



Western Canadian Association of

BOVINE PRACTITIONERS

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7 NO. 3 SEPTEMBER 2002

President's Message - Bob Ruckman



Cheers from sunny (and rainy) Southeastern Alberta!

Despite our local reprieve from Mother Nature's mean side, drought has once again appeared, this time for our clients and colleagues in Northern and Central Alberta (as well as other parts of Western Canada, I'm sure). Comments, questions, ideas, and information from fellow WCABP members and colleagues are popping up in various cattle industry

publications. All speak well to support our producers through their hardships. A number of times this past year, I've been in contact with other WCABP members discussing clients' concerns regarding everything from networking pasture and hay reserves to the possibility of TB-testing cows summering in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. These communications confirm to me a great benefit of our association – we are all "Cow Vets" and we are all in this career together, helping each other.

Plans for the 2003 Annual Conference in Calgary are progressing under direction of Drs. John Campbell and Ray Butler. Look forward to attending this top-notch CE program, which will include a gala event to promote and honour the legacy of Dr. Otto M. Radostits. Dr. Radostits recently retired from teaching at WCVN and a fund has been established in his honour to assist WCABP with enhancement of the educational content of our annual Conference. The WCABP Board is also discussing the appointment of general members to a Conference Committee who would greatly assist the direction and promotion of future programs. As well, the Board will be accepting nominations to replace directors who are leaving January 2003. Please consider your (or shy colleagues') involvement with these needs.

Our WCABP office management team has changed at Associations Plus, Inc. We welcome Pat Frank to our "herd". Pat's contact information is found on page 2. We also say "Thanks and Good Luck" to Erika Rauser in her quest for greener pastures.

On February 1 - 2, 2003, there will be a Job Fair at WCVN in Saskatoon. WCABP members should consider enrolling in this great opportunity to showcase their bovine practices. There will be employment information sessions where practice representatives can present short profiles of their communities, practices, and career opportunities offered. Question and answer sessions will follow the presentations. Personal

interviews with students (future WCABP members) can occur on Day 2. Contact your provincial VMA as soon as possible to participate.

Finally, a membership directory will soon be available online at the WCABP website. Look it over and encourage associates in your practices, colleagues of neighboring practices, and fellow classmates whom you haven't talked to in awhile to join WCABP. Direct membership inquiries to the WCABP office at 1-866-269-8387. You never know when you'll need help and want to call up another "CowVet". 🐄

Dr. Bob Ruckman

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WCABP Board of Directors 2002

President

Dr. Bob Ruckman
Medicine Hat, AB

Phone: 403-527-4345
Fax: 403-529-1160
ruckman@telusplanet.net

President Elect

Dr. John Campbell
Saskatoon, SK

Phone: 306-966-7158
Fax: 306-966-7159
john.campbell@usask.ca

Past President

Dr. Ken Linde
Langley, BC

Phone: 604-534-4813
Fax: 604-534-2526
klinde@telus.net

Directors

Dr. Richard Harland
Mississauga, ON

Phone: 905-931-7500
Fax: 905-242-6186
richard.harland@ah.novartis.com

Dr. Brian Wildman
Calgary, AB

Phone: 403-938-5151
Fax: 403-938-5175
bwildman@cadvision.com

Dr. Craig Dorin
Airdrie, AB

Phone: 403-948-2253
Fax: 403-948-0520
vahs@telusplanet.net

Ex-officio Director, District XIII, AABP

Dr. David Hamilton
Morden, MB

Phone: 204-822-4333
Fax: 204-822-4708
embryo@mts.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed
Lacombe, AB

Phone: 403-782-5153
Fax: 403-782-5120
donkersg@telusplanet.net

Conference Coordinator

Dr. Ray Butler
Saskatoon, SK

Phone: 306-651-3383
Fax: 306-651-4179
butlerd@sk.sympatico.ca

WCABP Office Administrator

Pat Frank
200, 1603 - 10 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB
T3C 0J7

Phone: 1-866-269-8387
(COW VETS)
Fax: 403-244-2340
wcabp@incentre.net

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From the Secretary-Treasurer's Desk



WCABP would like to welcome Pat Frank from Associations Plus Inc. as our new administrator. Our previous administrator, Erika Rauser, left to take on another position. Pat has experience working with A+ and has already shown her contribution to the association through some innovative ideas. Welcome Pat.

