have a detailed inventory listing. This will help your lender to understand and forecast your future revenues.

Business plan

A written business plan helps your lender understand the direction you see for your farm operation and how you plan to get there. Normally a business plan is used and/or reviewed on a regular basis to see how the farm is doing or when a major event affects your farm (e.g., an opportunity to expand, death of a family stakeholder, etc.). A business plan generally contains:

- Business profile
- Marketing plan/strategy
- Production plan
- Financial plan
- Human resources plan

Cash flow projections

Cash flow projections are a good tool to help lenders assess how funds flow through the farm business and how much debt you can afford. When preparing a cash flow projection for your lender it is beneficial to do the projection for the next three years. This will help the lender to understand the direction of the farm that was outlined in your business plan.

Capital asset purchase plan


If you are planning on buying equipment, constructing a building, or purchasing land, it is always a good idea to have a plan. A capital asset purchase plan can detail what assets will need to be purchased and the expected date of purchase, along with the expected cost. This plan gives your lender insight into major costs you could be facing in the future.

Cost of production calculations/budgets

It is always good to know your crop and livestock cost of production (COP) numbers. By calculating your COP, you will be able to explain what marketing risks your farm could face, and how you will be able to overcome them. For COP worksheets and budgets please visit: <https://ontario.ca/page/farm-business-decision-calculators>.

In summary


A good working relationship with your lender makes it easier for your farm to be successful. By making sure that you have your paperwork in order before your meeting with your lender, it will make it easier for your lender to analyze the situation and provide options and support to maintain and grow your farm operation. ■



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VFO joins statement with Ontario's farm leaders

The leadership of Ontario's agricultural organizations are pleased to find common ground with the Ontario government in respect to protecting farmland under the proposed Provincial Planning Statement.

We understand — and support — the need to increase the housing supply in Ontario, but we also want to ensure that housing is developed without encroaching on Ontario's farmland, which is our most precious natural resource.

It is extremely encouraging that the Government is committed to continuing to work with Ontario's farming community to find solutions. This commitment will ensure the protection of farmland and allow Ontario's farmers to continue to feed the villages, towns, and cities of the province. In addition, local farm leaders across the province look forward to engaging in the extended consultations with respect to the proposed Provincial Planning Statement.

VFO celebrates #30DaysofLocal

Local Food Week celebrates the bounty of fresh, healthy food grown, produced, and processed right here in Ontario. Ontario Veal Appeal collaborated on a media tour with several of our commodity group partners throughout the month of June for the #30DaysofLocal campaign. Recipe demonstrations with Chef and Home Economist Emily Richards featuring five-ingredient dishes with Ontario Veal and other locally grown favourites were broadcast on TV stations across the province. 'Godfather of the Grill' Chef Ted Reader grilled up Ontario Veal burgers on CTV Kitchener and Chef Raquel Fox from Island Gurl Foods created crowd-pleasing recipes for Father's Day on Toronto's Global News Morning.

Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) also engaged with consumers through our social accounts, sharing where to find our FarmFood360° video so they can meet real Ontario veal farmers, and directing them to the Meat & Poultry Ontario website to source veal locally. Producers were encouraged to get involved on social using the hashtag #loveONTfood and sharing their favourite way to choose local.

VFO Executive Director 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 Calgary, Alberta this past August. Haley is part of a progressive committee of elected producers, processors, and foodservice/retail professionals.



L to R Julie Mortenson, Youth Member; Mike Guest, Member at Large; Jeff Cline, CMC; Jack Chaffe, BFO; Russ Mallard, CMC; Steve Christie, Retail/Foodservice; Andre Forget, CMC; Chad Ross, SCA; Clay Holmes, Member at Large; Cam Daniels, Member at Large; Jennifer Haley, VFO. Missing: John Curtis, CMC; Coral Manastersky, IE Canada; Jim Clark, Member at Large.

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 re-appointed to the Marketing Committee and be able to bring the veal industry's perspective and voice to the table and collaborate with my beef industry colleagues as we work together with Canada Beef staff to promote Canadian beef and veal," 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.

Updated Canadian Livestock Transport Training Program

Animal Health Canada has significantly updated the Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) certification program, a comprehensive train-

ing course for livestock and poultry transporters, shippers, and receivers. Enrolment is now open on its newly launched e-learning platform at <https://campus.animalhealthcanada.ca>.

