

Western Canadian Association of

BOVINE PRACTITIONERS

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6 NO. 4 DECEMBER, 2001

President's Message - Ken Linde

It is people, individuals with drive and talent, that truly are the catalysts for making things happen. No doubt the raw materials, such as money, are required as well, but time spent working with the WCABP board has shown me the value of human initiative. This past year the diverse talents on our board have generated several new ideas, many of which are already in the early stages of implementation.



As always, the focus of the board has been on the annual conference. As you can see in the conference program, Drs. Ruckman and Butler have finalized an excellent array of topics and speakers. These conferences require a lot of planning and communication and we thank both Bob and Ray for their hard work.

Our secretary, Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed, has been actively pursuing grant money from a number of agencies in order to finance the "Seeing Practice" bursaries. As you may recall, these bursaries were set up in recognition of Dr. Butler's contribution to the WCABP, and for first year veterinarian students to get a taste of bovine practice. The board considers this initiative to be a very important step toward securing a continued supply of bovine practitioners from the WCVm.

So far we have been turned down by the Alberta Livestock Industry Development fund, however we still have a Canada Alberta Rural Development Fund application pending. These proposals take a fair bit of effort to complete, but they stand to provide us with a lot of capital to have a self sustaining bursary fund. From the many applications we received, the bursary committee has selected three recipients for the \$1000 bursaries. Congratulations to Jessica Miller, Travis Ducherer, and Justin McLash. We also want to thank all of the applicants for taking the time and consideration to submit their applications.

We are continuing to communicate with the CVMA. Recently the WCABP submitted a letter to the CVMA dealing with continuing education. We supported the concept of making the CVJ and the CJVR available

electronically in full text through the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central. Although the initiating costs are substantial we felt that this would be a prudent use of CVMA membership dues. Finding information on a topic of interest in a timely fashion is critical to all practitioners.

Some of our members have expressed concerns over the availability of approved veterinary pharmaceuticals, lengthy delays in the approval process, and discrepancies with the American system. The WCABP has forwarded these remarks to the Veterinary Drug Directorate (formerly the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs), but has not received a response to date. The American Veterinary Medical Association has also drafted a letter to the Veterinary Drug Directorate addressing these concerns on behalf of Canadian veterinarians. With a new Director General in the VDD, positive changes hopefully will occur soon.

Finally, we must not forget the excellent work of our office staff. Were it not for Erika Rauser, our liaison with the Associations Plus, I doubt whether I would ever have a report ready for the newsletter.

With my term as president coming to a close, I can say that it has been a rewarding, if humbling, experience. The expertise and innovation of my fellow board members certainly have challenged me in many ways. WCABP will only flourish if people with vision are willing to be deeply involved. I encourage you all to take a look at devoting your talents as a WCABP board member in the future. 🐾

Ken Linde, DVM

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Published By



**Associations
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From the Secretary-Treasurer's Desk



The Board has been busy preparing for the annual conference in January. Please check our website (www.cattle.ca/wcabp/) and this newsletter for more details. We hope that you will join us in Saskatoon for an educational experience and a good time. By now, you should have all received your conference packages. If not, please contact Erika at our office or Dr. Ray

Butler. Membership renewal forms were included in the conference package. As you know, we count on your continue membership to keep this organization viable. Please take the time to renew your membership and encourage others who are not members currently to join up. As we indicated at last year's conference, we reduced conference registration fees for members and we intend on sending out conference proceedings to all members. These are additional services that your membership provides, in addition to the quarterly newsletter, website, student activities, and other educational and political activities. We thank you in advance for your continued support.

At the conference, we will be looking for two new directors to replace retiring members. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Andy Acton or fill in the form included in this newsletter. Our Board is getting a little weak in the beef end, so we are particularly interested in attracting some new beef practitioners to the Board.

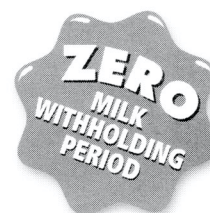
We will be losing Dr. Andy Acton from the Board, who has served us well over the last seven years. We wish to thank Andy for his inspiration and ideas. Andy has had a strong influence in encouraging this board to try to entice more young people into veterinary medicine and particularly, bovine practice. Andy was behind the idea to develop extension material that bovine practitioners could use during presentations to 4H clubs, junior, and senior high school students to try to entice these students into bovine practice. We submitted a grant to CARD for these funds and so far have been successful in acquiring support from Alberta CARD. We are waiting to hear for matching funds

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from CARD in the other three provinces. Once we have that financial support, we will hire Meristem, a professional company, to work with us to develop these communication tools for each one of you to use locally in your community.

