



WCABP

Western Canadian Association  
of Bovine Practitioners



# newsletter

Volume 14 No.2 June 2007

## President's Message



By the time you read this article, I hope that most of you will have survived another successful calving season and are nearing the end of bull testing in your practices. The months seem to pass so quickly, and of course the summer is no exception. I hope everyone finds the opportunity to take some much needed time to relax and enjoy at least a

portion of summer months this year.

The first two quarters of 2007 have been busy for the WCABP, and I would like to thank the Board for their time and commitment. There have been considerable discussions concerning the Enhanced SRM Removal Program, since being introduced by CFIA, which culminated in the WCABP formalizing concerns in a letter asking for clarification on the permitting process. As a result, the WCABP has spearheaded a partnership with the AVMA and CFIA to hold educational seminars in Alberta on the Enhanced SRM Removal Program. It is our understanding that similar seminars have already been held in Saskatchewan. The aim of these seminars is to provide veterinarians with an opportunity to obtain information and ask questions regarding the program. The WCABP appreciates the assistance of the AVMA and CFIA in providing these information sessions.

In addition, the WCABP was asked to respond to the CVMA's Proposed Position Statement on Pain Control in Animals. A document was sent to the CVMA raising a number of concerns regarding both the content and approach taken by CVMA's statement. I would encourage everyone to read the CVMA's Proposed Statement on Pain Control in Animals, as well as the response from the WCABP (see page 14 of this newsletter). Your comments would be appreciated. As well, a letter was sent on behalf of the membership to the CFIA regarding proposed Specified Risk Material (SRM) regulations. Please see our letter as well as the response from the CFIA on page 12.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, there are numerous interesting and challenging issues for bovine practitioners. It can be difficult to keep current on all the relevant topics that affect our clients. Therefore, I would encourage WCABP members to utilize the WCABP organization to assist in that process through continuing education opportunities and consultation with key stakeholders in the cattle industry. As a Board, we rely on the membership to identify areas in which the WCABP organization can bring value to the western Canadian bovine practitioner.

I appreciate being given the opportunity to be involved in an organization that works diligently on current issues and opportunities, while envisioning and planning for future challenges and rewards. 🐾

Enjoy your summer!

Tye Perrett



## contents

- 1/ President's Message
- 3/ Secretary-Treasurer's Report
- 3/ Member News
- 4/ Board of Directors
- 5/ Nomination for Boehringer Ingelheim Vet of the Year
- 6/ 2008 Conference
- 6/ Update on U of C Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- 8/ Livestock Anthrax Facts Sheet
- 9/ WCVM Update
- 9/ Why Use Detectable Needles?
- 12/ Enhanced SRM Regulations
- 13/ Member Profile
- 14/ Pain Control in Animals

The WCABP newsletter can also be found on the WCABP website at [www.wcabp.com](http://www.wcabp.com)

### [www.wcabp.com](http://www.wcabp.com)

- TO KEEP TABS ON  
YOUR ASSOCIATION & YOUR INDUSTRY
- Proceedings from the 2007 Conference
  - Numerous links to sites of interest
  - Latest industry information
  - Vet Advice columns (contributed by WCABP members, and published in the Canadian Cattleman)

[www.wcabp.com](http://www.wcabp.com)

It's tough to spot the calf  
that's spreading BVD through your herd.

You can prevent this if you

# vaccinate your cows.

**NOW  
APPROVED FOR  
PREGNANT COWS  
AND CALVES NURSING  
PREGNANT  
COWS.**

The surest way to prevent your calves from becoming persistently infected with BVD is to vaccinate your cows and heifers with Pyramid<sup>®</sup> FP5, the broadest-spectrum BVD protection available.

If you're not vaccinating your cows pre-breeding, you're leaving your herd vulnerable to Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) and the birth of persistently infected (PI) calves. These PI calves will not show any symptoms but they spread BVD wherever they go. Most PI calves never thrive, and up to 20% of them die before weaning.