Recognized across Canada and the United States, CLT is an easily accessible, standardized online program offering humane animal transportation certification. The update, based on the most recent regulations, revamped the core training materials to make the training program more engaging and user-friendly.

New updates to the VFO market report

At VFO, our dedication to the continual enhancement of the content within our Weekly Veal Market Information Report goes hand-in-hand with our commitment to serving your needs. As the dynamics of the industry evolve, so does the information we provide. In response to these evolving trends, we have revised and refined the Weekly Veal Market Information Report to accurately reflect these changes. We acknowledge the significance of possessing the most up-to-date information in facilitating sound marketing decisions. If there's more you would like to see included or if you have any ideas to share, please feel free to reach out to our office to discuss.

Sign-up to receive our weekly e-newsletter and have the Weekly Veal Market Information Report delivered straight to your inbox every Friday afternoon. Scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/VFOsign-up>.



VFO attends Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

VFO attended Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in September, connecting with veal and dairy producer members, discussing industry issues, promoting calf care and distributing resources. We encouraged producers to visit our booth, tweeting throughout the event and promoting our location on VFO's social media channels. Thank you to everyone who dropped by our booth to catch up or pick up a copy of the *Building the Foundation for Healthy Calves* // manual. ■



VFO Vice Chair Dylan Yantzi

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Taking a fresh look at solutions for dealing with deadstock



Study makes recommendations on path forward in Ontario

Lilian Schaer

For Livestock Research Innovation Corporation

A recently completed research report for Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC) charts a path forward for management of on-farm livestock mortalities in Ontario.

The key recommendation includes establishing a coordinating body to oversee deadstock management in the province, coupled with continued investment by both industry and government to support the activities of that body.

The other recommendations suggest working with waste management companies on potential solutions, reviewing current regulations to ensure they are scientifically sound, and streamlining regulations related to deadstock across the various applicable government agencies.

The complexity of dealing with deadstock in a province as large and as diverse as Ontario means there is no single or simple solution for the industry. The research also highlighted, however, that deadstock is a global issue and countries around the world are grappling with how to best manage it from a One Health perspective in a way that protects human, animal, and environmental health.

"The livestock sector is a key pillar of Ontario's economy, environment and food security, and any solutions need to support livestock producers regardless of species or location," says LRIC CEO Mike McMorris. "Deadstock has been a challenge for the livestock industry for decades and we are hopeful that this report, coupled with the interest of stakeholders to work together, will help us achieve a longer-term solution."

The project was launched last year by LRIC with funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) in response to a request from Beef Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Sheep Farmers, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Veal Farmers of Ontario, and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture for help in finding practical and sustainable solutions to the livestock mortality issue.

Study lead Jennifer MacTavish consulted with approximately 70 individuals and organizations over the course of the project and completed an international scan as part of the research.

Despite the ongoing challenges Ontario farmers face with respect to deadstock, the study found that Ontario farmers do have options – it's just that none of them are ideal or practical for all farmers in all regions of the province.

Both farmers and government prefer to use rendering wherever possible, but escalating costs have made on-farm pick-up uneconomical across a large part of Ontario, and steadily increasing regulatory requirements are making it harder for rendering companies to operate profitably.

Regulations impacting handling and disposal of on-farm mortalities lie within five different provincial acts and 12 different organizations touch deadstock in some way, resulting in no real coordinated approach to the issue.

A meeting of 30 deadstock stakeholders earlier this year that included producer groups, government, renderers, waste disposal companies and others resulted in a request to form a working group to tackle the issue.

"The recommendations in the report are focused on moving the industry towards a more coordinated approach to managing on-farm mortalities. We need to build adaptability to geographical and species differences with a focus on One Health," says McMorris.

Coordinating body

The report recommends the establishment of a coordinating body to ensure ongoing, full-sector development and implementation of solutions. To avoid adding another layer of bureaucracy, it is recommended to approach an existing organization or interested group of individuals, companies, and organizations to immediately begin work on the issue. Initial funding could be provided by industry and government.

The role of this new coordinating body would include tasks like prioritizing and funding research needs, providing financial offsets for farmers in some regions and investing in key stakeholder infrastructure where needed, offering input on regulatory changes, supporting waste management companies in navigating the regulatory landscape, developing business cases for disposal options, evaluating the feasibility of different organizational models to ensure a sustainable approach to deadstock management services and more.

