



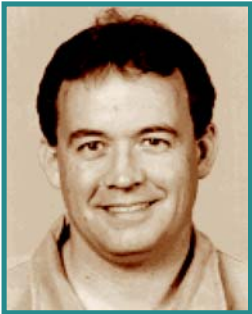
WCABP

Western Canadian Association
of Bovine Practitioners

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8 • NO. 1
MARCH 2003

President's Message - John Campbell



I would like to begin my first President's Message by thanking Dr. Bob Ruckman, as our outgoing President, and Dr. Ken Linde, who is now officially retired as Past President, for their efforts over the past years. Both Bob and Ken are extremely hard acts to follow and I hope that in the coming year I can live up to the standards that they have set for our Association.

I would also like to thank all the members of WCABP who attended our annual convention in Calgary. We had a great turnout of practitioners for both of the preconvention seminars and the main conference. There was also a great turnout of students (approximately 35) who made the trek from Saskatoon for the conference. Once again, much of the success of the conference is due to the hard work of Dr. Ray Butler who takes care of so many of the details of the conference. Thanks to our guest speakers, many of us returned with information that was new and useful.

The Otto Radostits banquet was also very well attended and highly enjoyable evening as a number of Otto's colleagues, students and family members regaled us with stories and memories. Dr. Radostits was very pleased with the bronze statue that the WCABP presented to him. He assured us it would be given a place of prominence in his home for all to enjoy. Our thanks go to Dr. Troy Drake who initiated the idea of getting a gift for Otto and thanks are also due to the many members who contributed to the bronze. The statue has a plaque with all of the contributors' names engraved upon it. The OMR Legacy Fund which has been established will provide WCABP with the

opportunity to bring in top-class conference speakers for many years to come.

Two new members have been recently added to the WCABP Board. We welcome Dr. Sjoert Zuidhof, who has replaced Dr. David Hamilton as our AABP District 13 representative. Many thanks are due to David for his service with both the AABP and the WCABP over the past years. We are also pleased to welcome Dr. Valerie Smid to the Board. We are grateful for Sjoert's and Valerie's enthusiasm for our profession and their willingness to serve in this capacity.

We are also going to sorely miss the services of Dr. Joyce VanDonkersgoed as our Secretary-Treasurer, as she has recently resigned from the position. Joyce spearheaded many excellent projects as our Secretary-Treasurer over the past few years. The "Think Large" project, which is just coming to fruition in terms of pamphlets, videos, and PowerPoint presentations, is just one example. Joyce's contacts and influence in the cattle industry, as well as her ability to find ways of getting money through granting agencies were invaluable assets to the Board. Ray Butler has kindly agreed to fill in as a temporary secretary treasurer until July while the Board seeks a solution to Joyce's vacancy.

Calving season seems to be upon us already, although spring still seems a long way away here in Saskatoon. I hope that, despite the pressures and business of this time of year, if you have ideas or suggestions for the Association you will find the time to contact one of the Board members. Dr. Harland will soon begin planning for next year's annual convention and your input would be welcomed. 🐾

Dr. John Campbell

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WCABP Board of Directors 2003

President

John Campbell
Saskatoon, SK
Phone: 306-966-7158
Fax: 306-966-7159
john.campbell@usask.ca

Past President

Bob Ruckman
Medicine Hat, AB
Phone: 403-527-4345
Fax: 403-529-1160
ruckman@telusplanet.net

President Elect

Richard Harland
Larchwood, Iowa USA
Phone: 712-477-2811, x 352
Fax: 712-477-2810
richard.harland@novartis.com

Directors

Craig Dorin
Airdrie, AB
Phone: 403-948-2253
Fax: 403-948-0520
vahs@telusplanet.net

Valerie Smid

Steinbach, MB
Phone: 204-326-3955
Fax: 204-326-4940
valerie_smid@hotmail.com

Brian Wildman

Calgary, AB
Phone: 403-938-5151
Fax: 403-938-5175
dvms@sprint.ca

Ex Officio Director, District XIII, AABP

Sjoert Zuidhof
Lethbridge, AB
Phone: 403-381-6171
Fax: 403-381-7422
sjoert.zuidhof@pharmacia.com

Acting Secretary- Treasurer

Ray Butler
Saskatoon, SK
Phone: 306-651-3383
Fax: 306-651-4179
butlerd@sasktel.net

Administrator

Pat Frank, WCABP Office
Calgary, AB T2P 2C8
Phone: 1-866-269-8387
Fax: 403-244-2340
wcabp@incentre.net



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From the Secretary-Treasurer's Desk

With the January resignation of Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed, I find myself struggling to reactivate what is left of the remaining skills needed to be a Secretary-Treasurer, not the least of which is to write articles for the Newsletter. I fully agree with Doreen's observation; "The toughest part is to get started".

