



# WCABP

Western Canadian Association  
of Bovine Practitioners

**NEWSLETTER**

**VOLUME 7 • NO. 4  
DECEMBER 2002**

## **President's Message - Bob Ruckman**



Seasons Greetings to all "Cow Vets", their families, and friends.

I hope everyone is gearing up to attend the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> annual Conference in Calgary. Drs. Campbell and Butler are presenting an excellent program and opportunity to meet in Chinook Country. Book early! The CE program has specific focus seminars on Beef Reproduction and Mastitis Control. These are supplemented by our inaugural Radostits

Seminar – Western Canadian Bovine Practice: Prospects and Opportunities. The gala banquet honoring OMR is going to be a memorable evening. Ohhhh, if only every Cow Vet could be worthy of such a retirement party! Let's hope!

Our communication program regarding promotion of the Bovine Veterinary Career is near completion. Meristem Information Resources Ltd. has completed casting calls and the production of "Days of Cow Vets' Lives" will soon be knocking Oprah and Dr. Phil off the daytime TV ratings.

I'll give you a hint to the rest of the initiative's focus – "THINK LARGE!" Look forward to utilization of these materials in your own practices.

Politically, WCABP has been busy with a number of issues. A review and response letter was sent to Health Canada's recent advisory report on AMR – antimicrobial resistance. As well, a letter of support to CCA and ACFA's terminal feedlot summer pilot project was sent. Copies of either are available by contacting the

WCABP office. In Alberta, further development of Canadian On-Farm Food Safety program is underway with meetings across the province of initial training workshops for veterinarians as verifiers. Similar programs are being presented in other provinces.

Applications for the Ray Butler Seeing Practice Bursary equaled ONE-THIRD of the first year class at WCVL. Wow! With only three opportunities sponsored every year, pressure on selection was very complex. This interest is very encouraging to say the least. However, the Fund needs support to continue to accommodate this interest. Please indicate your pledge on your Membership Renewal Form – today. This contribution is greatly appreciated (it's a great deduction as well!). If you have interest in sponsoring any student aside from the Bursary, let us know. We can arrange the particulars.

The Board welcomes a new "Herd Bull" and thanks the service of the "Old" one, (just kidding, Dave). Dr. Sjoert Zuidhof, as incoming Director of AABP's District 13, is invited to WCABP's Board of Directors as an ex-officio member. Many thanks to Dr. David Hamilton for his tireless dedication and assistance to previous boards. (What are you going to do with your spare evenings, Dave?)

Thanks is also in order to you, the membership, for allowing me to lead the "Herd" this year. What a WORTHWHILE experience as a Cow Vet! I invite any and all to become a Director and share this wonderful experience. See you all in January! 🐄

*Dr. Bob Ruckman*

## **2003 WCABP Conference** **January 16 - 18 • Calgary, Alberta**



**INSIDE:** 2003 WCABP Conference • Winners of the Ray Butler Seeing Practice Bursary • Notice of Annual General Meeting • Alberta FADES Plan Fact Sheet on Mass Carcass Disposal... and more!

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The WCABP Newsletter is published by the Association as a service to its members. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of WCABP. Correspondence concerning the newsletter should be directed to the WCABP office.

## From the Secretary-Treasurer's Desk



WCABP year-end financial report indicated that the association lost money last year. Losses were associated with the convention and BSE forms. The 2003 budget also predicts a net deficit. The Forward Planning Committee will be meeting in early December to discuss potential ways for WCABP to either increase revenue or decrease expenses.

The audited financial statements and 2003 budget will be presented to you for review at the annual general meeting in January.

Due to financial losses at the convention last year, WCABP has submitted a grant request to the Ag & Food Council for funding support under CARD keynote speakers to help offset some of the travel and hotel expenses involved in bringing up long distance speakers. With the OMR Legacy this year, we have more long distance speakers than normal and, accordingly, our speaker expenses are higher than usual. The CARD grant should help offset some of these costs.

Due to low sales and increasing maintenance costs, WCABP has discontinued the BSE software sales. If you are still interested in acquiring the BSE software or have questions on updates, please contact the software developer, Dr. Troy Drake (see our website membership directory for contact information for Troy).


The WCABP Board recently wrote a letter to Health Canada regarding the public release of an advisory report on antimicrobial resistance in food producing animals. The report called for all drugs to be prescription and for caps on income that veterinarians generated from pharmaceuticals. The Board indicated that, while conceptually we agreed with prescription-only status of antimicrobials, logistically we did not think this could be implemented, due to the declining number of rural veterinarians. We also did not support caps on veterinary revenue of drug sales. If you would like a copy of our response, please contact Pat at the WCABP office (1-866-COW-VETS).

Meristem was hired by WCABP to develop the CE material for encouraging students into bovine practice. As you will see on this newsletter, they have created a new logo for WCABP, which will go on all of our correspondence. They will have the brochure,

*Continued on page 3...*

# www.cattle.ca/wcabp

to keep tabs on your  
association and your industry...

To access the 2002 conference proceedings, the user name is **animal**, and the password is **bovinevet**. 