We will be losing Carmen Millham from the Board as well. Thank you Carmen for your time and efforts on the Board and working with the veterinary students at WCVM.

At the conference we will be presenting Boehringer's "Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award". A nomination form is enclosed. Please fax or mail your suggested nominees to me by no later than December 31, 2001.

As you know, at last year's conference, we set up the Ray Butler Student Bursary with the hope of providing three bursaries a year to first year students to subsidize their costs to spend twelve days in a bovine practice. This bursary was set up to try to encourage first year vet students to pursue a career in bovine practice. We applied to two granting agencies for funding support towards this bursary but were unsuccessful. Ray will work with the Board to send requests to pharmaceutical companies to see if we can get sponsorship from them to help set up the bursary. In this newsletter, you will note that there is an insert requesting donations towards this bursary. We encourage you to provide a little cash to help us set up this bursary. We will need to set up \$500,000 in order to have a self-sustaining program. This year, the three student bursaries will be coming out of our regular budget, but we can not continue that practice and must make the bursary self-sustaining. Thus, we ask for your support to provide a means for first year vet students to experience bovine practice. We also encourage you, if you are interested in being a practice that takes a first year vet student for twelve days to teach them "life", that you contact Dr. Ray Butler or myself so that we can put you on the list of available practices. Thank you.

Ten students applied for the bursary this year and the three chosen candidates for the \$1000 bursary were Jessica Miller, Travis Ducherer, and Justin McLash. We wish to thank all the students for applying and we encourage you to continue to pursue a career in rural practice.

On the political front, Dr. Ken Linde was instrumental in setting up a CVMA Task Force to look at the veterinarian's

role in on-farm food safety programs. This task force will be corresponding through electronic mail. We also recently sent a letter to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency in regards to their proposed removal of KRS Spray from the market. Our letter was to request further information as to why this product was being removed. We have not yet heard back from them, but we will keep you posted. As well, we sent a letter to the CVMA in regards to their request for feedback on whether practitioners supported the CVMA Editorial Boards suggestion that both the CVJ and CVJR be set up electronically so that articles from these journals could be accessed on PubMed. As you know, PubMed is a free database system that we as practitioners can use on the internet to search journals for articles of interest. We encouraged CVMA to invest in this project. A while back, we sent a letter to the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs regarding the differences in licensing and label use of bovine drugs in Canada and the US. While we did not receive a response from BVD, our letter made it to the AVMA and they sent us a letter indicating that they would look into that issue on their end. That's all for now. Hope to see you in S'toon at the conference. ♣

Joyce Van Donkersgoed, DVM, MVS

CONFERENCE 2002 ROOMS

Rooms for the Saskatoon Inn can be booked by calling 1-800-667-8789. Mention that you are with WCABP to qualify for the conference room rate. Room reservations can also be made online at www.saskatooninn.com

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Schering-Plough Animal Health

Escherichia Coli O157 in United States Feedlots

www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm

From October 1999 to September 2000, fecal samples were collected from 73 feedlots in eleven states. Overall, 11% of fecal samples were positive for STEC (shiga like toxin *E. coli* O157). The largest percentage of samples positive for STEC came from pens where the cattle had been in the feedlot the shortest time. The largest percentage of samples were positive (19.9%) in September. There was no geographic trend in the percentage of pens with culture positive samples. All feedlots had one or more positive samples during the course of the study. STEC appears to be widely distributed in cattle populations at feedlots.

Salmonella in United States Feedlots

From October 1999 to September 2000, fecal samples were collected from 73 feedlots in 11 states. Overall, 6.3% of fecal samples were positive for *Salmonella*. There was little difference in percentage of positive samples by days on feed. The largest percentage were positive (11.4%) from July through September. Samples from the southern States were more likely to test positive (7.7%) than samples from the Northern States (4.8%). Overall, 22.3% of the pens had one or more positive samples and these

pens were located in 50.7% of the feedlots sampled. The common serotypes isolates (*anatum*, *montevideo*, *reading*, *newport*, *kentucky*) were dissimilar from those commonly associated with human illness or cattle diagnostic specimens.

Prevalence and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Patterns of Salmonella from Beef Cows

From August 1997 to January 1998, fecal samples were collected from 187 operations in 21 states. *Salmonella* was found in 1.4% of the samples and from these samples 78 *Salmonella* isolates were identified. Most isolates were recovered from two operations and only one serotype was recovered from the majority of operations. The five most common serotypes were *S. oranienburg*, *S. cerro*, *S. anatum*, *S. bredeney*, and *S. mbandaka*. Herd prevalence was related to geographic region, with the largest proportion of operations positive in the South Central region, followed by the central region. Most of the isolates (87.2%) were sensitive to the entire panel of antimicrobials tested. The most common resistance identified was to sulfamethoxazole and streptomycin (11.5%), followed by tetracycline and gentamicin (2.6%). For all other antimicrobials, fewer than 1.5% of isolates were considered resistant.