President John Campbell recently presented Dr. Van Donkersgoed with a plaque to recognize her service to WCABP as Secretary-Treasurer (see photo). Despite her relatively short stay in the Secretary-Treasurer's chair, Joyce had a major impact on our Association. Her many contacts with various livestock groups and government agencies will be sorely missed, as will her talent for



ferreting out new sources of financial support. Joyce brought WCABP into the "big leagues" when she negotiated a contract with a professional management group, Associations Plus. She also supervised the revision of the by-

laws and the expansion of the WCABP website (www.cattle.ca/wcabp), each a major achievement. It is unfortunate that her efforts at developing a promotional program to encourage young people to consider a career in bovine practice are reaching fruition following her departure. Thank you Joyce, for your hard work on our behalf. We wish you well in your future endeavors and look forward to your continued interest in WCABP, notably as a permanent member of the Forward Planning Committee.

Possibly the greatest challenge facing WCABP in the next six months will be to find a permanent Secretary-Treasurer. I have agreed to stay on the job until July 31 to close off the books for the 2002-03 fiscal year. Some thought is being given to a major restructuring of the office. Is it essential to have a DVM as Secretary-Treasurer? We might be better served by putting more reliance on a professional management group and retaining a DVM only as an advisor, possibly on a volunteer basis. Your comments would be welcome. Contact me by phone: 306-651-3383; fax: 306-651-4179; or butlerd@sasktel.net.

Dr. Bob Ruckman, our new Past-President, inherits the mantle of organizing the monthly submission of Vet Advice articles for the Canadian Cattlemen magazine. Bob would appreciate your help. Recognize that this project presents cattle practitioners with an opportunity to reach a large audience of cattlemen who look for sound advice on animal health. Too often we give this up by default to people who lack the knowledge and/or background to justify their recommendations. The Cattlemen donates \$150.00 for each article to the Ray Butler Seeing Practice Bursary Fund, which annually supports three first-year veterinary students

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www.cattle.ca/wcabp

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

- Online Membership Directory
- Links to sites of interest
- Vet advice columns (Contributed by WCABP members, and published in the *Canadian Cattlemen*)
- 2003 conference proceedings
- Latest industry information

To access, use 'animal' as the username and 'bovinevet' as the password.

Cows with Cystic Ovarian Follicles Conceive Normally to Ovsynch and Timed Insemination

Therapeutic management of a “stubborn” ovarian cyst is often a frustrating experience for dairy practitioners and dairy farmers. However, recent research indicates that dairy cows with cystic ovarian follicles can conceive normally to timed-insemination after synchronization of ovulation.

Cows with ovarian cysts continue to have ovarian follicular activity (wave emergence and follicle selection) but the interval between follicular wave-emergence in cystic cows is much longer than that of normal cycling cows, and their follicles do not ovulate spontaneously. In cows with induced ovarian cysts, mean concentrations of circulating LH were nearly twice as high when compared with those that ovulated but lacked the endogenous LH surge necessary for ovulation (Garverick, 1999). These anovulatory structures (cysts) may eventually decrease in size and either be replaced by a similar cyst or by a normal follicle that may go on to ovulate.

The protocol for synchronization of ovulation (two injections of GnRH given 9 d apart, with a single injection of PGF_{2a} given 7 d after the first GnRH), popularly referred to as “Ovsynch”, synchronizes follicular wave emergence and ovulation with reasonable precision, allowing fixed timed insemination in cyclic dairy cattle (Pursley et al. 1995). How effective is this protocol in cows with cystic ovarian follicles?