#### **Protect yourself. Protect your herd.**

Vaccinate your cows pre-breeding and your calves at turnout, then give a booster to the calves at weaning with Pyramid FP5 for complete protection against Type I & Type II BVD, IBR, PI<sub>3</sub>, and BRSV. Because Pyramid FP5 is administered subcutaneously it doesn't cause tissue damage\*, and **Pyramid FP5 is so safe, it can be used on pregnant cows and calves nursing pregnant cows, provided the cows have been vaccinated pre-breeding with Pyramid FP5.**

Stop worrying and vaccinate your whole herd with Pyramid FP5 this spring. Ask your veterinarian for Pyramid FP5.



**Wyeth**  
Animal Health

\* Van Donkersgoed J, et al. The effects of animal health products on the formation of injection site lesions in subprimals of experimentally injected beef calves. Can Vet J 2000; 41: 617 - 622

© The Wyeth logo and Pyramid are registered trademarks of Wyeth.

© 2006 Wyeth Animal Health. All rights reserved.



**PYRAMID<sup>®</sup> FP5**  
[www.fetalprotection.ca](http://www.fetalprotection.ca)

# Secretary-Treasurer's Report



Deborah has almost closed the books on the 2007 conference and it appears as though we will have turned a profit of just over \$15,000. The majority of this profit can be attributed to a grant of approximately \$8,000 from the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAFS) program. This was "new found" money in the sense that it had not been included in the budget. It

is, however, comforting that even without these funds we would still have turned a profit.

Efforts are on-going on getting the Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (CABV) up and running. In the last month we received correspondence on this file from Corporations Canada. Apart from some minor housekeeping issues, there were no major issues with our filing. Our lawyer has advised that we should obtain our Letters Patent (incorporation papers) within the next 4-6 weeks. Tentatively, we plan on announcing the newly formed CABV at the AABP annual conference, which is being held in Vancouver in September. If you need more information on the AABP conference then please go to <http://www.aabp.org/meeting>.

In keeping with our mandate to provide our members with the most update-to-date information on topics of current interest, the WCABP has taken the lead on organizing two information sessions on the new SRM regulations. These sessions will be held in Calgary and Edmonton on May 30-31 and are being jointly sponsored by the WCABP, AVMA and CFIA.

I am pleased to report that Melodie is well ahead of the curve in regards to pulling together next year's (2008) conference. Once again we will have an international flavour to our conference with Dr. Mark Bryan coming from New Zealand. Dr. Bryan is an internationally recognized speaker and is a part-owner of a 20-person mixed animal practice, with emphasis on dairy. Mark will be providing a variety of talks on dairy, practice management and perhaps an after-dinner talk on his trips to the Antarctic. Melodie has also secured Dr. Peter Constable as a speaker. Dr. Constable is a highly sought after speaker and we were very pleased to hear that he has agreed to attend our conference.

Lastly, considerable effort has gone into updating our Vaccination Certificate Program. We are aware of the need to include additional antigens and some members have requested more sophisticated changes, such as, a link to the CCIA website. Unfortunately, the program has not been as user-friendly as we had hoped and we are currently reassessing our options on how to proceed. We appreciate your patience and hope to have a solution in the coming months.

As a final note, after being in a steady decline, I am pleased to report that we are now holding our own in regards to membership numbers. We have surpassed last year's membership total by 3! 🐾

Respectfully submitted,

Murray Jelinski  
Secretary-Treasurer



## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Lifelearn Inc. offers a wide variety of continuing education opportunities throughout the year. Go to [info@lifelearn.com](mailto:info@lifelearn.com).

**Challenges and Opportunities: A Global Dialogue on Meat Hygiene and Inspection.** The 9th World Meat Hygiene and Inspection Congress is being co-sponsored by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Food Inspection System (FIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture. June 3-6, 2007 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. For more information go to [www.wmhc2007.org](http://www.wmhc2007.org)

**The 59th Annual Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Convention.** July 11-14, 2007 at The Westin Ottawa/Ottawa Congress Centre in Ottawa, Ontario. Contact: Linda B. Huskins, CMP, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, 339 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7K1; tel.: (613) 236-1162, ext. 126 or 1-800-567-2862, ext. 126; e-mail: [lhuskins@cvma-acmv.org](mailto:lhuskins@cvma-acmv.org); Web site: [www.canadianveterinarians.net](http://www.canadianveterinarians.net)

**Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) Conference - September 13-17, 2007 in Regina, Saskatchewan.** Contact: Web site: [www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca)

**CanWest Veterinary Conference.** October 13-16, 2007 at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, AB. Plan now to join the BCVMA and the AVMA for the CanWest Veterinary Conference. [www.canwestconference.com](http://www.canwestconference.com)

## Member News

**Craig Slimmon, DVM, MRCVS - April 26, 1953 - March 20, 2007.**

Charles Craig Slimmon was born in Hamiota, Manitoba. He is survived by his wife Caroline, three children, Jessica, Katy and Patrick, his mother, Ina Slimmon and his siblings, Dianne, Wendy, Trevor, Tannis and Michael. At an early age Craig knew he wanted to become a vet. He studied pre-vet at the University of Manitoba and graduated from the WCV in 1978. He won many scholarships and combined with work in the summers, graduated debt free. Upon graduation Craig began practicing in Souris, Manitoba and then in Winnipeg. In 1981 he took his skills to Zimbabwe where he did locums including one in Bulawayo before settling to practice in Harare. It was in Zimbabwe that Craig met his wife of 21 years, Caroline Wild. Craig and Caroline left Zimbabwe in 1985 to take up work in England. After a short time at a clinic in North Devon he and Caroline moved to Dorset where he practiced at a vet clinic in Dorchester. His speed and skill at doing caesareans learned while on the job in Souris was noted both in Zimbabwe and England. He was very well respected and remembered by professional colleagues around the world. In 1988 his young family moved to Brandon, Manitoba where he worked for two years with Brandon Hills Vet Clinic before branching out and starting the Grand Valley Animal Clinic in 1992. Craig also bought the family farm north of Oak Lake in 1988 and devoted a lot of time to farming with his father. Craig was an accomplished musician and passed on his passion

for music to his children. He lived his life large and touched all those around him with his charm and charisma. He loved to travel and took great interest in world affairs. He was touched by those less fortunate than himself and latterly organized visits to Cuba to donate veterinary supplies to those vets struggling to maintain their practices. He encouraged his children to be involved in this work and in 2006 took daughter Jessica to Madagascar on the trip of a lifetime, making contacts with the veterinary practitioners in that country.

Though his many accomplishments speak for themselves, he was often unable to see or accept them himself. Sadly, Craig's life was haunted by depression. As a result he had difficulty accepting advice from those who made efforts to help. A bursary in Craig's name has been established at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. The bursary will recognize and support a graduating student focus on rural large animal practice. Donations can be sent to the Craig Slimmon Memorial Bursary, WCV, 52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B4 or by phone to 1-800-699-1907. Online forms are also available at [www.gvac.ca](http://www.gvac.ca). 🐾



## WCABP

Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners

## Ray Butler 'Seeing Practice' Bursary Program

Have you considered a donation to the Ray Butler 'Seeing Practice' Bursary? Donations are used to provide bursaries to budding veterinarians who have shown an interest in large animal practice. The future of your practice may well depend upon someone who has taken up large animal practice as a result of a Bursary.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY VETERINARY SCHOOL

Please visit [www.vet.ucalgary.ca](http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca) in order to obtain the latest information as well as questions and answers regarding the establishment of the University of Calgary Veterinary School.



## WCABP 2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**PRESIDENT**  
**TYE PERRETT**  
Feedlot Health Management Services  
Postal Bag 5 7 - 87 Elizabeth Street  
Okotoks, AB T1S 2A2  
Phone: 403-938-5151  
Fax: 403-938-5175  
Cell: 403-710-8567  
E: tyep@feedlothealth.com



**SECRETARY-TREASURER**  
**MURRAY JELINSKI**  
310 Swan Lane  
Saskatoon, SK S7J 5B5  
Phone: 306-966-7166  
Fax: 306-966-1935  
Cell: 270-9118  
Email: murray.jelinski@usask.ca