Protecting Canadian Exports of Livestock and Animal Products Through Zoning - Discussion Paper

Zoning is an administrative process undertaken on a national scale to demonstrate areas of disease containment and exclusion to limit the breadth and duration of trade embargoes that accompany serious disease incursions. The guidelines for zoning are established by OIE. The five general requirements for zoning are:

- 1) disease is compulsorily notifiable;
- 2) zoning provisions may vary according to disease;
- 3) zone boundaries must be supervised;
- 4) effective veterinary infrastructure is required; and
- 5) production and slaughter establishments must be officially known.

Canada has the infrastructural and professional capability to meet these prerequisites.

The delimitation and creation of disease-free zones required consideration of many factors, such as the causative agent, husbandry, marketing patterns, geography and political jurisdictions. Industry (beef, pork, and poultry) is interested in knowing how to apply zoning as a defense against disease incursion so as to protect parts of its agribusiness should a foreign animal disease occur. Thus, a discussion paper has been developed requesting input from many sources to help the Canadian Animal Health Consultative Committee give guidance to CFIA on how to proceed. 🐾

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Student Section



As I am sure you remember, spending eight years (or thereabout) going to university to get your DVM doesn't exactly keep you on top of happenings in the cattle industry. Whether your preference is beef or dairy, alienation is bound to occur. You may reach a point where you can't remember the difference between a Hereford and a heifer (well I hope

it doesn't get that bad).

The way I see it, our mandate is threefold:

- To give our members some extra **hands on** experience that will make them more confident and proficient grads;
- To provide **practical knowledge** in our specific area of interest, especially things that we don't get or don't get enough of at school;
- To **generate excitement and interest** in the area of bovine medicine. Again, if you remember, we spend so much time in the classroom it is easy to get bogged down and lose sight of the end of the tunnel. Think of this as 'keeping the cow junkies happy'.

To this end we have events planned like Beef and Dairy Judging Workshops, a trip to Agribition, a Dairy Barn Tour, a Footlab including trimming, joint drilling and claw amputation, a Practical Bovine Surgery and Anatomy demonstration, an AI school/Embryo transfer workshop in conjunction with the Department of Theriogenology, and an evening of cow/calf case studies with Dr. Eugene Janzen.

Already this year we have hosted an interesting Grasslands/Wetlands Management Seminar by Saskatchewan Wetlands, a Feedlot Animal Lung Pathology seminar with Dr. John Campbell and Dr. Ted Clark and had Intervet's Dr. Bill Saunders talk about the feedlot industry.

We look forward to meeting you at the WCABP Conference in January. We are hoping to have a student meet/greet and job fair. If you have any suggestions of things you would like to see us concentrate on, or if you are going to be in town and want to share your knowledge, please contact me, Carol Cockwill, by email at clc260@mail.usask.ca; by phone at (306) 477-5913; or contact our faculty advisor, Dr. Fritz Schumann, fritz.schumann@usask.ca; phone (306) 664-6832. ♣

Carol Cockwill

Conference 2002 Update

The Big One-Oh!

WCABP's tenth birthday will be celebrated at the Saskatoon Inn. The 2002 conference hotel has recently undergone major renovations, making the \$89.00 room rate (single or double) especially attractive. Rooms should be reserved before December 15 to be assured of the conference rate.

The 2002 conference itself will be a departure from traditional WCABP meetings. Hats off to Dr. Bob Ruckman, our President-Elect, for taking the bull by the horns in making some innovations to the usual WCABP conference format.

The Scientific Program, scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 16, 17 and 18, has attracted prominent speakers from the United States, Israel, and Canada, and will feature four theme sessions: *An Integrated Approach to Bovine Practice*; *Immunology and BVD Update*; *Bioterrorism – a Serious Concern*; and *The DVM Breakthrough Experience (Taking a Hard Look at the Business of Bovine Practice)*.

In addition, Dr. Jeremy Bailey, WCVN's Associate Dean (Academic) will discuss *The Role of WCVN in Addressing the Future Needs of Bovine Practice*, and allow time for questions and discussion.

Dr. Oded Nir, Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Health for the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, addressing *Integrated Herd Health Programs* should provide a new slant to what is now an integral component of many western Canadian practices.