- Online Membership Directory
- Links to sites of interest
- Vet advice columns (Contributed by WCABP members, and published in the *Canadian Cattleman*)
- 2002 conference proceedings
- Latest industry information

**From the Secretary-Treasurer's Desk**

*continued from page 2*

video and PowerPoint presentation completed by our annual meeting. We will have those available for you then to pick up and use when giving presentations to schools, 4H clubs, etc.

Currently, the Board is reviewing Associations Plus Inc. contract for administrative services. They have done a good job for us in the last two years and we anticipate renewing that contract. Due to some ideas from Pat at A+, we are now offering more advertising sponsorship options for the newsletter, which is already paying off in ensuring that we cover off newsletter costs and maybe even generate some revenue.

WCABP recently completed a survey of pharmaceutical companies asking how we could better serve their needs. They have told us that overall, we are doing a good job, but we should request sponsorship support for the convention and the newsletter up to one year in advance and ensure that we show how that sponsorship benefits these companies. We will continue to work with our pharmaceutical sponsors to ensure we meet our needs together positively.

You will see in the convention package that we have nomination forms for new Directors on the Board, as well as nominations for Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award. Please take the time to fill these out and fax back to the WCABP office. We need your input to ensure that we continue to get directors to serve on this Board and give recognition to outstanding bovine practitioners. Regarding directors, our Board currently has limited representation from dairy practitioners and representatives from SK, MB and BC. This is because Ken Linde and David Hamilton are retiring from the Board. Thus, if you are interested in serving on the WCABP Board or know of someone who would do a good job, please fill out a nomination form.

The WCABP Board has once again sent out application forms for the Ray Butler Bursary scholarships for 1<sup>st</sup> year veterinary student. We have had a great response and the Executive will select three winners in early November. We will let you know who they are shortly. If you are interesting in hosting a 1<sup>st</sup> year vet student bursary winner, please contact the WCABP office. 🐾

*Joyce Van Donkersgoed, DVM, MVS*

## **2003 WCABP Conference January 16 to 18**

### ***It's right around the corner!***

Register now! Full registration capability, program, and conference updates are available online [www.cattle.ca/wcabp](http://www.cattle.ca/wcabp).

Also available are Board and Vet of the Year nomination forms.

A complete hardcopy registration package has also been prepared. If you have not received yours, please contact Ray Butler at 306-651-3383 or [butlerd@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:butlerd@sk.sympatico.ca).

Calgary's Executive Royal Inn and Conference Centre will be the venue for the 2003 meeting. The hotel has confirmed a conference rate of \$81.00 for a single or double queen guest room (single or double occupancy). 🐾

Avoid disappointment. Reserve early by contacting the hotel:

Phone: 403-291-2003

Fax: 403-291-2019;

Toll Free: 1-877-ROYALNC

[northcalgary@royalinn.com](mailto:northcalgary@royalinn.com)



# **WCABP**

Western Canadian Association  
of Bovine Practitioners

## ***NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

**Friday, January 17, 2003**

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

**Executive Royal Inn**

2828 – 23 Street NE, Calgary, Alberta

**Agenda to include executive reports, election of officers, and award presentations.**

***This issue of the WCABP Newsletter  
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For A Healthy Start

## Ray Butler Seeing Practice Bursaries

*Encouraging First Year Veterinary Students to Pursue Careers in Bovine Practice*

The Ray Butler Seeing Practice Bursary is awarded annually to three first-year veterinary students, in hopes of encouraging these students to consider a career in bovine practice. The bursaries are \$1,000 each, with the purpose of supporting a visit of not less than twelve days, which must be completed prior to second year registration.

We are looking for your financial support to enable us to provide these bursaries to deserving students. We are also looking for practitioners who are interested in serving as hosts for these student visits.

Thank you for your support as we endeavor to secure promising young individuals for the future of bovine practice. Please indicate your pledge on your Membership Renewal Form. 🐾

## Congratulations to these Winners of the Ray Butler Seeing Practice Bursary

**Holly Kostuik**

**Tracy Epp**

**Megan Atwood**

WCABP would like to thank all bursary applicants and wish them good luck in their future bovine practice pursuits!

Any clinics interested in hosting a first year veterinary student for the bursary, should contact the WCABP office for details.

## Effect of Zinc Source (Zinc Oxide vs. Zinc Proteinate) and Level on Performance, Carcass Characteristics, and Immune Response of Growing and Finishing Steers

