

AGENDA

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Tavistock & District Memorial Hall

3 Adam St., Tavistock, ON N0B 2R0

10:00 a.m. Welcome

10:05 a.m. 2024/2025 VFO Veal Carcass Benchmarking Study summary
Aaron Hibma, MSc, Mallot Creek Group



Aaron will summarize and discuss the components of the study:

- Findings from the fall, winter, spring, and summer packer cooler audits and associated economic loss calculation
- Statistical analysis from the last study (2015) to current
- Findings from packer, sales barn, and retailer questionnaires
- Comparison of these parameters to the last study

10:40 a.m. From arrival to abattoir: Understanding the drivers of carcass quality and condemnation in veal cattle
Dave Renaud, PhD, DVM, ACER Consulting



This presentation will summarize findings from a project investigating the factors associated with hot carcass weight and carcass characteristics in veal cattle. Key variables explored include the number of antibiotic treatments received, season of arrival, and source dairy farm. The presentation will also highlight risk factors for carcass condemnations, providing evidence to inform improved health and management strategies.

11:15 a.m. From condemnation to communication: Learning from inspection observations to strengthen herd health
Tim Metzger, Meat Inspection Regional Manager - East Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness



OMAFRA Meat Inspection staff will present on the provincial meat inspection program and the communication of carcass dispositions to abattoirs and consignors. Information will also be provided on OMAFRA's Animal Health Discussion Request process and how to initiate a conversation between a producer and their herd veterinarian with an OMAFRA veterinarian to discuss potential herd health implications associated with carcass condemnations.

11:50 a.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Market situation and outlook
Steve Duff, Chief Economist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness



Steve will share an update on the North American cattle market and highlight key trends from the past year and where 2025 appears to be going. This presentation will provide critical insights for producers navigating market uncertainties and planning for sustainable growth.

1:20 p.m. Hands-on workshop exploring common reasons for organ condemnation



Dave Renaud, PhD, DVM, ACER Consulting

Doran Kirkbright, DVM, DVSc, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness



In this interactive workshop, participants will examine condemned organs from veal cattle to better understand the most common reasons for carcass and organ rejection at harvest. Through guided discussion and hands-on examination, we will explore what these lesions reveal about on-farm health, treatment decisions, and opportunities for improved management.

2:45 p.m. Wrap-up

Agenda is subject to change.

Moderated by **Kendra Keels, Industry Development Director Veal Farmers of Ontario**

The learning doesn't stop here, watch for these fall releases!

WEBINAR



Managing liver abscesses in cattle: Practical strategies for producers

Gabriel Ribeiro, DVM, PhD, PAg

Associate Professor and Saskatchewan Beef Industry Chair University of Saskatchewan

Over the past 20 years, the prevalence of liver abscesses in beef and veal cattle across Canada has steadily increased. This webinar will explore the key risk factors that contribute to liver abscess development and highlight practical prevention strategies that producers can apply on their farms.

PODCASTS



"One cough is enough": Rethinking respiratory health and antimicrobial use

Bart Pardon, DVM, PhD, Dip. ECBHM

Associate Professor Ghent University



Feeding veal cattle: Fibre, ratios, and rethinking nutrition

Holly McGill, MSc

Ruminant Nutritionist

Visit <https://vealfarmers.ca/veal-cattle-health> to access our latest resources on their release dates. Prefer an email reminder? Sign-up by emailing events@vealfarmers.ca.