While *Practice Tips*, a feature of past conferences, will be conspicuous by its absence, our colleagues from industry will again provide short presentations on new developments in the field.

The post-conference dairy workshops, which will be presented by Dr. Nir all day Saturday, January 19 and Sunday morning, January 20, will prove to be an intensive educational experience for the serious dairy practitioner. (See page 10.)

Recognizing that computers and the internet are here to stay, arrangements have been made for a high-speed computer to be available throughout the Conference. An hour on the evening of Thursday, January 17 has been set aside for those interested in "cruising the web" to join a discussion group and explore what is now available for bovine practitioners. Experienced "computer hackers" and those just getting started are encouraged to attend. Bring a list of your favourite websites to share with your WCABP colleagues.

Saskatoon is served by WestJet, Air Canada, and Northwest airlines.

Plan to celebrate WCABP's tenth birthday by attending WCABP '02: a conference for the serious bovine practitioner. ♣

Ray Butler

Vigilance is Key

With the continuous assault on our country's institutions, and given our industry's first-hand experience with violent attacks on our operations, we must all remain vigilant to threats in our own backyards from terrorists of another stripe – those radicals who would endanger lives and destroy property, claiming to protect animals or the environment.

Sadly, we're also now being warned by our leaders that bioterrorism – the introduction of anthrax or other devastation into our mail system — is no longer something that *may* occur, but a very real threat to our nation.

Producers, processors, feed companies, input suppliers, and others have been attacked using firebombs, nail bombs, vandalism and graffiti, our computer systems and internet security have been breached. Some in our industry have been attacked because they believe in the progress of biotechnology. And in some cases, threats against those who speak out on behalf of our industries and our progress are all too common.

Leaders of radical animal rights groups have been so callous and unfeeling as to publicly “hope” that the devastation of FMD and BSE will come to North America. This “wishful thinking” is a very real threat to our nation's food security. So great is the threat from runups in eco-terrorism that federal criminal legislation has been introduced, and congressional hearings will be held soon to examine the extent of these threats.

In the past few years, we have seen a significant increase in activity by Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the Environmental Liberation Front (ELF) – both classified by the FBI as domestic terrorist organizations. Our homegrown terrorists also operate in underground secret cells around the country, with total disregard for the people to which they are causing harm.

The ALF and ELF profess to hold all life – animal and human – sacred. This is supposed to provide some sense

of assurance that people will not be harmed during these acts of violence. However, psychological injury is just as real as any physical wound; threats can harm just as materially as actions. We also know that people make mistakes. No matter how well planned, there is always the chance of human error. The more of these attacks that are launched, the greater the chance of “mistakes,” errors that could injure or kill.

We can and must do more to protect our farms, ranches, mills, and manufacturing facilities. We must be more vigilant, more wary, more resolved to not let this violence interfere with our efforts to feed this country and the world as best we can.

All operations should maintain the priority of keeping their employees safe – nothing is more important. All operations should reevaluate their physical safety and security. All operators should talk to local law enforcement and emergency services to get their best advice. All operators should sit down with their employees to make sure they understand the company's priority on employee safety and facility biosecurity. Large commercial operations should invest in a professional plan to maintain or enhance the security of their facilities and the safety of their employees. Smaller operations can do good, sound planning.

The Animal Agriculture Alliance recommends the following very basic steps to help maintain security at your facility. These recommendations are not a guarantee of safety, nor are they comprehensive to all farm, ranch, or company operations, but they can give a good start to developing an overall security plan to help ensure the safety of your family, your employees, and your animals.

- **Talk seriously with your local police/fire/emergency departments now.** Get to know the folks whose job it is to protect you and yours. Let them know you are prioritizing your facility security, let them know about legitimate reports of eco or animal rights criminal activity. It is imperative you know whom to call if necessary. Know response times. Know how many officers are on duty during early morning hours, prime time for “hits” on rural facilities.
- **Establish a contact and good working relationship with the appropriate public authorities, including public utilities, local and state law enforcement, etc.** Make sure they have copies of maps of your facilities indicating service shut-off locations, security areas, and any area of sensitivity or vulnerability.
- **Evaluate every request for information about your operation, even the most routine.** Don't fall prey to false praise; never agree to a suspicious request until you have verified the validity of the request. Whenever possible, require requests for sensitive information/tours be in writing. Never provide information over the phone

WANTED!