*J. Anim. Sci. 2002. 80:2747-2752*

Sixty Angus and Angus-Hereford steers (246 kg initial BW) were used to determine the effects of Zn level and source on performance, immune response, and carcass characteristics of growing and finishing steers. Treatments consisted of 1) control (no supplemental Zn), 2) ZnO, 3) Zn proteinate-A (ZnProt-A, 10% Zn), and 4) ZnProt-B (15% Zn). Treatments 2, 3, and 4 supplied 25 mg of supplemental Zn/kg diet. Steers were individually fed a corn silage-based diet during the 84-d growing phase and a high corn diet during the finishing phase. Cell-mediated and humoral immune response measurements were obtained between d 67 and 74 of the growing phase. Equal number of steers per treatment were slaughtered after receiving the finishing diets for 84 or 112 d. Performance and carcass measurements were similar in steers fed the two ZnProt sources. Zinc supplementation, regardless of source, increased ADG during the growing phase. In the finishing phase, ADG and gain/feed tended to be higher for steers fed ZnProt compared with those supplemented with ZnO. Gain and feed efficiency were similar for control and ZnO-supplemented steers during the finishing phase. Steers fed ZnProt had heavier hot carcass weights and slightly

higher dressing percentages than those in the control or ZnO treatments. Quality grade, yield grade, marbling, and backfat were increased by Zn supplementation, but were not affected by Zn source. In vitro response of lymphocytes to mitogen stimulation and in vivo swelling response following intradermal injection of phytohemagglutinin were not affected by Zn level or source. Humoral immune response following vaccination with infectious bovine rhinotracheitis also was not affected by treatment. Soluble concentrations of Zn in ruminal fluid were higher in steers fed ZnProt compared to ZnO steers. Results indicate that ZnProt may improve performance of finishing steers above that observed with inorganic Zn supplementation.

Zinc supplementation to a growing diet containing 33 mg Zn/kg diet increased gain in steers. Zinc requirements in growing steers appear to be higher for maximal growth than for maximal immune response. Supplementation of Zn proteinate during the finishing phase may improve steer gain and increase carcass weights relative to steers receiving a similar amount of Zn from ZnO. Zinc supplementation to a finishing diet, containing 26 mg Zn/kg diet, can improve carcass quality and yield grades. 🐾

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## Report Examines Use of Antibiotics in Agriculture

October 21, 2002 American Society of Microbiology

Washington D.C. - Antibiotics have been used against infectious diseases with great success and have been a part of agriculture for many years. Agricultural uses of antibiotics include the treatment and prevention of diseases in animals and plants and the promotion of growth in food animals. But scientists have long recognized a down side. The concentrated and widespread use of antibiotic agents has resulted in the emergence of drug-resistant organisms, some of which can now survive most commercially available antibiotics. A new report from the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM), "The Role of Antibiotics in Agriculture," carefully considers the issues. Intensive and extensive antibiotic use leads to the establishment of a pool of antibiotic resistance genes in the environment. Both pathogenic bacteria and organisms that do not cause disease may become resistant to antibiotics, and bacteria of human and animal origin can serve as reservoirs for resistance genes. Scientists are now trying to evaluate the odds that exposure to these genes will transfer antibiotic resistance to other populations of bacteria, animals, even humans. Research studies have shown that antibiotic resistant pathogens and possibly bacterial genes are transmitted from animals to humans through food, water, and by direct contact.

The transmissibility of antibiotic resistant bacteria or genes among animals and humans and the transfer of genes from antibiotic

resistant bacteria to other kinds of bacteria associated with animals raise serious concerns about the use of antibiotics in agriculture. The concerns are three-fold: (1) that antibiotic resistance genes are amplified in the environment because of antibiotic use in agriculture; (2) that antibiotic resistance genes negatively impact public health; and (3) that antibiotic resistance genes negatively impact animal health and production. "The Role of Antibiotics in Agriculture" gives the conclusions of thirty-two (32) prominent scientists brought together to focus on the impact of antibiotic resistant bacteria in agriculture and provide a critical assessment of that impact. The document discusses best approaches to understanding and investigating antibiotic resistance, transfer of antibiotic resistance genes, and intervention strategies to prevent the selection and spread of antibiotic resistance genes. Importantly, "The Role of Antibiotics in Agriculture" proposes directions for new research. The American Academy of Microbiology (AAM) is an honorific leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) whose mission is to recognize excellence and foster knowledge in the microbiological sciences. Its programs include convening critical issues colloquia and developing consensus-building position papers that provide expert scientific opinion on current and emerging issues in microbiology. AAM reports can be downloaded for free: <http://www.asmta.org/acasrc/academy.htm>

Andrea Lohse

## WCVM Student's Bovine Club

The WCVM Student's Bovine Club is back in full swing and planning on an incredible year for 2002-2003. We have one hundred and five members this year. The Bovine Club Executive has some great events in the works. Some of these include a Feedlot Lung Pathology Lab (Dr. Campbell), a Bovine Foot Lab (Dr. C. Clark), Bull Soundness Evaluation, Humane Bovine Euthanasia Lab, Bovine Rounds (Dr. C. Clark), as well as many interesting and informing seminars.

The Bovine Club is organizing a trip to the annual WCABP conference in Calgary in mid-January. We are unsure of the number of participants, but estimate that there will be about twenty-five students attending. We look forward to another great conference.

We have set up an email address for the Bovine Club this year, [bovine.club@usask.ca](mailto:bovine.club@usask.ca), in order for the practitioners of Western Canada to more easily contact large animal orientated students. If any practitioner is looking to employ a summer student or a graduate, or has any other reason for contacting the future large animal veterinarians of Western Canada, we encourage you to send an email to this address and it will be forwarded to all our members.