Bartolome et al. (2000) tested the hypothesis that the Ovsynch protocol could be used successfully as a therapeutic approach for ovarian cysts in the lactating dairy cow. They used 209 normal and 159 cystic cows. All normal cows were placed on Ovsynch protocol and time-inseminated. Of the cystic cows, 76 were placed on a comparable Ovsynch/timed-AI protocol and 83 were given GnRH and PGF 7 d apart and then inseminated at detected estrus, without giving the second GnRH injection. Pregnancy outcome is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Conception and pregnancy rates in cystic cows versus normal cyclic cows

Status	n	Breeding protocol	Conception rate (%)	Pregnancy rate (%)
Non-cystic	209	Ovsynch + timed AI	31.5	31.5
Cystic	76	Ovsynch + timed AI	23.6	23.6
Cystic	83	*GnRH, PGF + AI at estrus	51.7	**18.0

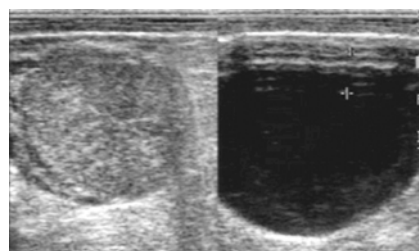
*GnRH and PGF given 7 d apart and cows inseminated at detected estrus. Only 34% cows were detected in estrus.

**Pregnancy rate is a product of conception rate and estrus detection rate.

In another study, Fricke and Wiltbank (1999) retrospectively compared conception rates of 211 normal and 26 cystic cows. All cows were treated with a standard Ovsynch protocol and inseminated at a fixed time. Of the 26 cystic cows, 19 responded to the synchronization treatment and 7/19 (36.8%) conceived compared to 84/172 (48.8%) in the control group. Pregnancy rates were 26.9% in cystic- and 39.8% in control cows, respectively.

In a recent investigation by the author (Ambrose, 2001), 10 cows diagnosed cystic (large anovulatory follicle(s) exceeding 25 mm in diameter, detected in the absence of a CL) and 8 cows bearing a large cyst-like-structure and a CL (see Figure 1), were assigned to the Ovsynch/timed-AI protocol. The objective was to characterize ovarian responses to the Ovsynch protocol.

Figure 1. Ultrasound image of a well-defined CL on one ovary (left panel) and a large anovulatory cyst-like-structure >40 mm in diameter (right panel), on the other.



Cows were >50 d postpartum when assigned to the synchronization protocol. The treatment protocol constituted of a GnRH (Fertiline, 2 mL; Vetoquinol) injection, followed 7 d later by

PGF (Lutalyse, 5 mL; Pharmacia-Upjohn). Two d after PGF, cows received a second injection of GnRH and were inseminated approximately 16 h later (without estrus detection). Ultrasonography was used to examine the ovaries on each treatment day and 7 d after timed AI, and for pregnancy diagnosis 32 d after AI. Data are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Observations based on ultrasonography including pregnancy outcome in cows with follicular cysts and those with cyst-like-structure(s) in the presence of a CL.

Observation	Cows with follicular cyst and no CL	Cows with cyst-like-structure and CL	Overall (both combined)
Number of cows	10	8	18
Diameter of cystic structure (mm)	32	36	34
Ovulation of cyst after first GnRH	1 (10%)	1 (13%)	2 (11%)
Ovulation of an existing follicle after first GnRH	5 (50%)	3 (38%)	8 (44%)
Cows that developed new follicle	10 (100%)	8 (100%)	18 (100%)
Cows that ovulated new follicle	8 (80%)	7 (88%)	15 (83%)
Cows in which new CL detected	8/8 (100%)	7/7 (100%)	15/15 (100%)
Cows pregnant 32 d after AI	5/9 (56%)	2/8 (25%)	7/17 (41%)
Cyst detectable 32 d after AI	6/9 (67%)	5/8 (63%)	11/17 (65%)

It is often believed that the physical presence of a cyst is detrimental to the fertility, and many practitioners routinely resort to manually rupturing the cyst. Gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH), human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) and porcine luteinizing hormone (pLH) preparations are frequently used therapeutic choices for ovarian cysts, but treatment outcomes are highly variable. Further, the true outcome is usually not determined under field conditions because of limited opportunities to examine the treated cow.