**NOMINEES FOR
WCABP BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND
2001 BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM
“VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR” AWARD**

Submit your choices on the inserts enclosed in this newsletter and return as soon as possible.

continued page 11

Fact Sheet - ANTHRAX

Anthrax is one of the oldest diseases known to humankind. It is caused by a bacterium, *bacillus anthracis*. The disease in livestock is usually fatal in cattle, sheep, goats, and horses. While swine and dogs are more resistant to the acute disease causing death, they are known to develop extensive swelling in the neck area. Disease outbreaks have occurred in specific wildlife groups such as bison in Wood Buffalo National Park.

Anthrax bacteria grow in anaerobic conditions (lack of oxygen) and have the ability to form spores when exposed to air and warm temperatures. The opening of a carcass or discharges from infected animals can induce spore formation. The spores are very resistant to destruction and may survive for extremely long periods of time. Depending on local conditions, anthrax spores can survive for years in soil and water. They can also be transported by the wool, hides, or other products from infected animals.

Once anthrax has occurred in an area, the possibility that it will recur under the right environmental conditions remains. While it is possible to transmit anthrax from animal to animal, most cases of anthrax are related to exposure to spores from previous outbreaks reverting to the bacterial phase through environmental changes, such as erosion or flooding.

Symptoms

Anthrax runs its course so rapidly that it can be difficult to diagnose in live animals. Symptoms that may appear immediately before death are high temperatures, bloody discharge, and swelling in the neck and shoulder areas. Although anthrax infection may respond to antibiotic therapy, sudden death is usually the characteristic sign of the disease in livestock. Vaccines are available to protect livestock.

Precautions to take

Under federal legislation, all suspected cases of anthrax must be reported. If you suspect an animal has died of anthrax, immediately contact the nearest Canadian Food

Inspection Agency (CFIA) Animal Health District Office. The telephone number for your local CFIA office can be found in the blue pages of your telephone book under the federal government. Do not handle or move the carcass. The most important step in controlling anthrax is the proper disposal of infected carcasses in accordance with official disease control measures. The CFIA has a control program for anthrax. Affected herds are vaccinated and placed under quarantine until 30 days have elapsed after the last case. The federal government provides indemnity payments under the Health of Animals Act to owners whose animals die of anthrax, as part of an official program to control or eradicate diseases considered a threat to Canada's livestock population.

Human health implications: Anthrax is primarily a disease of livestock, but people who have been exposed to an infected carcass or spores of the bacteria from another source can contract human forms of the disease. There are three ways of contracting anthrax:

- Inhalation - anthrax spores are breathed in through the nose or mouth;
- Cutaneous - the spores enter the body through an open wound on the skin, such as a cut or abrasion when handling contaminated products or infected animals;
- Intestinal - the disease may occur after eating contaminated meat.

Anthrax does not spread from person to person, and antibiotics can be used to treat this disease in humans.

For more information on the global situation, you may wish to refer to: http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/whocc/mp_world.htm

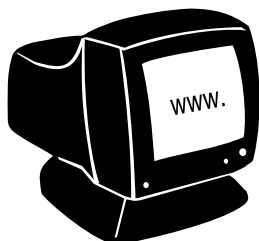
For more information on the human disease, please refer to: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/anthrax_facts.htm

Anthrax Indemnification Regulations are found at: <http://inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/appor/actloi/anthrax.shtml> 🗎

Source: *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*

Have you visited the WCABP website lately?

...Here is what you are missing:



www.cattle.ca/wcabp

- 2001 Conference Proceedings
- Numerous Links to Sites of Interest
- Latest Industry Information (check out the recent postings on FMD and Johne's Disease)
- Vet Advice Columns (Contributed by WCABP members, and published in the *Canadian Cattleman*)
- Details on the upcoming 2002 Conference (stay tuned for further information which will be posted shortly).

To access the 2001 conference proceedings, the user name is **animal**, and the password is **bovinevet**. 🗎

An Introduction to Infectious Disease Control on Farms (Biosecurity)

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity and biocontainment are words describing programs for infectious disease control that:

1. reduce/prevent the introduction of new diseases onto an operation from outside sources
2. reduce/prevent the movement of infectious diseases on the operation.

Why is biosecurity important?

Infectious diseases introduced onto an operation can have a devastating effect on cash flow and equity. Tuberculosis, brucellosis, Johne's disease, and Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD) are examples of infectious diseases that can severely affect the viability of a cattle enterprise. Adverse effects of infectious diseases can occur at the farm or industry level. Some diseases may severely limit or eliminate animal marketing options (for example: to slaughter only). In the future, producers may be responsible for potential pathogen contamination of the food supply or environment. Negative effects may be short- or long-term, depending on the nature of the pathogen and level of concern among producers and consumers. Presence of some pathogens can also affect market access for larger portions of the industry. With the stakes so high, biosecurity should be a very high priority in day-to-day management decisions.