It could also coordinate pre-competitive conversations with stakeholders on how to manage surge capacity, develop a matrix that considers the impacts of rendering capacity issues on the sector, and building contingency plans for situations where rendering capacity is limited.

"Most importantly, however, this organization would lead the building of

relationships across the sector so regulation and problem solving can be approached in a collaborative way," notes McMorris, adding that there are several organizations representing livestock farmers with successful histories of working cooperatively with government, including Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council, LRIC, and CanLead.

Continued investment

Underpinning sustainable deadstock management is continued investment that supports farmers with disposal needs, particularly ensuring ongoing, uninterrupted collection. It also includes activities like on-farm euthanasia training, building a business case for the benefits of deadstock to a circular economy, and assisting farmers and other stakeholders with planning and critical infrastructure costs.

Work with waste management companies

The coordinating organization could help waste management companies work more collaboratively with government and the livestock industry to build business cases for making use of deadstock as an input instead of treating them like a waste stream. Waste management companies also need help navigating the regulatory landscape around deadstock, particularly when looking at growth opportunities.

Review existing regulations

The report recommends a review of existing regulations to ensure they are scientifically sound, streamlined across regulatory agencies and capable of enabling the industry to take advantage of the economic opportunities presented by deadstock in relation to a circular economy. ■

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Bruce Kelly, Program Consultant
Farm & Food Care Ontario

There's nothing like a farm theft to make you feel like a victim rather than a manager. Millions of dollars in equipment are stolen from farms annually across Canada, resulting in high replacement costs, insurance increases and unnecessary stress for farmers and their families. A farm security system deters theft on your farm, provides a record for the police if a theft occurs, and offers peace of mind when you're away from your property. A picture is worth a thousand words, but a video clip will give the authorities what they require to get a warrant. Security cameras for livestock barns are also great for keeping you updated during calving and lambing seasons to reduce evening trips to the barn to check on progress.

It's no secret that farms contain large amounts of expensive and portable equipment, making them targets for theft. Every farm workshop has thousands of dollars of tools, welders, generators, and compressors, not to mention hobby toys like quads, sleds, and motorcycles. Bold thieves have recently stolen larger items like tractors, GPS systems, and field equipment. Unmonitored equipment sheds and fuel tanks are vulnerable to impulse theft and more calculated incursions.

It isn't practical to lock doors on a 24-hour-a-day farm operation, so security cameras can provide a second set of eyes to monitor properties around the clock, record the footage for up to a month, and – if connected through your home internet – allow you to see live feeds on your phone from anywhere connected to cell or Wi-Fi service. A farm security camera system can deter intruders who want to sneak onto your property. Two conspicuously placed cameras pointed at the driveway can keep everyone on their best behaviour and act as a reminder that activity on the premises is recorded. A multi-camera security system will capture an image of them or their vehicle for further investigation. With a mobile app on your phone and instant security alerts activated, you can see farm security footage live on your phone, no matter where you are. Opt for automatic alerts every time movement is detected in specific areas. And it's not just

- about theft; there is peace of mind in knowing the feed truck arrived or the service technician left.
- Rural security cameras – Protect your farm assets and:*
- Capture your driveway and yard, and record all vehicles, licence plates, and potential faces of criminal offenders.
 - Monitor inside key buildings for a record of what moved when.
 - Monitor fuel storage, feed bins, and dump pits.
 - Record who comes and goes on the farm, visits and length of stay, including suppliers' service trucks, feed deliveries, etc.
 - Remotely monitor livestock areas inside or out.
 - Monitor key livestock areas like robot stations or birthing pens.
- What equipment do I need? – From simple to complex*
- The most important features of a system include remote viewing from a phone and some level of recording capability. It's crucial that you have a recording and the ability to save that record if there is an incident.
- **Simplest:** The simplest systems use an inexpensive Wi-Fi camera connected to your house Wi-Fi connections and then to your phone with some cloud recording capability.
 - **Recommended:** A hard drive recorder in your house or office with a combination of wired or wireless cameras. This system is then connected to the home internet for remote access.
 - **More complex:** You may need a cellular-based system and solar-powered cameras if you do not have Wi-Fi, have a large service area requirement, or have a remote location.