In this investigation, the Ovsynch protocol initiated growth of a new follicle in all (100%) cystic cows, with >80% of the cows ovulating the new follicle. Even though the cyst persisted for up to 32 d after AI in 65% of the cows, it did not seem to have any detrimental effect on pregnancy establishment. Clearly, Ovsynch and timed-AI without estrus detection is an effective way to get cystic cows pregnant. 🐄

Divakar Ambrose, MVSc., PhD.

Dairy Research Scientist, Livestock Development Division
Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Edmonton, Alberta • E-mail: divakar.ambrose@gov.ab.ca

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New WCVM Dean Appointed



Bovine practitioners will be pleased to know that the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors has approved the appointment of Dr. C.S. (Chuck) Rhodes as Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine for a five-year renewable term.

Dr. Mark Evered, the University's Vice-Provost and Chair of the Search Committee, said: "We are very pleased to recruit someone of Dr. Rhodes' ability to this position. He is recognized by

colleagues and students for his integrity, professional skills, hard work, and extraordinary commitment to the Veterinary College and the University. He is a great addition to our leadership team."

Dr. Rhodes was raised on a mixed farm in Wisconsin and holds the B.Sc. and DVM degrees from the University of Minnesota. On graduation, he enlisted in the US Army, conducting swine research while serving in Vietnam. He later was awarded the M.Sc. degree from Iowa State University.

Dr. Rhodes joined the faculty of the WCVM in 1971 as a clinician with special interests in swine diseases. He rose through the academic ranks to full professor.

Dr. Rhodes' research concentrated on the effects of environments on intensive swine operations and swine production medicine, swine diseases and antimicrobial use in swine production. He plans to maintain his interest in swine production in his current position.

He comes to his new post with a rich background in administration, including eight years as Department Head (Herd Medicine and Theriogenology), nine years as Associate Dean of Research and, six months as Acting Dean of the WCVM.

He commented on the similarities between the western Canadian prairies and Minnesota and Wisconsin; "I see cultural and other differences going east and west, and the similarities going north and south." He is optimistic about the College's future.

Dr. Rhodes is no stranger to the challenges facing food animal practitioners, having served as founding Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Canadian Association of Swine Practitioners, a position he continues to hold.

The WCABP looks forward to working with Chuck in promoting the best interests of the food animal industry. 🐾

WCVM Bovine Club Update



The WCVM Bovine Club started 2003 with great enthusiasm after a very busy fall. The club organized a delegation of 35 students to attend the annual WCABP conference held in Calgary. The conference was enjoyed by all and we would like to thank the WCABP for their hospitality. We would also like to express our gratitude to all of our

sponsors for making this trip possible.

The club would also like to thank Dr. Kelly Lightfoot and Dr. Mike Jelinski for their presentations on cow calf and feedlot herd health programs and Novartis for sponsorship. On January 25 and 26 Dr. Gord Atkins presented two very informative lectures on exclusive

dairy practice. This covered some of the basic herd health programs, reproduction, and nutrition. We would like to thank Dr. Atkins and AABP for enabling us to present this valuable information to the WCVM Bovine Club members.

The club is looking forward to a busy spring with talks on vaccine selection (Novartis), breeding soundness evaluations, the cattle cycle (Boehringer- Ingelheim) and much much more! If you want to learn more about our club and its activities, please visit our website, which can be found through the WCABP site, or send us an email at bovine.club@usask.ca.

Our year-end banquet is soon approaching, which will culminate another very successful year for the Bovine Club. The Bovine Club executive would like to thank all of the members, speakers, sponsors, and professors that have made this year the success that it has been and we wish all of the best for 2003/2004. 🐾

Sincerely,
Glen Griffin, President
Patrick Whittaker, Vice-President

WCABP New Board Member Profile: Valerie Smid

It's my pleasure to introduce myself as the newest addition to the Board of the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners. My name is Dr. Valerie Smid, a 1996 graduate of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I practice in Steinbach, Manitoba at Bazinet Livestock Health Services. This is a large animal practice

primarily dealing with dairy and some beef, as well as a smaller amount of swine and equine work, where I have practiced since graduation. I sincerely hope to make a valuable contribution to the Board's activities and duties and to represent any issues which may pertain especially to my fellow Manitoba members. The short time that I have already been involved with WCABP at this level has shown me what a tremendous contribution this organization can and has already made to furthering the practice of bovine medicine in Western Canada. I am glad to be a part of it. 🐾

2003 WCABP Conference

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2003 Conference Surpasses All Expectations

WCABP conference records tumbled in Calgary when over 250 attended the 2003 annual conference. Most notable were the 35 WCVM students who attended, the highest attendance by far for a meeting held out of Saskatoon. Also notable was a three-fold increase in attendance for the dairy seminars. While final calculations have yet to be done, all indications are that the conference will realize a modest surplus, a much-needed boost for the Association's dwindling coffers.