What are the components of a biosecurity program?

The components of a biosecurity program are all good management practices that can increase the profitability of a livestock operation.

New Additions

Cattle, Semen, Embryos

Many infectious disease agents can be introduced to the herd by new additions. Organisms like Neospora, a cause of abortion, and Bovine Virus Diarrhea Virus, a cause of abortions, congenital malformations, respiratory disease, and diarrhea, can be introduced with apparently healthy animals. In addition, diseases with prolonged incubation times (the time from first infection to the appearance of

clinical signs) such as Johne's disease, can be introduced to the herd with apparently healthy animals. Semen and embryos are often overlooked as a source of infectious disease agents for the herd. The artificial insemination industry does extensive work to assure that semen brought into the herd is free of infectious disease agents. However, diseases like trichomoniasis, BVD, and bovine leukosis can be introduced with semen from sources with less stringent testing requirements.

Control Points

- Physically inspect all animals
- Test for diseases of concern
- Culture milk from individuals for contagious organisms
- Vaccinate twice, well before the stress of transport
- Quarantine for three weeks before mixing with herd
- Buy semen, embryos or bulls from suppliers with control programs for infectious disease.

Feeds, Water

Concentrates (corn, barley, cottonseed, canola, soybeans, etc.) Salmonella, a cause of diarrhea, has been shown to occur in some feed sources.

Forages (corn silage, alfalfa, oat hay, etc.) Salmonella has been shown to occur on forages that have been irrigated with contaminated water sources, such as lagoon water. Improper harvest or storage of forages can lead to clostridial infections.

Water (wells, ground water, lakes, streams, etc.) Contaminated water sources could result in the introduction of E. coli, Salmonella, Cryptosporidium etc. to the herd.

Control Points

- Test water for bacterial, chemical, or nutrient contamination
- Ask feed suppliers about quality assurance programs, storage, and delivery of their products
- Prevent fecal and urine contamination of feed.

Animal Contacts

- Fence-line
- Shows/fairs
- Stray animals
- Shared maternity/hospital pens
- Contact between different age groups within the dairy

Control Points

- Minimize animal contact between groups
- Treat returning animals as new additions

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- Minimize contact with non-resident animals (fence-line contact with neighboring cattle)

Wildlife Contacts and Vectors

(organisms that transfer infectious organisms from one individual to another)

Birds and Wildlife – Salmonella

Deer – Brucellosis

Coyotes – Salmonella and Leptospirosis

Insects – Insects transfer infectious disease agents such as Bluetongue or Anaplasmosis

Rodents – Feces from rodents can be a source of Salmonella or E. coli.

Control Points

- Where possible, exclude wildlife from the premises
- Control pest (rodent and bird) populations and access to feedstuffs
- Control populations of insects, birds and rodents in contact with cattle.

Health Management Practices

Animal Management Procedures

Some infectious disease agents can be transmitted with small amounts of blood that might be transferred from animal to animal during routine procedures. Infections with Bovine Leukemia Virus and Anaplasmosis are examples of diseases where this method of transmission is important. Procedures like dehorning, implanting, or repeated use of the same needle while vaccinating can result in small amounts of blood being transferred from one animal to the next. Though these organisms are unlikely to survive for prolonged periods on equipment, if cattle were processed within a short period with the same equipment, transmission could occur.

Control Points

- Use disposable equipment (AI sleeves and needles) once and discard
- Disinfect reusable equipment (tattooers, gouges, hoof tools, implant guns) between every animal
- Use appropriate vaccine handling and administration techniques.

Fomites

(objects that mechanically transfer infectious organisms from one individual to another)

Transport vehicles

Diseases transmitted by feces are a common problem in transport vehicles. In most cases, agents associated with respiratory disease (primarily viruses) would be too fragile to withstand prolonged periods in transport vehicles in the absence of the original infected and shedding animal. If the transport vehicle contains animals from another source,

then this would be similar to other animal-to-animal spread such as can occur via fence line contact or at sales or fairs.

Rendering vehicles

Rendering vehicles are a concern because the animals may have died from a transmissible disease. Organisms can be transmitted to livestock or other feedstuffs coming in contact with leakage from contaminated vehicles.

Human visitors/workers

In some cases, poor hygiene habits of workers can result in infections of livestock with organisms such as *Taenia saginata*, a tapeworm that causes cysticercosis in beef cattle. Manure on boots of visitors is also a potential source of infections. Unwashed clothing of employees that own livestock is another potential source of infectious agents.