Do I need to pay monthly monitoring fees?

No, most systems can be managed on your own as there is going to be movement on a farm, and every activity is not a threat. An empty house is different from a farm. Depending on the system, you will pay for hardware and perhaps a remote cellular connection.

Farm security cameras are proving to be useful in deterring rural crime. Modern camera systems can help catch criminals in action, record details for police follow-up, provide significant benefits in your day-to-day management of animals and offer you a new peace of mind that comes from being able to see your yard when you're not there. Check-in on activities that are scheduled to happen and those that are not. For example, did the trailer get picked up on time? Was fuel or feed delivered today? Has the cow started calving?

There is a huge responsibility in owning a farm. Technology can help share the load by enabling you to view the inside of the barn, shed or farm yard when you can't be physically present. Yes, it's about security, but it's more about management and seeing what's happening in your barn, shed, or yard. ■

Watch for part two to learn how Ontario farmers use video monitoring on their farms. Visit www.farmfoodcare.on.org for additional resources on emergency management, security, and farm power systems.

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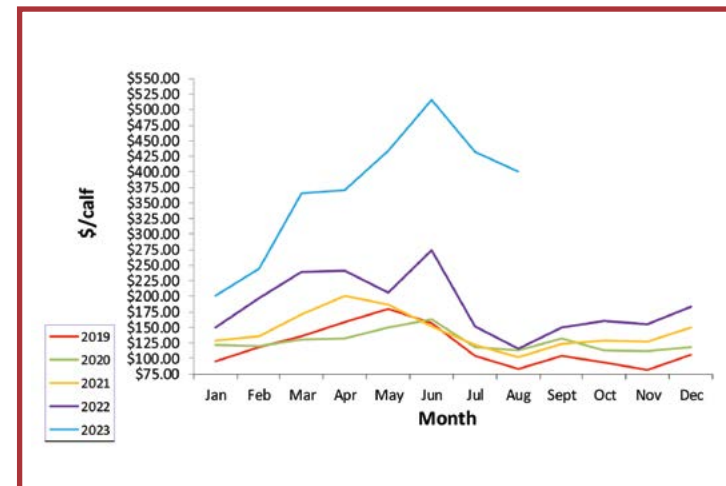
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Veal Market Information

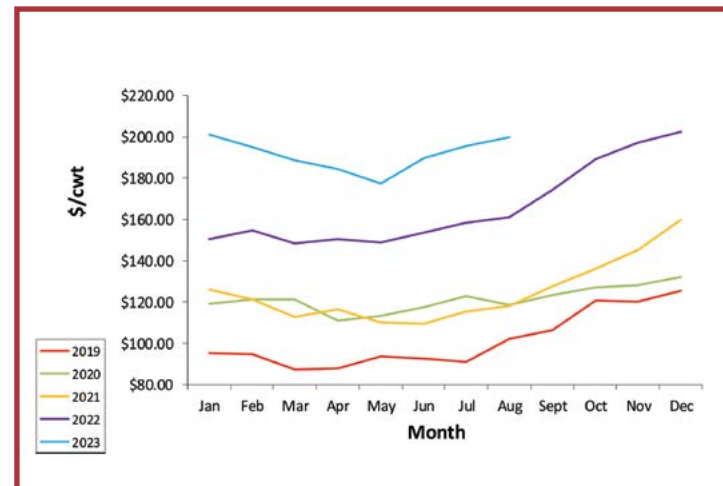
This information is collected from various sources and disseminated by Veal Farmers of Ontario.

Bob Calf Pricing



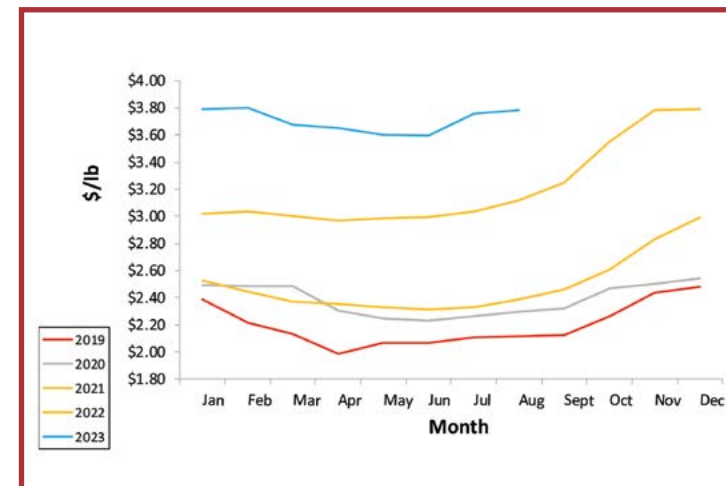
This price range is collected and tabulated from participating sale barns throughout Ontario based on average pricing. This information is used to follow trends.