Hats off to the management and staff of the Executive Royal Inn, notably Autumn Habermehl, Sales and Catering Manager, who continually went the extra mile to accommodate us.

In light of the success, the Board has opted to return to Calgary for the 2004 meeting, scheduled to be held January 15, 16 and 17 at (you guessed it) the Executive Royal Inn. 🐾

Dr. Ted Clark Named 2002 Veterinarian of the Year

Dr. Doug Myers of Boehringer-Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. presented the 2002 WCABP Veterinarian of the Year Award to Dr. Edward George (Ted) Clark, a diagnostic pathologist with the Prairie Diagnostic Services, located at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) in Saskatoon.

The award is presented annually to recognize the recipient's "outstanding contributions to Veterinary Medicine in Western Canada". In addition, Boehringer Ingelheim donates \$500 on behalf of the recipient to the Ray Butler Bursary Fund.

Ted was raised on a mixed farm near Delisle, Saskatchewan and received his DVM from Ontario Veterinary College in 1966.

He practiced for two years at Unity, Saskatchewan with Dr. Fred Weeks before purchasing the practice in Rosthern, Saskatchewan from Dr. Ernie Klassen. He left practice in 1975 to enter graduate studies at the WCVM, receiving the MVSc degree (Diagnostic Pathology) in 1977. He became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 1983.

Following graduation, Ted was employed as a diagnostic pathologist in the Department of Veterinary Pathology at the WCVM and, since 1999, with Prairie Diagnostic Services.

In 1996 he received the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association's Veterinarian of the Year Award.



Dr. Clark continues to be highly regarded as a 'practitioner's pathologist'. He has earned the respect of his colleagues, not only for his knowledge and skills, but also for his professionalism and the sincere interest that he takes with each of the cases he receives. His years of experience as a private practitioner stand him in good stead when working with his associates in the field.

Ted's son and daughter-in-law were on hand to see him receive the award. Kelsey practices law in Calgary while Kristy is completing her PhD degree in criminology at Simon Fraser University.

Past recipients of the Veterinarian of the Year Award include: Dr. Albert Barth (1995); Dr. Rod Sydenham (1996); Dr. Ray Butler (1997); Dr. Rich Vanderwal (1998); Dr. Otto Radostits (1999); Dr. David Hamilton (2000); Dr. Wayne Sereda (2001) and; the late Dr. Dwayne Elaschuk (2002).

Forms are sent out in November to WCABP members, inviting them to submit nominations for the Veterinarian of the Year Award. 🐾

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2003 WCABP Conference

Dr. Otto Radostits Honored at Conference

The 2003 WCABP Conference came to a memorable conclusion when over 170 former students, colleagues, family, and friends attended a gala banquet to honor Dr. Otto Radostits and recognize his career as an educator, author, clinician, and scientist. Thirty-five present day WCVM students made the trip from Saskatoon to join in the celebrations. (right photo)

Dr. Stephen Acres, who chaired the proceedings, recounted, with the effective use of slides, some events of Otto's past from his early days on a small farm on the outskirts of Edmonton. This included his first job as a thirteen-year-old kennel boy working for Dr. Alex Rattray at the Blue Cross Animal Hospital. Otto received the D.V.M. degree from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), University of Toronto, in 1959. With the encouragement of Drs. Doug Blood and Jack Cote he joined the faculty as a clinician which began a career in academia which spanned the next forty years.

Otto and Ruth continue to live in Saskatoon, spending a good part of their time visiting their six children and 13 grandchildren.