Control Points

- Cattle trucks - wash between uses
- Renderers' trucks - haul dead animals away from facilities for removal
- People - restrict access to animal facilities, order work routines from younger to older animals, provide boot and hand washing facilities, remove heavy manure deposits from clothing before moving between groups
- Equipment (calf carts, feed equipment) – remove manure contamination between uses, do not use feed equipment for manure handling.

Reference: BAMN Publication
Additional details on biosecurity:

Biosecurity of Dairy Farm Feedstuffs

BAMN Publication www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm

Biosecurity of Dairies

BAMN Publication www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FOR THE 2002 CONFERENCE



DATE:

Wednesday, January 16, 2002 -
Saturday, January 19, 2002

PLACE:

Saskatoon Inn
2002 Airport Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

2002 Conference Topics

An Integrated Approach to Bovine Practice

Drs. Bob Larson and Vern Pierce of the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri, will team up on the Wednesday to present a full day program in which the first consideration will be the effect that the world economy has on the cattle industry (and bovine practice).

Other topics to be presented include:

- the business of bovine practice;
- evaluating data on client farms; and
- a reflective look at the future of veterinary medicine.

Immunology and BVD Update

Thursday morning's session will provide a timely update on developments in our understanding of Bovine Virus Diarrhea, a disease which continues to cause severe economic losses, particularly to our beef economy.

Dr. Manuel Campos, founder of Immunaxis Inc. and adjunct professor at the WCVM will review current findings related to the duration of immunity versus duration of protection.

Dr. Ed Dubovi, the well-recognized authority on BVD from the Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell, will review the 'changing face' of the disease.

WCVM's Dr. John Ellis, who has first-hand experience with the disease in western Canada, will comment on the efficacy of current vaccination programs.

Come prepared to join in the discussion session which will round out the morning.

Bioterrorism - a Serious Concern

The September 11th tragedy and the events which followed brought the realization that international terrorism could affect our lives in very short order. It takes little imagination to appreciate the damage that could be brought on our livestock economy by biological weapons. Bovine practitioners would be in the front line of those affected. How well are we acquainted with the policies that are in place to combat an outbreak of a foreign animal disease?

On Thursday afternoon, January 17, Drs. Lawrence Schofield of the Defence Research Experimental Station at Suffield, Alberta and Dorothy Geale of the Foreign Animal Disease Control Section in Ottawa will review agricultural bioterrorism and how Canada is prepared to react in the face of a disease outbreak.

The DVM Breakthrough Experience

Taking a hard look at the business of bovine practice

Veterinary students (and often veterinary practitioners) are quick to express their concern that they have a meagre knowledge on the "business" of veterinary practice.

This shortcoming will be addressed on Friday morning, January 18. Robert Saik and Jim Armitage are both active

members in the Strategic Coach Program for the benefit of successful entrepreneurs.

They will lead us step-by-step through a process of taking a hard look at our business enterprises then examine the restraints that impede progress. Where are we now? Where will we be tomorrow? What is keeping us from reaching our personal and professional goals?

Both speakers are well recognized for their business and personal management programs which they have presented to agricultural audiences in western Canada and the northern United States.

Post-Conference Dairy Workshops



The in-depth seminars for dairy practitioners, scheduled for all-day Saturday and Sunday morning, January 19 and 20 will be presented by Dr. Oded Nir, Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Health for the State of Israel.

Be prepared for an intensive learning experience and register early!

Registration will be limited to 30.

The purpose of the workshops is to expose bovine practitioners to the:

- a) multi-disciplinary approach to dairy practice;
- b) multi-factorial population approach to clinical entities;
- c) herd health programs.

Topics to be covered include: *Working with Statistics; Monitoring Reports; Lactation Curves; Replacements; Factors Responsible for Metritis; Reproduction and; Negative Energy Balance before AI.*

Sessions will start at 7:30 am both mornings and will run until 5:00 pm on the Saturday and 1:00 pm on the Sunday.

Registrants are advised to bring a laptop computer.

Printed materials which should be read before attending the sessions will be distributed in advance. 🖨

The Corral

Classified Listings for Practitioners

**Contact the WCABP Office to post
your ad or listing!**

Toll Free: 1-866-269-8387 (COW VETS)

Fax: 403 244-2340

Email: wcabp@incentre.net

(it can be misinterpreted or misconstrued). Reply in writing. Obtain as much information as possible, e.g. name, phone number, address, reason for request, what will the person be doing with the information, who else may have been contacted, etc. Ask if you may receive a copy of the final report once it is completed. If the person hesitates to cooperate with any of these requests, refuse them access to your operation or information about your operation.