**PAST-PRESIDENT**  
**DOUG MANN**  
Animal Health Centre  
P.O. Box 1650  
Swift Current, SK S9H 4G6  
Phone: 306-773-4121  
Fax: 306-773-1811  
Cell: 306-741-1838  
E: ahc@t2.net



**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
**MELODIE CHAN**  
Veterinary Dairy Health Services  
5945 Park Meadows Crescent  
Olds, AB T4H 1Y2  
Work & Mobile: 403-559-6352  
Fax: 403-770-8180  
E: lilcowdoc@hotmail.com



**DIRECTOR**  
**PAUL CHRISTIANSEN**  
Market Support Specialist  
Pfizer Canada Inc.  
#322 - 107 Armstrong Place  
Canmore, AB T1W 3L1  
Phone: 403-678-8770  
Cell: 403-461-3759  
Fax: 403-678-8770  
Email: paul.christiansen@pfizer.com



**DIRECTOR**  
**DOUG BAZINET**  
Bazinet Livestock Health Services  
#64 PTH 12 North  
Steinbach, MB R5G 1T4  
Phone: 204-326-3955  
Fax: 204-326-4940  
Cell: 204-321-5100  
E: bazinet@remotesat.com



**DIRECTOR**  
**TRACEY LOGAN**  
Oyen Veterinarian Services  
R.R. #1  
Oyen, AB T0J 2J0  
Phone: 403-664-3849  
Fax: 403-664-2782  
E: oyenvet@telus.net



**DIRECTOR**  
**TRENT WENNEKAMP**  
Lloydminster Animal Hospital  
6002 - 50th Avenue  
Lloydminster, AB T9V 2T9  
Phone: 780-875-5733  
Fax: 780-875-5799  
Cell: 780-808-0099  
E: twennekamp@lah.ca



**DIRECTOR**  
**SYLVIA CHECKLEY**  
Food Safety Division  
Alberta Agriculture and Food  
O.S. Longman Building, First Floor  
6909 - 116th Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 4P2  
Phone: 780-427-8228  
Fax: 780-422-3438  
E: Sylvia.Checkley@gov.ab.ca

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
**PHYLLIS MIERAU/CHERYL PASULYKO**  
112G - 116 Research Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R3  
Phone: 1-866-269-8387  
Fax: 306-956-0607  
Email: info@wcabp.com



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.

## LINK TO CANADIAN CATTLEMEN'S MONTHLY REPORT

General information on the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) can be found on their website at [www.cattle.ca](http://www.cattle.ca). The "Media Room" section provides copies of the latest news and audio releases as well as copies of the CCA Monthly report. Daily updates are available at [www.info-cca.ca](http://www.info-cca.ca).

**2008 WCABP Conference**  
 Wednesday, January 16 to  
 Friday, January 18, 2008  
 Executive Royal Inn  
 Calgary, AB

## 2008 Conference - Call for Practitioners' Case Reports

The WCABP conference organizers would like to extend an invitation to interested members to submit a case report that he/she would like to present as a part of the conference program during our 17th Annual Conference in Calgary, AB January 16-18, 2008. Due to the numerous positive feedbacks that we received from the case reports presented by Drs. Phil Klassen and Gordon Atkins we will once again feature two practitioner case reports as a part of the general program at our next conference.

The purpose of the presentations is to share "real-world" information between bovine practitioners about disease investigations or specific individual animal diseases that have been worked up in the field. The goals are to see how practitioners are able to work through disease investigations in the field and to provide an in-depth review of familiar or unfamiliar diseases that we may encounter day-to-day.

To be considered for the case report presentations, members are requested to submit a summary of the case report to the WCABP by September 1, 2007. Two case reports will be selected by the Board from the submissions received. Presentations should be 30 minutes in length and presented in PowerPoint format. Those members that are chosen to present their case reports will receive complimentary registration for the 2008 WCABP Annual Conference.

Please contact Dr. Melodie Chan (lilcowdoc@hotmail.com or 403-559-6352) for more information.

## Nominations for the Boehringer Ingelheim WCABP Veterinarian of the Year

We urge all members to read the following nomination procedures and selection criteria. It is not too early to start thinking about deserving recipients for the 2008 Award.