Over the last few months, the Board submitted a letter to the Veterinary Drug Directorate (VDD), Health Canada, regarding the lack of maximum residue limits (MRL) for MGA. Lack of an MRL is causing beef producers' problems with violative residues, even when following label directions, due to the increased sensitivity of CFIA testing procedures. In the same letter, WCABP also asked VDD to ensure that there were science based MRL for all licensed drugs in dairy and beef cattle, and requested that product use and registration be harmonized with the United States. WCABP received a letter back from VDD indicating that they would try to work on this matter, but the Board was concerned with the apparent lack of any specific actions to make changes and the slowness of VDD's action, based on previous experience. Thus, the Board wrote a subsequent letter to the Minister of Health, encouraging her to prioritize this issue for VDD. We have not received a response from Ann McLellan, the federal Minister of Health.

WCABP also sent a letter to the cattle associations regarding our concerns about Ducks Unlimited Conservation Program aimed at removing permanently from production, marginal lands in the prairie provinces. The Board told the Canadian Cattlemen's Association that we supported their concerns and actions with Ducks Unlimited.

Meristem Communications is working on developing the CE material for you to use to entice young people into veterinary medicine and a career in bovine practice. We hope to have a video, power point presentation and some brochures available for your use in the early new year. As you may recall, this work is being funded by a CARD grant from the Ag & Food Council from the four western prairie provinces, and your generous donations with the silent auction at the 2002 convention.

Continued on page 3...

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This upcoming year, the 2003 convention will have a new twist, with a special program honouring Dr. Otto Radostits. As you may all know, Dr. Radostits retired from WCVM this past June. An OMR Legacy Fund is being developed long term to support an OMR Legacy international speaker at the WCABP Convention on an ongoing basis. During the first inaugural year, the Saturday program in January 2003 will be honouring Dr. Radostits and will follow with a special banquet that night in his honor. So please join us for the WCABP Convention in Calgary January 2003, which will be a great CE opportunity, but as well, provide an opportunity to tribute a great teacher,

who provided us all with the foundation to practice bovine medicine.

Dr. Ken Linde is looking for authors to write articles in the Vet Advice column in the Canadian Cattlemen's magazine. The magazine pays WCABP \$150 for these articles and these funds go towards helping fund our Ray Butler student bursaries for first year students. Please take some time and contact Ken to provide an article for beef producers that also supports a 12-day locum in a bovine practice for first-year veterinary students. If any of you are interested in hosting a first-year student from the Ray Butler Bursary, please contact our office. Thanks. 🐾

Joyce Van Donkersgoed, DVM, MVS

Enhanced Biosecurity Measures

Canadian Food Inspection Agency Information Bulletin

OTTAWA, July 12, 2002 - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is enhancing its biosecurity measures at airports, seaports and land borders as part of the Government of Canada Protecting Our Borders and Skies public awareness campaign. The Agency's enhanced measures are intended to further prevent the introduction of pests and diseases which pose a risk to plant and animal health in Canada.

The enhanced measures at airports, seaports and land borders include:

- assigning additional inspectors to entry points and working with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency to increase inspection of imported container cargo;
- using new and additional inspection tools – such as X-ray machines – at various entry points, including postal, courier and cargo inspection sites;
- increasing collaboration with United States authorities for intelligence sharing and to identify and address foreign plant and animal disease and pest risks; and
- increasing the number of detector dog teams to detect restricted and/or prohibited plants, animals and their products.

The Agency will use these new enhancements to replace the measures that were put in place in May 2001 because of the risk of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from the United Kingdom. Because the UK is now free of FMD, effective July 15, 2002, the large FMD signs and disinfectant footbaths and mats will be removed from all airports across Canada. An important lesson learned from the outbreak in the UK was that

one of the greatest risks of disease introduction comes from the illegal importation of animal and plant products. The new preventive measures are directed at addressing illegal commercial activities and public awareness on the part of international travellers.

The Agency has extensive experience in preventing and responding to various hazards in the food supply and in the protection of Canada's animal and plant resources. The Agency is an integral part of the federal government's capacity to act rapidly and effectively in the event of any emergency that could have an impact on public, animal or plant health. The new enhanced measures as part of Protecting Our Borders and Skies are designed to build on these strengths and address the increased focus on biosecurity in light of international events.

Additional information can be found on the CFIA website at: www.inspection.gc.ca. 🐾

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

The minimum scrotal circumference for Saler bulls at 12 months of age has been raised to 30 cm from the previous 29 cm and should be expressed in all old forms and new BSE forms.

SALER ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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2003 WCABP Conference - January 16 to 18

Mark Your Calendar Now

Plan now to be in Calgary from Thursday to Saturday, January 16 to 18 for what promises to be one of the most memorable WCABP conferences on record.

Not only has John Campbell put together a first rate program but the 2003 conference will be long remembered as the time when bovine practitioners acknowledged the exceptional contributions of Dr. Otto Radostits who recently retired from the WCVM. Former students of Dr. Radostits will want to take this opportunity to deliver a personal 'thank you'.