Former colleagues who recalled their experiences working with Otto included: Dr. Jack Cote, Otto's mentor in his early years as a clinician at the Ontario Veterinary College; Dr. Eugene Janzen, former student and co-worker at the WCVM; Dr. Clive Gay, co-author of several editions of Veterinary Medicine; and Dr. Alex Rattray, former Edmonton practitioner, who encouraged and guided Otto in his earliest exposure to veterinary practice. All six children of Otto and Ruth teamed up in presenting a tribute to Our Dad with the soft strains of *Edelweiss* as background music.

Earlier in the day, Drs. Murray Jelinski, John Campbell and Troy Drake, on behalf of WCABP members, presented Otto with an impressive bronze of a cow and calf.

The O.M. Radostits Legacy Fund has been established to perpetuate Otto's contributions to veterinary medicine. The Fund will sponsor the Radostits Seminars that will be held in conjunction with future WCABP conferences.

These seminars will attract outstanding individuals to present seminars, lectures and/or workshops on topics of immediate and emerging interest to food animal practitioners.

One objective of the Fund is to raise \$100,000.00 by December 31, 2003. Donations are being sought from friends, colleagues, former students, veterinary associations and animal health companies. 🐾



(l to r): Drs. Murray Jelinski, John Campbell, Otto Radostits, and Troy Drake.



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SUPPORT OF OUR 2003 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Report from the Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners (OABP)

Greetings to bovine practitioners in Western Canada from your colleagues in Ontario. As started in previous newsletters by Clarice Lulai, I'm going to try to keep up the communication between our two associations. More and more, there are looming issues and events that will affect how bovine veterinary practice will be conducted. And if we remain connected we will have greater influence on how future changes evolve than if we are two separate voices.

It's been fairly busy for our association, as evidenced by our recent executive meeting held during a major ice storm, but well-attended and featuring a 17-point agenda. Our broadest issues have been the use of antimicrobials in food animals and gathering practitioners' opinions about tasks conducted on-farm that would be delegable to non-DVM staff.

Like WCABP, we have responded to Health Canada (HC) with regards to the recommendations made about the use of antimicrobials in food animals and the potential impact on antimicrobial resistance. While we applaud HC's efforts to consult the experts in this field, we are disappointed in the lack of scheduled activities it has planned and the vagueness of the timelines in its response.

Of greatest interest to practitioners in Ontario are the recommendations that suggest changes to how antimicrobials might be distributed in Canada. Currently in Ontario some products (those designated in legislation) are sold over the counter in licensed lay outlets. For the last two years, certification courses covering the storage and handling of livestock medicines have been available for producers to take to earn a livestock medicines certificate. Private veterinary practitioners trained as instructors have conducted these courses. Possession of a certificate will be required in the future to purchase medicines at these lay outlets, although the date for this implementation is uncertain at this time.

OABP remains dedicated to the idea that veterinarians are the only trained professionals with the knowledge to oversee (dispense and prescribe) safe and efficacious antimicrobial use in food animals. In our response, we strongly endorsed initiatives by Health Canada that would lead to the requirement of a VCPR before antimicrobials could be purchased and used. Only then can we, as veterinarians, be fully responsible for how and when antimicrobials are used in the treatment of food animals. And as a professional organization, we

have to look at what we need to do to help all our members fully assume that responsibility. The increasing demand for greater accountability for antimicrobial use seems pretty clear and is likely only to intensify. We'd like to be proactive in endorsing and supporting the prudent antimicrobial use policies most practitioners are adopting.

At the same time, it is a reality that product sales are an important source of income for most food animal practises in Ontario. The Quebec model for sales cited by the expert panel in their recommendations, where prices are "set" by a central agency, is not feasible in Ontario currently without supplementation of practice income by some other means. Careful economic modeling is needed to discover what the impact of such changes might be, but we fear that some practises would not survive and others would be forced to reduce the number of food animal practitioners they employ. Ultimately, services could be reduced and jobs in practises where fewer employees work longer hours and have more time on call will not be attractive to new grads considering a career in food animal practice.

We welcome actions by HC or other regulators that would reduce our potential conflict of interest in the situation where veterinarians are frequently both the prescriber and seller of food animal medicines, but at the same time want recognition of the need to maintain the financial health of our food animal practises.