### Criteria to consider for nominees:

The veterinarian must be a member in good standing with their respective association, or if retired, to have been a member in good standing at the time of retirement. The Boehringer Ingelheim WCABP Veterinarian of the Year Award nominee should be a WCABP member; however, the Board may choose to recognize a non-WCABP veterinarian who has made a significant contribution to bovine practice in Western Canada. Deadlines for all nominations will be December 1st of each year.

By this award, the WCABP is attempting to honour, or recognize, a veterinarian who embodies some, but not necessarily all, of the following criteria:

- 1) History of service and dedication to veterinary practice and the cattle industry.
- 2) History of service to the veterinary profession, specifically to the WCABP and other Western Canadian provincial veterinary associations.

- 3) Reputation for clinical competency or for being a pioneer or leader in bovine medicine, surgery, or herd health.
- 4) If the nominee is a non-member, then this person must have a national or international reputation related to bovine medicine, surgery and herd health, and their accomplishments must have had a positive influence on bovine practice in Western Canada.

### Nomination Procedure:

A call for nominations will be included in the two Newsletters leading up to the deadline for nominations. A notification for a call for nominations will be posted on the website for at least 90 days leading up to the deadline for nominations. The Secretary-Treasurer (S-T) may elect to send an email to all members requesting nominations.

Each nomination must include a brief biography and a rationale for why you believe this person is deserving of the award. The letter of nomination will be printed in the first Newsletter following the granting of the award. The S-T will collect all the nominations and present them to the Board for review and selection. The S-T will then make contact, at least two weeks in advance of the meeting, advising the recipient of the place and time of the award.

## Bull Evaluation & Barth Manuals

Now is the time to check your inventory of WCABP forms and manuals. Please email/fax/or call the WCABP office to place your order for the following:

Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation or Barth Manuals @ \$20.00 per manual  
 Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation Forms @ \$10.00 for books of 25 and \$20.00 for books of 50

A small shipping charge will be added to all orders to cover shipping and handling.

Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation Forms are also available at Western Drug Distribution Center and Mid-West Veterinary Drug Distribution Center. Please note that the books available at these locations have a tracking number printed on the form.

## Request for Assistance

The following email was received by the WCABP. If you are able to be of assistance, please contact Thomas directly.

*Dear Sir/Madame:*

*My name is Thomas Oppeneiger. I've been working in Austria in a mixed clinic for 3 years now, but before I become a partner in this clinic and settle down finally in Austria I want to go abroad to collect more experience in the field of dairy cows. Canada would be my favorite destination to work as a volunteer for one or two months. I'm looking for experienced veterinarians who could give me this chance. I would be grateful for any help you can give me.*

*With regards,  
 Thomas Oppeneiger  
 Thomas.Oppeneiger@gmx.at*



## CRFID Rebate

You may be eligible for a rebate of up to 50% of the purchase cost of a hand-held or panel livestock radio frequency identification reader through the Canadian Radio Frequency Identification (CRFID) program. For more information call 1-800-667-8567. Application forms are available at [www.agr.gc.ca/fd\\_al/crfid-pclirf/index\\_e.php](http://www.agr.gc.ca/fd_al/crfid-pclirf/index_e.php).

# 2008 Conference - Mark It On Your Calendars!

Planning for the 2008 WCABP Conference to be held at the Executive Royal Inn in Calgary, Alberta is already well underway.

Recognizing that we are constantly faced with changing demands on both our professional and personal lives we have decided to try something different this year - we have scheduled the conference to fall on three weekdays. We understand that weekends are highly coveted times for family and other priorities in life that may (surprisingly) not revolve around the bovine. Therefore, the Conference this year will run from Wednesday through Friday, January 16th to 18th, 2008.

A block of rooms has been reserved for WCABP conference goers at the attractive rate of \$99

(single or double occupancy) if reservations are made prior to January 4, 2008.