Glen Griffin, President, WCVM Bovine Club

### WCVM Bovine Club Executive (2002-2003)

President – Glen Griffin  
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Secretary – Carolyn Crickett  
Public Relations – Quinn Gavaga

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3<sup>rd</sup> Year Rep. – Evan Orchard  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Rep – Chris Osborne  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Rep – Egan Brockhoff

**LET YOUR VOICE  
BE HEARD...**

Nomination forms for Board positions and  
Vet of the Year are available online at  
**[www.cattle.ca/wcabp](http://www.cattle.ca/wcabp)**

## Alberta Announces Fusarium Management Plan

Excerpt CANFAX Weekly Summary Oct. 25/02

Alberta Agriculture has put in place a management plan to attempt to prevent *Fusarium graminearum* in Alberta. The objectives of the plan are to prevent the establishment of *Fusarium graminearum* in Alberta as well as to prevent the increase and spread of *Fusarium graminearum* should it be found in Alberta. The importance in controlling *Fusarium graminearum* to Alberta's livestock industry is most serious to the non-ruminants such as hogs. Feed with more than 1ppm of DON (deoxynivalenol) which is produced by *Fusarium graminearum* can result in reduced feed consumption in hogs. At high concentrations 5ppm or more feed refusal by hogs can occur. Most hog producers currently have a zero tolerance for DON. Beef cattle can tolerate higher levels of DON without detrimental effects. Calves may have a tolerance problem with lower levels of DON contamination. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada guidelines for acceptable feed are 1ppm for swine, dairy cattle and horses and 5ppm for beef cattle, sheep and poultry. There will be zero tolerance for *Fusarium graminearum* in cereal seed this year. However, due to the feed shortages in Alberta this year a zero tolerance approach in feed grains is not feasible. In order to minimize the spread through imported feed grains the following management practices are to be adopted.

- Out-of-province feed grain must not be stored in uncovered piles or in contact with the soil.
- All loading/unloading sites handling out-of-province feed grain must use both a wind fence and drop sock when loading or unloading grain to prevent grain or grain dust blow-off from the loading/unloading site. A covered loading/unloading facility is preferred.

- Out-of-province feed grain must be unloaded in such a manner such that spillage does not occur. Grain must not come into contact with the soil.
- All modes of transport of out-of-province grain must be securely covered to prevent spillage of grain during transport.
- All transport vehicles/units hauling out-of-province grain must have the box/trailers/cars thoroughly swept clean of any residual grain and gates closed before being allowed to leave the unloading site. The swept material must be placed in a compost site so that the material will reach a temperature of 60 to 70C for two weeks. This ensures that *any Fusarium graminearum* is killed.
- Out-of-province grain must not come in contact with the soil during feeding. Range feeding livestock is not recommended. Bunk feeding is the preferred method.
- If grain is spilled at anytime during the feeding/handling process it must be completely recovered and composted so that the material will reach a temperature of 60 to 70C for two weeks.

Responsibilities of feedlot operators, landowners or occupants and the trucking industry are to observe and practice all management practices to meet the objectives of the *Alberta Fusarium Graminearum* Management Program ([http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/agdex/100/110\\_632-3.html](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/agdex/100/110_632-3.html)). It is important to understand that these control measures represent the minimum standard that is to be applied in all municipalities across the province. Municipalities can enhance the standard within their own jurisdictions. 🐾

## What Goes in Must Come Out - Phosphorus Balance on Dairy Farms

35<sup>th</sup> Proceedings American Association of Bovine Practitioners; September 26-28, 2002

Phosphorus (P) stimulated growth of algae in freshwater lakes and streams. The loss of P to surface runoff from fields that contain excess P are typically greater than from fields managed to supply adequate but not excessive P for crop growth. As dairy operations have increased in size, manure application rates of P have often exceeded plant uptake of P, resulting in elevated soil test P. High levels of P in lactating cow diets exacerbates the problem, since P

fed in excess of the cow's requirement is excreted in the feces in a largely soluble form. Removing excess P from dairy diets not only reduces p content of manure, but sharply reduces the amount of soluble P excreted, thus reducing risk of surface runoff. Most lactating dairy cow diets can have their P content reduced by 20%. This results in a 25-30% reduction in P content of manure, and a similar reduction in the amount of land required to accommodate the manure. 🐾

Larry Satter



## **AFAC Fall News - November 2002**

The Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, Canada Safeway, and some industry reps met in April and May to discuss the US marketplace demands for animal welfare verification/audits, and PETA's anti-Safeway campaign in Canada. Our plan of action was to prepare a Discussion Paper on the subject — stating the current situation and to provide recommendations for action.

### **The Seven Objectives**

1. Provide a clear picture of progress made in the US regarding animal welfare standards and audits.
2. Provide a clear picture of the situation in Canada regarding animal welfare standards and audits, and where we differ from the US.
3. Examine the state of the Canadian Codes of Practice process and its future viability.
4. Examine the progress of on-farm quality assurance (QA) programs in Canada.
5. Forecast the impact of the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR) action in the US on the Canadian industry.
6. Provide recommendations for action for Canadian industry.
7. Provide an example of how a simple, auditable welfare verification program might be linked to existing QA programs in Canada. We believe this Paper confirms that we need to move forward now, and some livestock industries are already doing so.