Two concurrent pre-conference in-depth seminars are scheduled for the Thursday: Udder Health presented by Dr. Ynte Schukken of Cornell University and Dr. Ken Leslie of the Ontario Veterinary College and: Improving Reproduction in Beef Cattle with Drs. Albert Barth, Eugene Janzen, John Kastelic and Cheryl Waldner.

While work is still in progress to finalize the 2003 Conference that is scheduled for the Friday and Saturday, topics will include: Biosecurity Issues; Energy Balance and Ketosis; Effectiveness of Diagnostic Tests for Johne's Disease; On-Farm Food Safety; Examining the Life Cycle of Bovine Practitioners; and a half-day seminar on Antimicrobial Resistance.

The Conference has attracted notable speakers from the US and Canada including: Dr. David Dargatz USDA Beef Specialist, Fort Collins, Colorado; Dr. Ronald Read of the Calgary Regional Health Authority and; Dr. Rob Tremblay, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Guelph, Ontario. Arrangements with other speakers are pending.

An informal reception, complete with an abundant buffet plus bar, and entertainment has been planned for the Friday night. This event will provide ample opportunity to meet and mingle with colleagues, students, faculty and friends.

A highlight of the Conference will be the Dr. Otto Radostits Recognition Dinner on the Saturday evening.

Dr. Radostits' recent retirement from the WCVM was a notable event in his 43 years of service to the veterinary profession. The dinner will bring together a large gathering of colleagues, friends and family to acknowledge Otto's contributions.



Dr. Otto Radostits

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 guestroom (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

Look to the web (www.cattle.ca/wcabp) for current updates on the 2003 Conference. A complete registration package will be enclosed with the December WCABP Newsletter.

On Sunday, January 19 there will be only two types of WCABP members: those who attended the Conference and those who *wish* they had. 🐾

Voluntary Johne's Herd Status Program Update



The Agri-Food Surveillance System Branch (AFSSB) of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, in conjunction with the Alberta Johne's Working Group (AJWG) implemented a Voluntary Johne's Herd Status Program in September 2001.

This multi-level voluntary program offers interested cattle producers the opportunity to test herds using a pre-set protocol consisting of four levels, each demonstrating an increase in confidence that the herd is free of Johne's disease.

To date there are six dairy and six beef herds enrolled in Level 1 of the Voluntary Johne's Herd Status Program.

Note: Refer to WCABP Newsletter Volume 7, No. 1, March 2002 for details of the program.

A series of accreditation training sessions for private veterinary practitioners were conducted during the fall of 2001 at various locations in Alberta (Barrhead, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Red Deer and Airdrie) and during the AVMA mid-winter conference held in Calgary in January 2002. The accreditation status is valid for three years. Currently, 102 Alberta veterinarians have been accredited for the Voluntary Johne's Herd Status Program. Accredited veterinarians are posted on our website.

Additional accreditation training sessions are being planned. Please contact Dr. Mainali at (780) 415-9624 if you are interested in attending.

More information can be found on our website at:
<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/livestock/johnes-control/index.html>
Email: chunu.mainali@gov.ab.ca 🐾

Feeding Calves Waste Milk Leads to Serious Questions

Feedstuffs July 8, 2002 Issue 27; Volume 74

Is it a good practice to feed waste/mastitic milk to young calves?

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, research on and the practice of feeding fermented (sour) or acidified colostrum was in vogue. A review of six studies of feeding mastitic milk found mixed results with the incidence of scouring. Three precautions were issued in feeding mastitic milk:

1. Delay feeding beyond the first day so as to avoid possible absorption of mastitic microorganisms through the permeable gut;
2. House calves so they cannot suckle each other to avoid increased incidence of mastitis when they become first-calf heifers; and
3. Avoid feeding to calves intended for meat so as not to have antibiotic residues from the medicines used to treat cows with mastitis.

The above period was followed by a high level of interest and research on ad libitum feeding of cold, acidified milk replacers in the mid- to late 1980s. More recently, there have been concerns about biosecurity aspects of feeding waste/mastitic milk coupled with increased interest in pasteurizing this milk.

Limitations of feeding waste/mastitic milk are several. Biosecurity concerns, such as with Johne's disease, favor either using a milk replacer following colostrum or pasteurizing the waste milk to be fed.

Using pasteurization places an additional burden on the dairy producer to have an ongoing, regular quality control program. If not, a false sense of security may result from assuming the pasteurization is consistently working. The equipment is a major investment in itself. There can be little room for error. Pasteurization is not sterilization. Should waste milk be pasteurized by the batch or continuous (HTST) method?

Additionally, the endotoxins already produced by microorganisms may not be affected by pasteurization. These can have negative effects on calf health and performance, especially if the integrity of the calf's gut has been impaired.