Topics for this year will fall under the theme of "Value-Added Services and the Business of Bovine Veterinary Medicine". Under the chairmanship of Dr. Melodie Chan, the planning group has already managed to secure several keynote speakers for January 2008. Dr. Peter D. Constable, BVSc, MS, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM, from the University of Illinois is a much sought-after speaker and was held in very high regards within the field of bovine medicine by the late Dr. Otto M. Radostits. Dr. Mark Bryan, BVMS, MACVSc (Epi), MVS (Epi), will be joining us from New Zealand with a diverse background ranging from veterinarian, epidemiologist and director of a large mixed animal practice to avid climber and skier. Both of these speakers will

be featured in the OMR sessions and the general sessions. Dr. John Tait, BSc, DVM, MBA, CFP, from the University of Guelph will also be joining us with practice management topics that will include succession planning and practice evaluations.

As you can see, there will be a bit of everything to satisfy even the most discerning of palates. This is just a taste of what we have planned for January 2008 so be sure to plan a trip to Calgary for this "must-attend" event.

Watch upcoming newsletters for details of the 2008 Conference as they are confirmed. 🐾

Dr. Melodie W. Chan, DVM

## Administrator's Report

The month of May was busy organizing the two Specified Risk Material (SRM) meetings, which were held in Calgary and Edmonton May 30th and 31st. The WCABP thanks the AVMA and CFIA for their contribution to these meetings.

Time has been spent on preliminary planning for the 2008 WCABP Conference (January 16-18, 2008) at the Executive Royal Inn, Calgary. Please note that the Conference will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday this year rather than the historical Thursday through Saturday.

A reminder that the MEMBER ONLY section of the website requires a Username and Password. Call the WCABP office at 1-866-269-8387 to obtain this information. Please note that the information contained in the MEMBERS ONLY section is provided to you as a privilege of being a member of WCABP, so please ensure that the Username and Password are held in strict confidence and for your own use only. 🐾

Have an enjoyable summer!

Phyllis Mierau  
Administrator

## Update on the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine



The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary has accomplished a significant milestone. In May we submitted what is known as a Self-Study Report to the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) Council on Education (COE) and to the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC). The Self-Study Report is a required document for the accreditation process. It outlines our plans for the program and indicates how we will meet the accreditation standards. For those of you who are interested, a more reader friendly version of the document will be on the website [www.vet.ucalgary.ca](http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca) soon.

A site visit with representatives from the AVMA COE and the CAQC is in June. The AVMA COE meets in September to review the report, and after that, we expect to receive a Letter of Reasonable Assurance that our program will meet the accreditation standards. Student applications would then be received in January 2008 for a September entry. Watch the website for more information about application packages then.

There is still much to do in order to be ready for our first class of students, and, we have many other important activities happening over the next few months. High on our list is signing the Memorandums of Understanding with the Alberta practices that will make up the Distributed Veterinary Teaching Hospital (DVTH) and other institutions and members that will complete the Distributed Veterinary Learning Community (DVLC). The DVLC will be composed of veterinarians and other appropriate educators that provide professional practicum rotations in the fourth year of the program in a variety of settings.

Information packages about the DVTH are going out to Alberta practices now. If you didn't receive a package and want more information, please contact Dr. Eugene Janzen at [janzene@ucalgary.ca](mailto:janzene@ucalgary.ca) or (403)220-6944.

Recruitment of faculty and department heads continues. We now have twenty-nine faculty recruited and we continue to grow. Our clinical faculty are now starting to work in Alberta practices.

The Clinical Skills Building on Calgary's north-west corner is taking shape. This is an artist's rendering of the 80-thousand square foot facility. It is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2008. This is where our students will learn animal handling and basic clinical techniques before they enter the DVTH.

We hope you have a great summer, and look forward to meeting with you soon. 🐾



"UCVM Clinical Skills Building"

Mr. Smith calls Mom when his cattle get sick. She always seems to know what to do to make them better fast.

see?

That makes Mr. Smith very happy. And me very proud.

When I grow up, I want to be a vet, just like Mom.



**When Mr. Smith calls... think Nuflor!**

- BROAD SPECTRUM
- FAST-ACTING
- SAFE AND EFFECTIVE

 Schering-Plough

**Nuflor**<sup>®</sup>  
FLORFENICOL  
It just makes sense.





## Veterinary Practitioner Meetings: Part of the Western Canada and Ontario CanWest DHI Johne's Prevention Project

This Johne's project has been running since May 2005 and is due to conclude in late 2007. To update participating veterinary clinics and interested veterinary practitioners on the results so far, extension meetings will be held in each of the four Western Canadian provinces. The extension meetings are supported by funding from ACAAF and West Gen. Registration is complimentary but required to assist with planning.