### **Animal Welfare Verification in Canada The Report Recommendations**

1. The Codes of Practice can and should serve as the backbone of the best management practices guidelines in the development of complete, auditable animal welfare verification programs.
2. Best management practices should be more of a 'living' document than the Codes of Practice currently are. The Canadian On-Farm Food Safety (COFFS) program should be utilized as the vehicle to implement auditable third-party animal welfare standards.

4. Commodity groups, the Canadian Meat Council and the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council should continue to move ahead with developing animal welfare standards and auditable pro-grams, rather than waiting for food retailers to present their requirements.
5. A consolidated approach on the part of industry to the development of animal welfare standards and verification is needed.
6. Communication between commodity groups and their producers regarding animal welfare verification should be undertaken in advance of the implementation of such a program.

### **Two Key Points Highlighted**

1. The Canadian animal production industry is well positioned to deal with the likely animal welfare requirements of food retailers once the FMI/NCCR process is completed in the US.
2. The similarity between animal welfare standards in the two countries means the economic impact of implementing food retailers' requirements should not be significant for Canadian producers and slaughter facilities. The discussion paper is available at [www.afac.ab.ca/reports.htm](http://www.afac.ab.ca/reports.htm). We encourage you to read the report and distribute it as you see fit.

AFAC's job is to advance producer awareness of emerging issues. 🐾

## **Canada Joins gFARAD**

Canada has become a member of global FARAD, which provides information on residue avoidance based on scientific information. Global FARAD contains residue information related to approved animal drugs, as well as information on extra-label drug use and environmental toxins. For western Canada, the gFARAD is directed by Dr. Patricia Dowling at WCVM. The Canadian gFARAD web site is under development. For more information, call 1-866-243-2723. 🐾

## **Meeting Held to Discuss Risk Guidance**

*Feedstuff Oct 7 2002*

The first public review of the FDA's proposed guidance on how it plans to evaluate resistance risks of antibiotics used by the livestock industry was held Oct 2. The meeting drew a room full of medical doctors, veterinarians, and other scientists. The guidance is based on FDA's belief "that human exposure through the ingestion of resistant bacteria from animal-derived foods represents the most significant pathway for humane exposure to resistant bacteria that have emerged from the use of antimicrobial drugs in animals. The guidance addresses only resistance from direct ingestion in food; it does not address any risks from shedding of resistant bacteria from animals in the environment. Still, there was not even agreement on the exposure assessment.

The AVMA noted that exposure risk was based on data reporting per capita consumption figures, but that data failed to take into consideration that many of the animal products eaten by humans are cooked or pasteurized to kill bacteria. The National Pork Boards' Dr. Sundburg, a veterinarian, testified that the FDA had mischaracterized the nature of the risk of transmitting resistance via food. Under the FDA guidance, all animal antibiotics will be assessed and categorized into high, medium and low importance in human health therapies. Dr. Mike Apley, who spoke on behalf of bovine practitioners, challenged a list of key assumptions that drove FDA's decisions on published rankings on drugs. Several livestock and animal health industry sources said that FDA's policy will stifle new product development. 🐾

It is always difficult to meet deadlines for newsletter article submissions and it is somewhat embarrassing to read this newsletter and not see my own articles in it, as has been the case in the last few... a classical case of missed deadlines. It is my hope, however, that our relationship with the WCABP continues to grow in strength, despite my little omissions.

With a few days left of my presidency of the OABP, I have to reflect on what an awesome challenge it has been for me to be the president of such an active association as OABP. We have been involved in many issues over the last year, and the commitments that came with the job are hard to imagine for anyone who has never occupied such a position. It has, however, been a year of great learning and humble experiences. I had the pleasure of representing this organization in a few functions that have provided me with great opportunities. Of the many issues that came up this year, some will have an impact in the lives of veterinarians for years to come.

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario (our regulatory body) has struck a task force that is currently studying the use of auxiliaries in large animal practice. This is a hotly contested issue, with diverging opinions even within our own organization. The issue is that auxiliaries would be on the farm performing castrations, vaccinations, and dehornings without direct supervision of a veterinarian. This makes many practitioners uncomfortable, as they would prefer that these activities be performed by

veterinarians only. The task force, in which the OABP has one participant has studied many models from other provinces and countries, and seems to be leaning towards recommending that these activities may be provided by vet clinics utilizing the services of auxiliaries, provided these are Veterinary Technicians. The recommendations of the task force are recommendations only and will need final approval from council. We are looking forward to them!

At the same time, the OABP has recently held a special session to review and inform practitioners about the many recommendations put forth by the Advisory Committee on Animal Uses of Antimicrobials and their Impact on Resistance and Human Health, which Health Canada is reviewing. OABP is now preparing a response to these recommendations.