- **Ask for references.** Make a call to verify the person requesting any sensitive information is who he/she says he/she is, especially those claiming to be reporters.
- **Ensure access to the facility is controlled.** Establish check-in procedures for visitors. Place appropriate signs noting such procedures and require visitors to sign in and out upon entering and leaving facility. Use visitor identification badges. Even the stick-on kind is better than nothing. This protects your visitor as well as your operation.
- **Escort visitors (especially reporters, photographers/ videographers) at all times through facility.** Employees should be instructed to report all unescorted visitors to the appropriate management and security personnel immediately.
- **Maintain basic security.** Lock office doors and file cabinets. Have firewalls installed on your computer systems. Maintain separate business and personal computers. Keep all animal health products under lock and key. Use security lighting/alarms. Maintain fencing and gates. Post signs indicating restricted areas and no trespassing, etc.
- **Thoroughly screen all job applicants.** Take the time to check *all references*. If you have any questions, ask for further references. Double-check anyone who shows a university or college ID. Any hesitation by the prospective employee takes them off your hire list.
- **Watch for unusual behavior by new employees or workers who have no reason to be in the facility past their 9 to 5 shift.** Pay attention to workers who stay unusually late, arrive unusually early, access files/ information/other areas of the facility outside of their department/responsibility, remove documents from site, ask questions on sensitive subjects, possess cameras or videocams onsite. Watch for workers who are standoffish, who don't mix with other employees. Note the mode of dress, e.g. absence of leather or other animal products.
- **Tell all workers at hiring that unannounced locker checks, etc. are part of your routine security maintenance operation.** Tell all employees at hiring that your operation will report and/or prosecute any employee who breaks the law.

- **Inform employees in vulnerable areas that surveillance or infiltration is a possibility.** Any suspicious activity should be reported to supervisors or the appropriate security person immediately.
- **Report all suspicious and/or illegal incidents to local police.**
- **Watch for warning signs that you may be a target.** General patterns include an increase in requests for animal specific information or on-farm tours; calls/letters questioning or criticizing your business or particular practices; harassing calls/letters – perhaps not to your operation but one near you; increase in media attention to issues relating to the cattle industry and special interest group campaigns locally, unusual interest in gaining employment.
- **Develop a *Company Statement* relative to care, treatment, nutrition, etc. for your animals.** The Alliance can help you with this, as well as with how to talk with the public and the media about your operations “best practices.”
- **In all cases, designate a single spokesperson to handle *all* calls, including media, about animal care, animal rights or any company policy relative to animals.** Also, conduct tests of your security system and if necessary, mock drills on your response program, including media statements, etc.
- **Develop a crisis communication/action plan.** Establish policies and procedures for handling disruptive, illegal situations as well as for handling adverse publicity that might result from the misuse of information. Your priority is to keep you and your employees safe. Take care of people, then move on to ways to protect bricks and mortar.
- **Make it known that you practice zero tolerance – you will prosecute to the full extent of the law every time.**

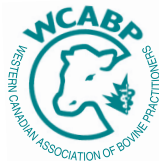
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Please note:

WCABP is looking for volunteer writers for the monthly “Vet Advice” Column which appears in the *Cattlemen’s Magazine*. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the office at 1-866-269-8387 for details.



**FROM
THE
WCABP
BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS
AND
STAFF**



Vigilance is Key
continued from page 11

Special Mail Handling Recommendations

The following are recommendations from the US Postmaster General regarding the safe evaluation and handling of mail:

What should make mail suspect?

- Mail that is unexpected or received from someone you don't know;
- Mail addressed to someone no longer at your address;
- Mail that is handwritten and has no return address or bears a return address that you can't confirm to be legitimate;
- Mail that is lopsided or lumpy in appearance, or has oil spots or other unusual markings or stains;
- Mail that is sealed with excessive amounts of glue or tape;
- Mail that is marked with restrictive endorsements such as "personal" or "confidential";
- Mail that carries excessive postage

What Should You do with Suspicious Mail?

- Do not handle a letter or package that you suspect is contaminated or strange;
- Don't shake, bump or sniff the suspect letter or package;
- Put the mail piece in a plastic bag;
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water; and
- Notify local law enforcement authorities immediately.

Again, vigilance is key in preventing the national security crisis we all face today from becoming even more traumatic. According to Mark Urlaub, Director of the USDA's biosecurity program, "Lack of human casualties has been a matter of luck." (*The Washington Times*, May 8, 2001) 🐾

Steve Kopperud and Kay Johnson

***Congratulations to the first three winners
of the Ray Butler Bursary Awards***

***Travis Ducherer
Justin McLash
Jessica Miller***