Finally, pasteurization will not diminish antibiotic residues present in the milk from treating cows for mastitis or other diseases.

Studies have noted that antibiotic residues that would constitute violative amounts and existence of multiple antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains are concerns in calf health management and dairy food safety.

While the above factors are significant issues in themselves, there are a few other issues often ignored. First is the variable nutrient composition of waste/mastitic milk. The waste/mastitic milk pool is a composite due to the number of cows contributing, the amount of milk they contribute, the composition of that milk, and the disease state or reason they are contributors to this pool. Data indicate that average amounts of milk produced during the first three days after calving are about 35, 45 and 55 lb., respectively, but with a coefficient of variation of about 35-55%. Cows with mastitis produce milk with little or no change in protein content, but fat and nonfat solids each decrease about 0.5%. Also, we have not even considered the role of this feeding practice on starter intake, the weaning process and rumen development.

Finally, why is there so much waste/mastitic milk on hand? If the colostrum (first or second milking) is fed, and then all of the next two days' milkings are collected as not saleable, that is enough for feeding a 1 gal. per day per calf for about 12 days or 24 days if only heifer calves are saved and fed. If calves are weaned past eight weeks of age as NAHMS data indicate, then another 40 days of milk must be coming from mastitic and treated cows. Is that an acceptable quantity being produced and not saleable? Is that a suitable way to determine when to wean calves? Why would you feed the most vulnerable animals on a dairy the most variable and potentially hazardous feed?

The practice of feeding waste/mastitic milk to young calves needs to be critically reviewed in light of biosecurity, variable nutrient and deleterious composition, antibiotic residues and goals/objectives for feeding and weaning young calves. 🐄

www.cattle.ca/wcabp

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

- 2001 conference proceedings
- Numerous links to sites of interest
- Latest industry information
- Vet advice columns (Contributed by WCABP members, and published in the *Canadian Cattleman*)

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

Proposed Amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations Regarding Bovine Tuberculosis

Canadian Food Inspection Agency Information Bulletin

OTTAWA, June 24, 2002 – Proposed amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations regarding the Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Program were pre-published in the Canada Gazette on June 22, 2002 for a 30-day period of public consultation.

The Health of Animals Regulations provide for the establishment of disease eradication areas and set out the criteria for classifying an area as TB Free or TB Accredited (low prevalence of disease) depending upon the number of diseased herds in the area.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing these amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations to safeguard the continued freedom of movement for cattle both domestically and for export. Under the proposed amendment, a third category known as TB Accredited-Advanced (very low prevalence) would be created. This would permit CFIA to classify the sixteen rural municipalities surrounding the Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP) area of Manitoba as a TB Accredited-Advanced area, with the remainder of Manitoba regaining TB Free status.

Currently, all of Manitoba is TB Accredited, indicating the prevalence of disease is low. The amendment will mean that only a small part of the province would not be considered TB free.

In addition, CFIA is also proposing amendments to sections 75 and 76 of the Health of Animals Regulations which relate to the Bovine Brucellosis Eradication Program. These amendments are intended to update the criteria that must be satisfied for an area to be declared either a Brucellosis Free or Brucellosis Accredited area; and to require a permit to move cattle and farmed bison into a Brucellosis Free area from an area that is not Brucellosis Free. All provinces have been classified as Brucellosis Free areas since 1991.

Extensive consultations with stakeholders are ongoing with respect to the proposed amendment. CFIA is working with both the cattle industry and Manitoba Agriculture to determine both the precise boundaries of game animals around RMNP and the permit conditions for the movement of cattle into TB-Free areas from the lower status area around the park. This will address the risk of disease spread while at the same time minimizing the impact on livestock producers in the area.

CFIA is also consulting with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure that the proposed amendments are considered in the review of its import policy concerning Canadian cattle.

Copies of the proposed amendments and the associated Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement can be obtained on the CFIA website at: www.inspection.gc.ca. 🐾

MBA-Cattle-Tuberculosis

July 25, 2002 Broadcast News

WINNIPEG – Manitoba ranchers, according to this story, expect to meet soon with federal officials to find out how Ottawa intends to protect their industry from further TB infection from wild elk. Ranchers were scheduled to meet August 6 with representatives from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The eleven thousand member association expects agency officials to say when and how Ottawa will proceed with a trade restriction on cattle exports imposed this week by the US.

Cattle ranchers believe if Ottawa takes a direct role in the dispute, most of the province can eventually win back status as a tuberculosis-free zone and not face obstacles to trade.