By the time this newsletter is published our fall conference will have taken place in Guelph, Ontario, November 21. The topic this year was Bovine Respiratory Diseases. Of course, we could not let Western Canadians out of such a session, and as such Drs. Jenzen and Ted Clark presented many of the lectures. Dr. Ann Godkin of OMAF is taking over the President's chair – and will therefore be writing this column by default. I am sure that she will do a tremendous job as a president and I wish her well. 🐾

*Dr. Clarice Luai, President, OABP*

## **Does Nutritive and Non-nutritive Sucking Reduce Other Oral Behaviors and Stimulate Rest in Calves?**

*J. Anim. Sci. 2002. 80:2574-2587*

After a milk meal, bucket-fed calves show non-nutritive oral activities, including cross-sucking, and this can discourage producers from rearing them in groups. Sucking is known to induce a quiet state in humans and rats. We examined if nutritive sucking affects non-nutritive oral activities in calves, if it reduces arousal (assessed through behavior and cardiac activity), and if sucking a dry teat can compensate for the lack of nutritive sucking. In Exp. 1, the behavior and the cardiac activity of individually housed calves fed milk from a bucket were compared to those of calves fed milk through a teat. During the meal, the heart rate of bucket-fed calves was higher than that of teat-fed calves. After the meal, only bucket-fed calves displayed bar sucking. Compared to the teat-fed calves, they spent more time licking their pen or their neighbor, their heart rate was less variable, and they lay down with the head unsupported by the neck less quickly (latency to lie down: 51 min vs 42 min). In Exp. 2, individually-housed bucket-fed and teat-fed calves were observed with or without access to a non-nutritive teat after the meal. Bucket-fed calves sucked the dry teat for longer than teat-fed calves. In bucket-fed calves, access to the dry teat reduced the time spent nibbling and tended to shorten the latency to lie

down. In Exp. 3, group-housed bucket-fed calves were compared with group-housed calves fed with an automatic teat feeder system. Bucket-fed calves spent more time nibbling at 1 mo, but at 3 mo they spent less time nibbling and cross-sucking; they drank more milk and put on more weight. We conclude that, for calves housed individually, teat-feeding reduces non-nutritive oral activities after the meal and induces a calmer state than bucket-feeding. Providing calves with a dry teat partly compensates for the lack of nutritive sucking. For calves housed in groups, the use of an automatic teat feeder may not reduce calves' motivation for sucking. No improvement of growth was observed with teat-feeding either with a teat-bucket or with an automatic feeder.

When individually housed calves drink milk by sucking a teat, less time is spent in non-nutritive oral activities after the meal, and the calves begin resting sooner after the meal. This suggests that allowing calves to suck a teat to obtain milk may have some beneficial effects upon welfare despite the lack of an effect on health and growth. However, sucking through a teat is not guaranteed to reduce cross-sucking in group-housed calves. The incidence of this behavior varies greatly between groups, and we need to understand more about the environmental factors that influence it. 🐾

## Canadian Cattlemen Articles: Vet Advice

We welcome articles for the following topics:

Month	Theme
January	<b>Calving</b>
February	<b>Neonates</b>
March	<b>Prebreeding</b>
April	<b>Breeding/Genetics</b>
May	<b>Forage/Nutrition</b>
June/July	<b>Summer Pasture</b>
August	<b>Pregnancy Checking</b>
September	<b>Animal Health Management</b>
October	<b>Weaning</b>
November	<b>Feedlot Topics</b>
December	<b>Overwintering /Nutrition</b>

Previous topics are listed on the WCABP website at [www.cattle.ca/wcabp](http://www.cattle.ca/wcabp). Generally speaking, the deadlines are the first of the month; however, there is some flexibility. Articles are should be about 500-800 words long, deal with timely subjects on beef cattle (cow/calf, feedlot, purebreds, etc.) and be written in practical, layman's terms. If you have any articles previously written for your own publications we certainly could use those as well. The banner in the Cattlemen magazine will read OABP and WCABP and would recognize the author. Articles should be submitted in **electronic format** (e.g. Word or Wordperfect) to the WCABP office ([wcabp@incentre.net](mailto:wcabp@incentre.net)) and to Glen Winslow ([gwinslow@fbc.agricoreunited.com](mailto:gwinslow@fbc.agricoreunited.com)) via email.

## New Antimicrobial Therapeutic Approved for Respiratory Disease Control In Cattle - FDA

Excerpt from *Feedstuffs*, October 7, 2002, Vol 74; No. 41

A new antimicrobial treatment for BRD associated with *Mannheimia (Pasteurella) haemolytica* and *Pasteurella multocida* in beef cattle developed by Pfizer Animal Health has received FDA approval in the USA. This product, danofloxacin, marketed under the trade name "A180", is the first new molecular antimicrobial in the US in more than 4 years to gain approval. The compound, belonging to the fluroquinolone class of drugs, was developed specifically and exclusively for livestock use and will be available

on veterinary prescription only. The product is not for use in cattle intended for dairy production or calves to be processed for veal, and it is not intended for human use. Danofloxacin is "for therapeutic use" only to a limited number of animals, primarily in feedlot situations. Danofloxacin is administered SC at 1.5 mL/100 lb bwt, with a 4-day withdrawal. Previously, FDA approved another fluroquinolone - enrofloxacin, for treatment of BRD. 🐾