Sale Barn Veal Pricing



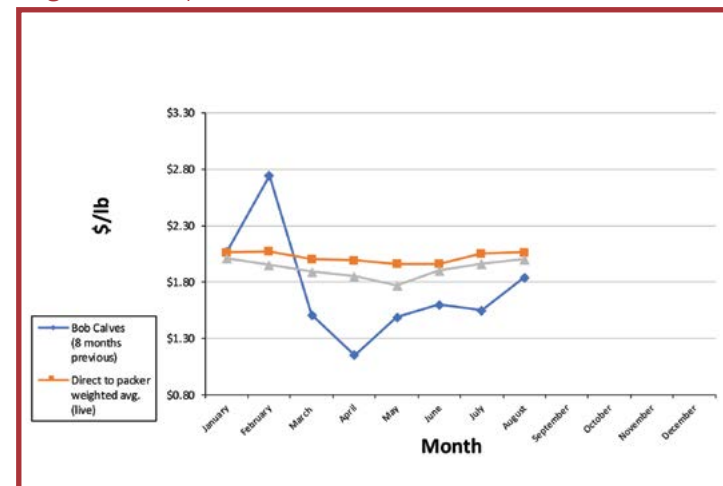
This price range is collected and tabulated from participating sale barns throughout Ontario based on average pricing. This information is used to follow trends.

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)



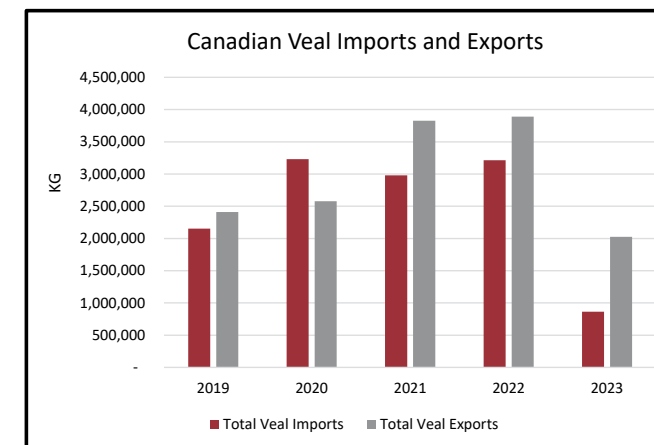
This graph is used to compare the finished price from both the sale barn and rail grade pricing to the bob calf prices eight months prior. This information could help when deciding on the purchase prices of calves and what market they will be shipped in. This information gives a quick glance at both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