As of the last week of July 2002, the US department of agriculture issued a ruling declaring the entire province a tuberculosis zone for the second time since 1997. 🐾

For valuable information concerning bovine tuberculosis, consult the fact sheet on pages 10 and 11.



AABP District 13 Report

I hope when you read this report that many of you have registered for the 35th Annual AABP conference that will be held in Madison, Wisconsin from September 26-28, with pre-convention seminars running from September 22-25. Madison is in the heart of our largest AABP District 5 and will certainly be an excellent venue. The meeting will be held in the beautiful new Monona Terrace Convention Center and Madison is rated as one of the finest communities which to live and play in the USA. The scientific program looks great and everyone should be able to find CE that will be stimulating and practical. The opportunity to visit and network with bovine practitioners from around the world is always a highlight of the AABP conference and this meeting will be no exception. The Welcoming Reception, the 'Just Desserts' reception, and the Friday night 'Oktoberfest' promise to be great social events! For more information on the annual conference just call the AABP headquarters at 1-800-COW-AABP (1-800-269-2227) or email at aabphq@aabp.org, or visit the website at www.aabp.org, or call me at (204) 822-4333.

The conference will be my last official meeting as District 13 Director. I have enjoyed serving on the board of directors representing our district. I have had the opportunity to work with many very talented and dedicated people and have been very impressed with the volunteer component of AABP. I believe that the AABP is a very solid, fiscally responsible organization that is playing an ever increasing role in providing CE for its members and representing and serving as the voice of the bovine practitioner. The organization has rebounded extremely well from the September 11 crisis which negatively

impacted attendance at the 2001 Vancouver meeting. Despite the adversity, the spirit of AABP soared and an extremely good conference evolved for the members that were able to attend. I am pleased to report that AABP will be returning to Vancouver in 2007 and I am sure that it will be a highly successful meeting.

I would also like to welcome Dr. Sjoert Zuidhof as the new District 13 director. Sjoert has always been a very active AABP member and has a lot of experience and insight into the veterinary profession and the emerging issues that are facing the bovine practitioner. I believe he will represent our district very well.

I should also mention that I have had the honor of being an ex-officio member of the WCABP as a result of my District 13 director position for the past six years. Prior to that I was on the board of WCABP for four years. If you do the math, I have been on the WCABP Board for ten of the twelve years that WCABP has been active. I have enjoyed my involvement with WCABP and have had a chance to observe and advise on its growth and maturation. I will certainly miss the conference call meetings and the interaction with the numerous board members. As in my veterinary practice, I was beginning to feel like the oldtimer and often found myself referring back to the "olden days". I am confident that I am leaving WCABP in good hands.

Hope to see many of you in Madison. 🐾

David Hamilton, District 13 Director

The Effects of Implant Strategy on Finished Body Weight of Beef Cattle

J. Anim. Sci. 2002. 80:1791-1800 P.

We summarized experimental data to quantify the change in final BW due to a particular implant strategy when cattle are adjusted to the same final body composition. The database developed for this study included 13 implant trials involving a total of 13,640 animals (9,052 steers and 4,588 heifers). Fifteen different implant strategies were used among these trials, including no implant (control), single implants, and combinations of implants. Individual carcass data collected at slaughter were used to calculate the adjusted final shrunk BW at 28% empty body fat (AFBW) for each treatment group within a trial, then the implant treatments were grouped into categories according to their effect on weight at 28% empty body fat (four groups for steers and two groups for heifers). All differences in AFBW between categories were significant indicating an incremental anabolic implant dose response in AFBW over unimplanted animals. Values for AFBW ranged from 520 kg in unimplanted steers to 564 kg in steers implanted and reimplanted with Revalor-S. For heifers, AFBW ranged from 493 kg in unimplanted heifers to 535 kg in heifers implanted and reimplanted with Revalor-H. After accounting for differences in mean BW and composition of gain,

implanted steers and heifers had 4.2 and 3.1% higher apparent diet ME values, respectively. Increasing the anabolic implant dose increases the weight at which animals reach a common body composition. This study indicates that anabolic implant response is due to a combination of a reduced proportion of the DMI required for maintenance, reduced energy content of gain, and efficiency of use of absorbed energy. 🐾

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Comment Period for International Feeding Regulations Underway

July 22, 2002 Farmscape (Episode 1026)

The Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on feeding will hold two comment periods on proposed feed manufacturing regulations between now and March in an effort to have new rules in place before it disbands next June. The task force was established in 2000 and given four years to develop an international code of practice for animal feed production and animal feeding practices. Last month a proposed set of standards was released and Canada is heading up the drafting committee that will gather public input and incorporate that feedback into the regulations. Judy Thompson, the head of Canada's Codex delegation, says the first of two comment periods is now underway and people have until the first week of September to express their views on the proposal.