## Aflatoxin Contamination a Concern in Drought Areas

*Feedstuffs* Vol. 74, Oct 7 2002

Extension specialists from the Midwest are warning grain and livestock producers to be on the lookout for aflatoxin and fumonisin, two common mycotoxins that may be more prevalent during this year's harvest due to drought conditions that affected much of the corn-growing region this year. (Note: feedlots in southern AB importing a lot of US corn - something to watch for JVD). Livestock producers need to exercise caution if they are feeding corn possibly tainted by mold. Toxicologists recommend that producers have tests conducted for aflatoxins, deoxynivalenol, zeralenone, and fumonisins in representative samples of corn. Mycotoxin and fumonisin contamination of corn

fed to livestock can cause a number of problems. FDA tolerances for aflatoxin are 0.5 ppb for milk, 20 ppb for humans, 100 ppb for breeding cattle, swine and poultry, 200 ppb for finishing swine and 300 ppb for finishing beef. FDA tolerances for fumonisins are 5 ppm horses, 10 ppm for swine and 50 pm for cattle. Dairy vets recommend that dairy cattle diets not contain more than 20 ppb in total ration dry matter. This is not because of a health treat to the lactating cow; rather, it is related to milk residues. In addition to losses from tainted milk, dairy producers can also see decreased feed intake, reduced rumen production, increased liver damage, lowered reproductive efficiency and less milk yield. 🐾

# **Alberta FADES Plan**

## **Fact Sheet on Mass Carcass Disposal**

### **When the WRECK Happens... Are You Prepared???**

#### **Information about Pre-Selection of Mass Carcass Disposal Sites for Alberta Livestock Producers**

*Have you ever thought about where and how you might dispose of your livestock, if your entire herd was killed by a fire, a flood, or disease?*

The Alberta Government, led by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), is investigating the issue of mass farm animal carcass disposal. The roles that the federal, provincial and municipal governments will play when dealing with carcass disposal will depend on the cause of livestock mortality.

***In all cases of mass mortality, livestock producers have a responsibility to be prepared by pre-selecting environmentally suitable disposal sites on their farm, where possible, to accommodate all of their own livestock.***

#### **Why would mass livestock mortalities occur?**

There are several reasons why large numbers of animals, such as a herd or flock could be killed, including fire, flood and foreign animal disease. Last year, in the United Kingdom, over four million animals were eradicated due to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Decisions had to be made about where and how to quickly dispose of the carcasses without spreading the disease or endangering public health and the environment. A fire in a large pig, poultry or dairy barn can also result in the need to dispose of large numbers of carcasses.

#### **How would an emergency situation be handled in Alberta?**

The Alberta Government is in the process of developing a Mass Farm Animal Carcass Disposal Plan. Different levels of government are responsible for regulating mass carcass disposal, depending on the reason for livestock death.

#### **Foreign Animal Disease (FAD):**

If livestock mortalities occur due to a foreign animal disease (e.g. FMD) outbreak, the federal Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the authority responsible for directing carcass disposal. This means the CFIA will supply some of the financial assistance and manpower required to manage the situation. The CFIA will make decisions about how to dispose of the carcasses in the safest way possible, which could include burial, burning or composting.

#### **Other Situations:**

If mass animal deaths occur due to a provincially listed infectious disease (e.g. Infectious Laryngotracheitis in chickens), or a fire, flood or other natural disaster, the appropriate municipal authorities and various departments of the provincial government will direct carcass disposal.

#### **Why is pre-selection of disposal site(s) important?**

In cases of highly contagious diseases (e.g. FMD), it is extremely important that the CFIA dispose of carcasses quickly to contain

the disease and prevent its spread to neighboring herds or flocks. If not contained quickly, a disease such as FMD can have devastating economic consequences. Disposal of carcasses in 24 hours or less is recommended. Selection of suitable disposal sites *before* a disease occurs would facilitate this requirement.

#### **Why should livestock producers use their own land for mass carcass disposal?**

The quickest and easiest place to dispose of dead stock is on a producer's own farmland. Approval of carcass disposal sites could be easily facilitated if the environmental conditions of the land were known ahead of time (e.g. land topography, groundwater and soil depth, distances from neighbors and roads).

In the case of foreign animal disease, the CFIA will destroy infected animals on site. Therefore, disposing carcasses in close proximity to where they were destroyed would minimize transportation costs, and would also limit the spread of disease to surrounding herds.

If a livestock producer does not have enough suitable land available for disposal of his/her own animals, agreements may be made with neighbors on surrounding farms that do have suitable disposal sites.

#### **What land is considered to be suitable?**

Land chosen for carcass disposal must meet the requirements outlined in the *Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation* (AR 229/2000) ([http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca/documents/regs/2000\\_229.cfm](http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca/documents/regs/2000_229.cfm)), in order to protect human and livestock health, as well as the environment. If unsure about the potential impacts on health and the environment, the Regional Health Authority, the regional office of Alberta Environment or your municipality may be contacted for guidance.