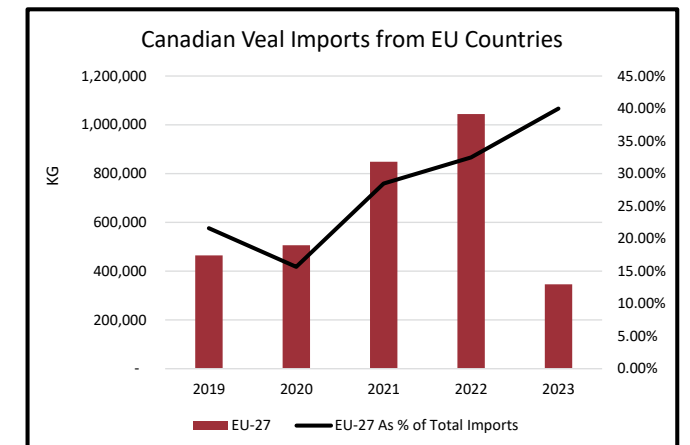
Veal Trade Tracker

30-Jun-23

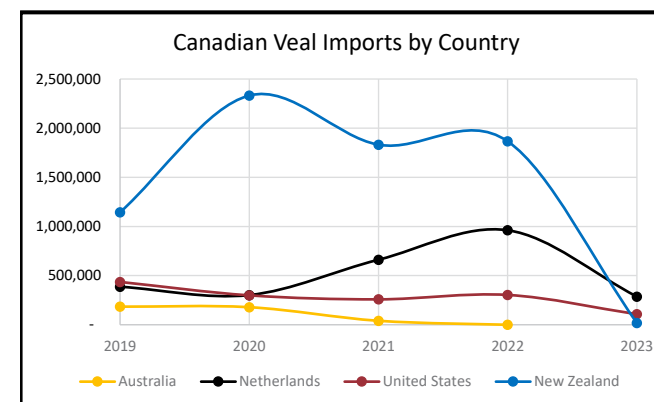
A quarterly snapshot of Canada's veal trade



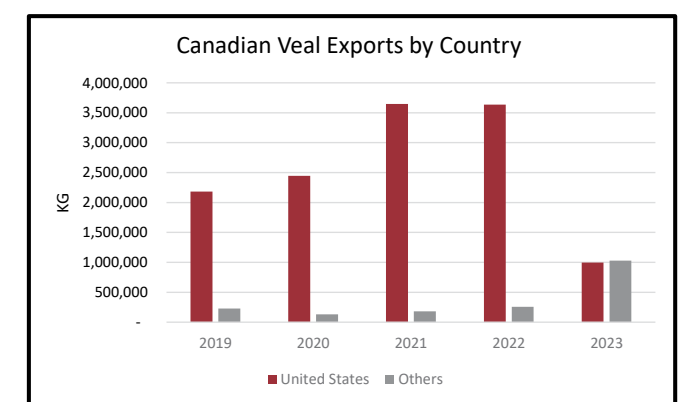
Year to date, Canadian veal exports amounted to 2.02 million kgs. Veal imports increased by just over 49,000 kgs compared to 2022.



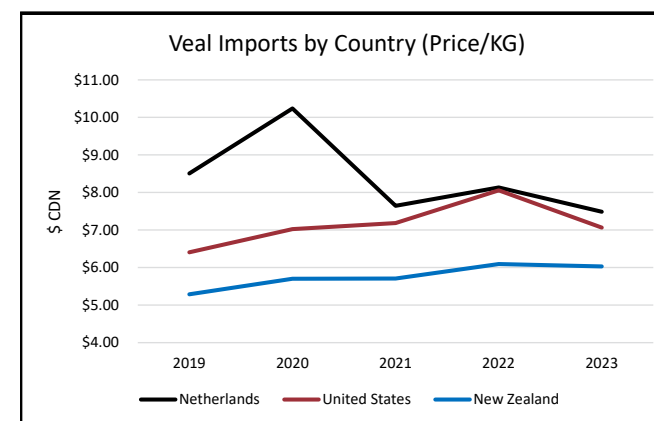
The volume of veal imports from the EU (red) represents 40% of all imports. The Netherlands is the predominant supplier of European imports, with smaller volumes imported from Italy.



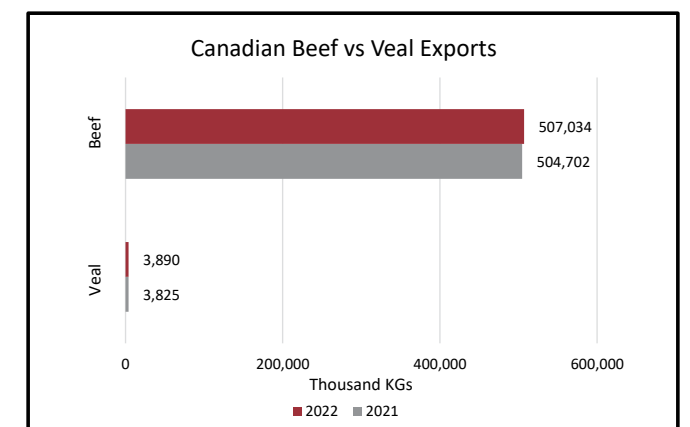
The Netherlands is now Canada's largest supplier of imported veal, followed by The United States. Imports from the USA have been increasing. No Australian imports have been reported



Veal exports to the USA increased by 7.9% year to date compared to 2022. The balance of Canada's veal exports, have decreased 21% YTD to the Middle East.