The most important aspects of the code deal with the production, storage and distribution of feed and feed ingredients. It gives guidelines on the types of buildings,

equipment, procedures you would use to make sure the food you manufactured was safe and wouldn't have a negative impact on the safety of animal products. Also, there's a section on on-farm production and use of feeds, which talks about pasture manure, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and keeping records of where products are used. Those are probably the two most important aspects. The third one would probably be the sampling and analysis method, which is kind of the final stage of verifying that the system is working properly.

Thompson says suggestions will be incorporated into the document then a second comment period will allow for feedback on the revised regulations. She says having two rounds of comments prior to the task force's next meeting in March 2003 is to allow people a higher degree of comfort with the document and allow it to move through the process quickly...before the task force disbands. A copy of the Draft Animal Feeding Code can be found at www.codexalimentarius.net. 🐾

Time to Get Tough With Canada Regarding Year-Round Feeder Trade

NCBA, July 18, 2002

NCBA President Wythe Willey, in a strongly worded letter sent to USDA Undersecretary Bill Hawks the previous week, indicated that it is past time to put an end to the non-science based barrier to trade between the United States and Canada.

The letter and USDA response were discussed during the US/Canada Issues Subcommittee chaired by Dave Nelson of Oregon. The letter summarizes the scientific fact that bluetongue and anaplasmosis in US cattle are not a threat to the health status of Canada. "USDA has made it clear they take this issue seriously and will be dedicating several staff to resolving the remaining issues restricting the movement of feeder cattle year-round to Canada," Nelson said.

"Canada enjoys a more than \$1 billion positive balance of trade in beef and beef products with the US. Exporting more than 50 percent of their production to our country adds insult to the injury that Canada continues to restrict the movement of feeder cattle to Canada," said Chuck Lambert, NCBA chief economist. 🐾

Resources

Dr. Barth Scrotal Tapes are available by contacting:

A. Barth
1423 - 12 Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B4
Phone: (306) 343-6618 or
(306) 966-7151
Fax: (306) 966-7159
Email: albert.barth@usask.ca

These tapes may also be available in the future through WDDC and Winnipeg Distribution Centre.

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Shade Effects on Performance, Carcass Traits, Physiology, and Behavior of Heat-Stressed Feedlot Heifers

J. Anim. Sci. 2002. 80:2043-2050

To determine whether shade influences performance, carcass traits, immunology, respiration rate, and behavior of cattle under conditions similar to those in commercial feedlots, we used 168 heifers in 12 soil-surfaced pens. Six pens were shaded with a galvanized steel-roofed shade (approximately 4 m high), allowing for 2.12 m² of shade/heifer, and six pens served as the unshaded control. Heifers were fed a 90% concentrate diet during the 121-d trial that began in mid-June, performance variables were measured, and dietary concentrations of NE_m and NE_g calculated from performance data. A blood sample was collected to assess immune measures. Respiration rates and behaviors (feeding, drinking, walking, standing, lying, agonistic, and bulling) also were measured during the study. Carcass data were collected at slaughter. Shaded heifers had higher DMI, ADG, and final BW than unshaded heifers. The gain:feed ratio and calculated dietary NE_m and NE_g concentrations did not differ between treatments. Most carcass traits did not differ between treatments, but more carcasses of heifers in shaded pens graded USDA Choice than those in unshaded pens, which

resulted primarily from the incidence of dark cutters being decreased by approximately half in carcasses from shaded compared with unshaded heifers. Respiration rate and percentage of circulating neutrophils were decreased for shaded compared with unshaded heifers. The treatment x time of day effect was significant for all behavioral measurements. Shaded heifers spent more time lying down and less time standing than unshaded heifers. Agonistic behavior was less for shaded than for unshaded heifers and bulling was less for shaded than unshaded heifers. Results suggest that shade improved performance and altered behavior by feedlot heifers during the summertime in West Texas.

Heat stress negatively affected production by feedlot heifers in West Texas. Under West Texas summertime heat, providing 2.12 m²/animal of shade improved daily gain and carcass quality, decreased respiration rate, and altered behavior of feedlot heifers. Based on these results, shade would be expected to improve both animal well-being and performance, but field studies under commercial conditions are needed. 🐄

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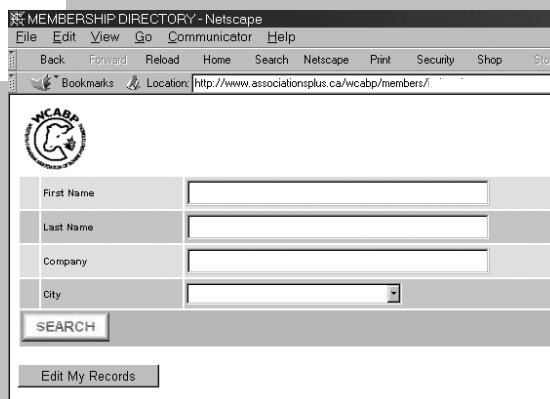


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Frequently Asked Questions on Bovine Tuberculosis

Prepared by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association
(www.cattle.ca)

Based on information available as of July 22, 2002.