The following important points are found in the above regulation:

- Trench depth must be at least one metre (3 ft) above the seasonal water table and covered by at least one metre (3 ft) of compacted soil.
- Sites must be 100 m (333 ft) from wells, domestic water intakes, streams, creeks, ponds, springs and high water marks of lakes and at least 25 m (83 ft) from the edge of a coulee, major cut or embankment.
- Sites must be at least 100 m (333 ft) from any residences and livestock facilities, including pastures situated on land owned or leased by another person.
- Disposal sites cannot be less than 300 m (1000 ft) from a primary highway, 100 m (333 ft) from a secondary highway and 50 m (167 ft) from any other road allowance.
- Fences may need to be erected around the burial site to warn people that this land is not available for use.

In addition, due to settling of the disposal pit over time, several years of maintenance may be required and the area may not be suitable for farming for several years. Landowners are responsible for monitoring disposal sites on their land.

### Will I be compensated for costs incurred?

Each livestock producer should examine their own insurance coverage regarding buildings, livestock, etc. in the event of a situation requiring mass carcass disposal.

At the present time, the federal government is reviewing land use compensation issues. Under provincial legislation, the *Disaster Services Act* may provide eligible producers with financial compensation for loss of land due to a fire, flood or other natural disaster.

In the case of a foreign animal disease, if a livestock producer has an agreement to use his/her neighbor's land for disposal purposes, the neighbor is entitled to compensation from the CFIA for the cost of the disposal operation.

### How much land is required to bury an entire herd?

As a guideline:

1. A pit 2 m (6.5 ft) wide x 4 m (13 ft) deep x 10 m (33 ft) long can hold 31 adult cattle\* carcasses (leaving 2 m or 6.5 ft for soil cover)
2. A pit 2 m (6.5 ft) wide x 5 m (16.5 ft) deep x 10 m (33 ft) long can hold 46 adult cattle carcasses (leaving 2 m or 6.5 ft for soil cover)

- \* For adult pigs or sheep multiply the capacity by 5
- For broiler chickens (market ready weight) multiply the capacity by 200
- For turkeys (market ready) multiply the capacity by 40 (these estimates are only guidelines, as animal sizes and weights vary)

For example, to dispose of 25,000 head of cattle:

- a 8065 m (26,211 ft) long trench is required if 4 m (13 ft) deep
- or
- a 5435 m (17,664 ft) long trench is required if 5 m (16.5 ft) deep

A quarter section, located in compliance with the *Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation*, with trenches dug every 10 m, can hold:

189,852 head of cattle (4 m or 13 ft deep)

284,778 head of cattle (5 m or 16.5 ft deep)

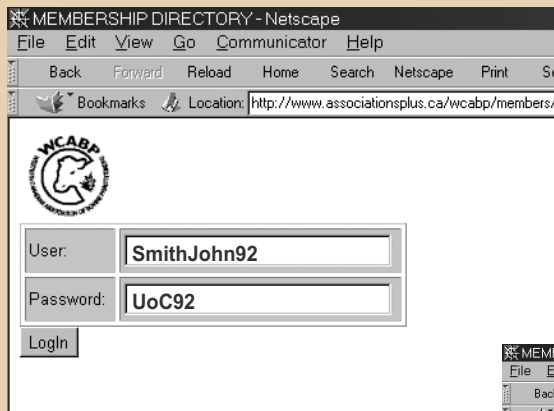
If losses are due to an infectious/reportable disease, manure, bedding, milk and feed may also have to be disposed of, which will increase the size requirements above.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact your provincial agriculture office or livestock association. 🐾

## Tuned up and ready to go...

It's the new WCABP online directory available at

<http://www.associationsplus.ca/wcabp/members/>

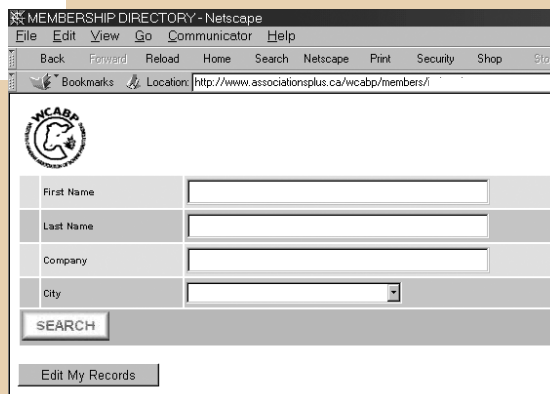


### Log in!

1. Several search options provided
2. The "Edit My Records" button allows you to update your information at any time; it also provides you with privacy options

### New "Members Only" benefit! Convenient, simple to use!

1. **User field:** Type LastnameFirstnameYY  
(YY is your two-digit graduation year as listed in the database)
2. **Password:** Type CollegeYY  
(Name of your institution as it appears on your membership invoice, plus your graduation year)



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