Our ongoing involvement in a CVO (College of Veterinarians of Ontario, our professional regulators) task force to look at defining which acts should be delegable to auxiliaries in large animal practice has been another important item on the OABP agenda. In a nutshell, Ontario practitioners are looking for CVO to define which acts can be conducted by trained non-DVM personnel and the level of supervision required. These definitions would level the playing field for all practises, greatly reduce confusion and keep many common and important food animal health improvement procedures under the supervision of veterinarians. The outcome of CVO's decision-making process in June will potentially affect the ability of practises to hire food animal practitioners in the future and the economics of food animal production. In discussions with our members we developed a vision where we see veterinarians ensuring that their employees, when conducting practises such as castration and dehorning, carry out these procedures at an age that causes minimal animal distress, use the techniques that are appropriate for the size and age of the animals and that improvements to analgesia, where required, will be implemented. We view this as a crucial animal welfare need and another looming veterinary accountability issue. If regulations are implemented that ensure procedures can only be conducted under veterinary supervision, we as veterinarians will be fully accountable to society for these practises.

From the Ontario perspective, practitioners are doing a great job, but need to shore up support to their leadership in issues relating to antimicrobial use and animal care. We welcome input from your association on these issues as well. Our objectives are the same as yours – to have healthy, progressive, profitable, veterinary practices fully engaged in the production of safe, wholesome raw food. 🐾

Ann Godkin, OABP President 2003

Make plans now to attend the

2004 Conference

January 15, 16, 17, 2004

Calgary, Alberta

**The 2005 Conference will be held in
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

Spring vaccination programs - an industry trend that's on the rise

With tighter profit margins, cattle producers are looking for well-designed and implemented vaccination programs to ensure higher returns on their investment. Spring vaccination programs that protect calves from viral infectious diseases are one way in which producers can ensure healthier cattle and better returns.

"Spring vaccination programs for calves on the ranch or being sold to backgrounders or feedlot operations are a producer's best insurance against major viral diseases," states Dr. Gary Etherington of Northern Vet Services, Dewberry, Alberta.

Feedlot operators that have lost calves or received calves from a producer that were plagued by disease will either not buy from that producer the next time or will offer to pay less money for their calves – and news travels fast.

"Reputation is everything. For a few extra dollars, producers assure their reputation in the industry is positive," Dr. Etherington says. "Springtime vaccinations pre-weaning starts protection earlier in the life of the animal, before they head off to feedlots. It's the best move a producer can make to ensure they are putting out the best calves they can."

Kevin Woods has seen first hand how spring vaccination can significantly improve the health of his herd and his bottom line. Woods operates a 1,000-head cow/calf operation in Moosamin, Saskatchewan and purchases another 2,500 calves each year to fill his feedlot operation.

"After introducing a spring vaccination program, we went from more than a half a dozen calves lost to summer pneumonia to only one this year," says Woods. "It's a good, solid investment to make. Healthier calves play a major role in influencing my bottom line."

Spring vaccination not only means less animal loss due to disease, but also provides peace of mind for feedlot operators as the overall risk and incremental costs to the feedlot operation is greatly reduced.

"Calves that have been vaccinated in the spring are definitely worth more to the feedlot operation," says Woods. "I think it will become an expectation in the industry. I'm confident that buyers will increasingly concentrate on buying calves that are spring vaccinated to reduce their overall risk and, in turn, will pay less for calves that have not been through the program."

For producers, spring vaccination can be one of the best opportunities to prevent major viral diseases.

Application of spring vaccinations during optimal timing of two to six weeks before weaning is assurance to preventing summer pneumonia and reduced weight gains. Keeping diseases in check will be a rancher's best bet for ensuring a healthy herd each season.



Spring calf vaccination prior to weaning, a straightforward way to ensure herd health and safeguard your investment.

For more information contact your Pfizer Territory Manager, or visit pfizergold.com.



Animal Health



From the Secretary-Treasurer's Desk

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through gaining firsthand knowledge of the benefits and challenges of bovine practice. Contact Bob at phone: 403-527-4345; fax: 403-529-1160; or ruckman@telusplanet.net. He would welcome your call.

I received a nice 'thank you' card from Suzanna Lynde, writing on behalf of the eight WCVM students who will journey to Peru this spring to do volunteer work. Some of you will remember Suzanna who, with her classmate Karen, staffed the WCVM Global Vets Silent Auction at the Calgary Convention. The students raised \$600.00 to support their 2003 trip.