1. What is Bovine Tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis (TB) is the common name of a contagious disease of both humans and animals. There are three types of bacteria that cause three different strains of TB that primarily affect different species of animals. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* primarily affects humans but can also be transmitted to hogs, cattle and dogs. *Mycobacterium avium* affects all species of birds, and can be transmitted to hogs, cattle, dogs and cats. *Mycobacterium bovis* causes Bovine Tuberculosis, which affects cattle and can be transmitted to all warm-blooded vertebrates including wildlife and, occasionally, humans.

2. What are the symptoms of Bovine Tuberculosis in cattle?

Bovine TB is a chronic disease that rarely shows symptoms until it reaches an advanced stage. The disease can lie dormant in an animal for many years. In most cases the cattle producer is unaware livestock have been infected until signs of the disease are found in an animal at the packing plant. Signs of the disease found at the packing plant are usually lesions in lymph nodes or internal organs (i.e. lungs). In advanced stages of TB in a live animal, the main symptom is gradual loss of condition despite adequate nutrition. Other symptoms may be low-grade fever, enlarged lymph nodes (i.e. in the neck), and difficulty breathing. If the lungs are affected, a hacking cough may be present.

3. How is it spread?

Animals with active TB can spread the disease to other animals through shared feed and water (i.e. water troughs). Coughing can also spread the disease, when live bacteria are carried on droplets of saliva or mucous coughed into the air. It may also be spread by manure deposited by the animal onto a pasture. Calves may be infected through drinking milk from an infected animal. (Pasteurization of milk kills TB bacteria).

4. How may Bovine Tuberculosis affect humans?

While it's possible for Bovine TB to be transmitted to humans, the likelihood of it happening is remote. Those at greatest risk are cattle producers or veterinarians working with infected animals, especially in enclosed spaces such as barns. It's recommended that anyone exposed to TB-infected animals be tested for TB by means of a skin test administered by a physician. TB in humans is treatable with antibiotics. TB bacteria in milk is destroyed by pasteurization. This is one of the main reasons pasteurization was introduced in the dairy industry many years ago when Bovine TB was more widespread. Drinking unpasteurized milk is not recommended due to potential exposure not only to TB but also to other disease-causing organisms. Exposure to TB through the contamination of meat of an infected animal is highly unlikely. Meat inspection procedures ensure that infected animals are

removed from the food chain. Adequate cooking destroys bacteria in meat.

5. How is Bovine Tuberculosis diagnosed in live cattle?

When there is a suspicion of exposure to Bovine TB (i.e. a herd mate has been diagnosed with the disease, or another herd in the immediate vicinity has been diagnosed positive) cattle are given a tuberculin skin test. Tuberculin purified protein derivative is injected in either the skin of the mid-neck or the skin around the base of the tail. A veterinarian will then check the injection site three days later. Swelling at the site of the injection indicates the animal has been exposed to TB.

6. What happens if Bovine Tuberculosis is diagnosed in a cattle herd?

The herd in which the diagnosis is made ("index herd") is immediately quarantined and a trace-out implemented by CFIA on any cattle that have left the herd within the previous three years. All cattle in the index herd are eradicated, as mandated under the Federal Health of Animals Act. Compensation is paid for all animals destroyed. Disinfection of handling facilities on the farm must be carried out by the owner and approved by CFIA. The herd may not be restocked until 30 days after disinfection is completed. If the herd is restocked prior to one year after depopulation, then replacement animals must be tested for TB at specified intervals for a period up to four years. If the herd is not restocked until a year has passed, then testing of replacements is not required.

7. What is the role of wildlife?

It's believed that Bovine TB was introduced into wildlife populations through contact with domestic animals. Results from hunter surveys in certain areas as well as capture and testing of wild animals indicate the disease is not commonly found in wildlife. However certain wildlife populations, notably the elk population in and around Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba and the bison population at Wood Buffalo National Park in Alberta, have been shown to be a reservoir of the disease. From 1992 to 2001, ten elk in the vicinity of Riding Mountain National Park were found to have Bovine TB. Transmission of the disease from elk is believed to be the source of diagnosed cases in cattle in that area in 1997 and 2001.