The per kg price of veal imported from the Netherlands has held reasonably steady in 2023 from 2022 at \$7.49/kg. The value of American cuts decreased from higher levels in 2022 to \$7.09/kg, while the value of New Zealand imports held steady at \$6.03/kg.



While veal represents just a small fraction of Canada's red meat trade, both veal and beef exports have marginally increased in 2022 compared to 2021.

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

Ontario VEAL appeal

VLT (Veal Lettuce Tomato Sandwich)

Cut: Scaloppini/Cutlets | Servings: 4

Seasoned veal scaloppini done hot ‘n fast on the grill takes this popular diner dish to the next level!

Ingredients:

- 4 x 4-5 oz Ontario veal scaloppini, thinly sliced and pounded
- 4 + 6 tbsp olive oil
- 4 tbsp BBQ seasoning (I used my Bone Dust)
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh herbs (any mixture of dill, parsley, cilantro, thyme, oregano, mint)
- 8 slices rustic bread (I used a classic Italian white bread, crusty crunchy crust, light ‘n airy inside)
- 3 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp prepared horseradish
- 4 leaves green leaf lettuce, sliced into fine strips
- 2 large ripe tomatoes, sliced into ¼ inch rounds
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Instructions:

Slice each veal scaloppini into 3 or 4 strips about 1½ to 2 inches wide, so the veal looks similar in shape to strips of bacon. Drizzle veal slices with 4 tbsp of olive oil and mix well to coat evenly. Sprinkle the BBQ seasoning over the veal slices and mix well to coat evenly. Lay the strips of seasoned veal evenly spaced onto a parchment lined cookie sheet, cover and refrigerate to marinate in the spices for a minimum of 1 hour.

In a small bowl combine remaining 6 tbsp of canola oil with 2 tbsp of chopped fresh herbs. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Set aside.

Slice the bread into 8-½ thick slices and brush evenly on both sides with herby oil . Set aside.

In another small bowl mix the mayonnaise and horseradish and season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Fire up the grill to medium heat, about 350-450°F.

Toast the seasoned bread slices, on both sides until browned and toasted, set aside keeping warm.

Crank up the grill to high, 500 °F.

Grill the veal slices quickly for 2 to 3 minutes per side until lightly charred and tender, and if you do it right still a little pink in the centre. Tip: get everything ready before you grill the veal. This is the last thing you do. Do it hot ‘n fast.



Assemble your VLT

- 1 sliced of grilled toast.
- Schmeer a ¼ of the horseradish mayo over the toast.
- Top with some shredded lettuce.
- Add 3-4 thin slices of tomato.
- Season tomato slices with a little salt and freshy ground black pepper.
- Top with 4 or 5 slices of grilled veal scaloppini strips.
- Top with 2nd slice of grilled toast.
- Repeat. ■

Source: Ted Reader BBQ (TedReader.com)



Scan the QR code to watch ‘Godfather of the Grill’ Chef Ted Reader create a VLT in this cooking tip video!



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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 <https://bit.ly/Agricorndealers> or contact the VFO office.

Licence fee remittances

Regulation 58/15 (i) requires any person who receives veal cattle to deduct from the money payable for the veal cattle any licence fees payable to the local board by the person from whom the veal cattle is received and to forward the licence fees to the local board. Bob calves and preconditioned calves are considered veal cattle. This regulation also includes veal cattle that are sent for custom slaughter.

If you are purchasing male dairy and dairy crossbreed bob calves (up to 150 lbs.) and pre-conditioned intact male dairy and dairy crossbreed calves (up to 450 lbs.) licence fees are required. To help veal producers and to streamline efficiencies VFO will allow producers purchasing private treaty calves or sending veal for custom slaughter to fill out the Year End Licence Fee Remittance Worksheet.

This worksheet is only for finished veal producers, not dealers. Dealers are to remit monthly unless arrangements have been made with the VFO office. Form 5- List of Veal Cattle Sellers Information Report must accompany the Year End Licence Fee Remittance Worksheet.

If you require additional copies of the Year End Licence Fee Remittance Worksheet for 2023, Form 1 or Form 5, please visit the VFO Licence Fee forms page at <https://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 <https://bit.ly/agricorp> or call 1-888-247-4999 for more information. ■

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