It is well-recognized that the shortage of young people who choose to pursue a career in food animal practice will become increasingly acute in the immediate future. The 2002 Board, with the financial assistance of the Canadian Adaptation and Development Fund, opted to develop promotional materials to address this problem.

Meristem Information Resources Ltd., the company producing marketing materials designed to promote bovine practice to high school and pre-veterinary students, has completed a brochure, which was distributed at the 2003 Conference. A copy is included with this newsletter. The other materials are in the final stages of production. A preview copy of the 12-minute videotape is currently being evaluated by the Board.

Producing these brochures is only part of the job. Developing a means of getting them into the hands of the target audience is equally important. Keeping in mind that there are 683 schools with grades ten to twelve in Alberta alone, the current supply of five thousand brochures will soon be exhausted. Supplying just Alberta's schools could easily consume 10,000 brochures annually. Stay tuned to find out how your Board will solve this problem. 🐾

Ray Butler, Acting Secretary-Treasurer

Health Canada Report Recommends Restrictions on Use of Antimicrobials

The development of resistance to antimicrobial drugs has long been recognized as a serious problem in animal production.

In 1999, the Advisory Committee on Animal Uses of Antimicrobials and Impact on Resistance and Human Health was established by Health Canada to "provide advice and assistance in the development of policy options related to the animal uses of antimicrobial agents."

Committee Chair, Dr. Scott McEwen, Professor of Population at the Ontario Veterinary College, noted that "Most food-borne infections that people get are of animal origin, and evidence indicates that most resistance occurs in these bacteria from farm animals."

In their report submitted last September, the Committee made 38 recommendations. The following twelve were identified as having particular significance for veterinary practitioners:

1. Ensure that regulation of antimicrobials (including licensing, sale, distribution, use, and regulatory compliance) includes consideration of the human health impact of antimicrobial resistance.
3. Develop specific methods and criteria for human and animal health safety assessment of veterinary drugs with respect to antimicrobial resistance as soon as possible.
9. Stop the importation, sale and use of antimicrobials not evaluated and registered by Health Canada. The intent of this recommendation is to stop the "own-use" loophole.
10. The prescribing and pricing of antimicrobials should not result in any incentives to dispense antimicrobials. Study the Quebec approach as a potential national model.
12. Make all antimicrobials used for disease treatment and control available by prescription only.
13. Develop an extra-label use policy, which ensures that this practice does not endanger human health. Such a policy

should include the ability to prohibit the extra-label use of specific drugs of critical importance to human health.

17. Evaluate antimicrobials for growth promotion or feed efficiency using sound risk analysis principles and rapidly phase out antimicrobial claims not fulfilling the following criteria: demonstrably effective; involving products rarely, if ever, used in human therapy; and not likely to impair the efficacy of any other prescribed antimicrobial for human infections through the development of resistant strains.
19. Ensure the appropriate dissemination of food-animal pathogen resistance surveillance data to concerned parties, e.g.: *veterinary practitioners and governments. These data should be available in a form that supports prudent use of antimicrobial use in food animals.*
20. Veterinarians and veterinary medical organizations should effectively implement the prudent-use principles developed by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), and periodically review the principles of their implementation.
21. Provincial licensing bodies and veterinary medical associations should endorse and promote CVMA's prudent-use principles.
22. Only under exceptional circumstances should antimicrobials with unique mechanisms of action or novel resistance patterns in human medicine be used in veterinary medicine.
26. Design and implement a national monitoring program of antimicrobial use in food animals that provides valid data in a timely and methodologically transparent fashion. Design the program to support risk analysis related to human health and policy development related to antimicrobial use. The data should be publicly available.

The full report is published on the Health Canada website: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/vetdrugs-medsvet/amr/e_policy_dev.html 🐾

WHY MORE CATTLE PRODUCERS TRUST PFIZER GOLD TO PROTECT THEIR CALVES' HEALTH



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2001

2002

GROWTH IN PFIZER GOLD REGISTERED PRODUCERS

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For more information contact your Pfizer Territory Manager, or visit pfizergold.com.



Animal Health

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


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M. haemolytica and *H. somnus*

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Doctor: this ad is appearing in producer magazines.