8. What is the Bovine Tuberculosis status of the Canadian cattle herd?

Canada's *Health of Animals Regulations* currently recognizes TB eradication areas as being provincial boundaries. The normal status for all Canadian provinces is TB-free. However, despite ongoing Bovine TB eradication efforts in place in Canada for decades, TB is still diagnosed occasionally in Canadian cattle herds. Under current Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) policy, which reflects international standards, an eradication area is considered TB-free if it reports no more than one TB-infected herd in a five year period. Currently all provinces in Canada are classified as TB-

free except Manitoba, which is classified as TB-accredited due to positive diagnoses in cattle herds in the vicinity of Riding Mountain National Park in 1997 and 2001. TB-accredited means the number of cattle affected by TB in the province does not exceed 0.2 percent of the total cattle population of the province. (TB was confirmed in an Ontario dairy herd in April 2002. This is the first case of bovine TB in Ontario since 1992, so Ontario retains its TB-free status, unless a second case is diagnosed within the five-year period.)

9. How does Bovine Tuberculosis impact trade?

Since 1997 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has recognized all cattle herds in Canada, except those under active quarantine, as TB-free. This means Canadian cattle have not required a TB test to enter the US since that year. (The US is Canada's largest export market for cattle and beef.) The USDA has re-examined this rule in light of its own struggles with TB outbreaks in Michigan and Texas, and movement controls imposed in those States. On July 17 the USDA issued a directive that as of August 17, all breeding cattle and farmed bison that have been in Manitoba must be tested for Bovine TB before being shipped into the US from any province. (Cattle going direct to slaughter are not affected.) Many details are still to be determined. Further information will be forthcoming.

10. What is zoning?

CFIA is working to develop new regulations that would allow an area within a TB eradication area to be zoned separately from the rest of the eradication area. This would allow the eradication area outside the zone to retain its TB-free status while cattle from within the zone are required to meet more stringent requirements, such as TB testing prior to export. This option is being actively considered for the area around Riding Mountain National Park. CFIA is currently working with Manitoba Agriculture, the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, and the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency to develop protocols for the movement of cattle in and out of the proposed zone.

11. How is the issue of reservoirs of Bovine TB in wildlife being addressed?

Parks Canada has responsibility for wildlife within National Parks, and the provincial governments have responsibility for wildlife outside National Parks. CFIA, Parks Canada, Manitoba Agriculture and Manitoba Conservation have developed a Bovine TB Management Plan to address the problem of diseased wildlife in the Riding Mountain National Park area and implement measures to reduce risk of spread of infection to livestock. Improvement of wildlife habitat, construction of barrier fencing, and reduction of elk herd size are all being considered or implemented in an attempt to control the disease reservoir. 🐾

The Use of a Progesterone-Releasing Device (CIDR-B) or Melengestrol Acetate with GnRH, LH, or Estradiol Benzoate for Fixed-Time AI in Beef Heifers

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The objective of this experiment was to compare two progestins and three treatments for synchronizing follicular wave emergence and ovulation in protocols for fixed-time AI in beef heifers. On d 0 (beginning of the experiment), Angus and Angus-Simmental cross beef heifers at random stages of the estrous cycle either received a CIDR-B device or were started on 0.5 mg•animal⁻¹•d⁻¹ melengestrol acetate and were randomly assigned to receive IM. injections of 100 µg GnRH, 12.5 mg porcine LH (pLH), or 2 mg estradiol benzoate (EB) and 50 mg progesterone (P₄). The last feeding of MGA was given on d 6 and on d 7, CIDR-B devices were removed and all heifers received 500 µg cloprostenol (PG). Consistent with their treatment groups on d 0, heifers were given either 100 µg GnRH or 12.5 mg pLH 48 h after PG (and were concurrently inseminated) or 1 mg EB 24 h after PG and were inseminated 28 h later (52 h after PGF). Estrus rate (combined for both progestins) in heifers receiving EB (92.0%) was greater than that in heifers receiving GnRH and pLH (combined) and a CIDR-B device (62.9%) or MGA (34.3%). Although the mean interval from PG treatment to estrus did not differ among groups it was less variable in MGA-fed heifers than in CIDR-B-treated heifers. Pregnancy rates (determined by ultrasonography approximately 30 d after AI) did not differ among the six treatment groups

(average, 58.0%; range, 52.5 to 65.0%). Although fixed-time AI was done, pregnancy rates were greater in heifers detected in estrus than in those not detected in estrus. In conclusion, GnRH, pLH, or EB treatment in combination with a CIDR-B device or MGA effectively synchronized ovulation for fixed-time AI, resulting in acceptable pregnancy rates in beef heifers. 🐾

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²"The efficacy of modified-live BRSV vaccines in experimentally infected calves" Vaccine 18 (2000) 907 - 919.

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