The guest speaker for the meetings will be Dr. Mike Collins from Wisconsin. Dr. Collins will speak about methods vets can use to motivate producers to make the changes recommended to help prevent the spread of Johne's infection. He has excellent information to share that stems from his ongoing, long-term, demonstration herds prevention project in Wisconsin. 🐾

For more details contact the project's provincial coordinator in the list below. The meeting dates and locations will be:

- June 26th - Saskatchewan - Saskatoon, Dr. LeeAnn Forsythe - (306) 787-6069
- June 27th - British Columbia - Abbotsford, Dr. Nancy De With - (604) 556-3018
- June 28th - British Columbia - Vernon, Dr. Nancy De With - (604) 556-3018
- September 11th - Manitoba - Winnipeg, Dr. Glen Duizer - (204) 945-4171
- September 12th - Alberta - Airdrie, Dr. Jagdish Patel - (780) 644-5093
- September 13th - Alberta - Edmonton, Dr. Jagdish Patel - (780) 644-5093

## Livestock Anthrax Facts Sheet

by Brandy A. Burgess, DVM and Alisha M. Janzen, DVM, Large Animal Medicine, WCVN

Provided by the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan

**1. What is anthrax?** Anthrax is a disease caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. It has been reported for thousands of years and is found worldwide. There are 3 forms: gastrointestinal, cutaneous, and inhalation. The most common form in animals is the gastrointestinal form. Anthrax is a reportable disease in Canada under the Health of Animals Act. Animal anthrax is a naturally occurring disease, which is a very different disease than the "white powder" made in a laboratory and used for bioterrorism.

**2. How is anthrax transmitted in animals?** Anthrax is not a typical contagious disease. Animals must ingest the spores from the environment. It is, therefore, called an "environmental disease" and not a contagious disease. It is not transmitted from animal to animal and there are not healthy carriers of the disease. The spores are already in the environment from cases of deadly anthrax decades ago.

**3. Who is susceptible?** Most mammals are susceptible, including humans. Herbivores (plant eaters), such as cattle, horses, sheep, goats, bison, elk and deer, are most susceptible.

**4. Is there a vaccine?** Yes, it is made by the Colorado Serum Company. The vaccine is labeled for use in cattle, horses, sheep and goats. It is given subcutaneously. See vaccine label for instructions. Withdrawal time, according to the label, for meat is 42 days after the last dose of vaccine and there is no withdrawal time for milk. Do not treat animals (with antibiotics) within 8 days before or after administering the anthrax vaccine. The vaccine is a modified live bacteria and antibiotics will inactivate the vaccine. The manufacturer indicates the vaccine to be protective 8-10 days after vaccination.

**5. Is the vaccine safe to use?** Yes, if used according to the label instructions. Reported side effects of the vaccine are anaphylactic reactions (rare) and local tissue swelling. The manufacturer suggests that dividing the vaccine dose between both sides of the neck in horses will decrease the local reaction.

**6. What are the common signs of anthrax in livestock?** Animals are typically found dead and may have bloody discharge from body openings. Occasionally, animals will be depressed, off feed, with diarrhea and a high fever for a couple days preceding death.

**7. What do I do if there are sudden deaths of livestock?** Do not touch or move the carcass. Try to prevent scavenging of the carcass and do not open the carcass for an autopsy. Contact the CFIA to test for anthrax.

**8. What is the risk to humans?** Minimal. The cutaneous form is the most common form in humans and is usually not fatal. This form is the result of spores entering the skin through existing cuts/abrasions during contaminated carcass handling. Typical lesions appear as black ulcers on the skin. If you are suspicious of being exposed to anthrax please contact your medical doctor.

**9. What happens if a farm has a positive case of anthrax?** All animals on the farm will be vaccinated for anthrax. The first dose is paid for by the CFIA and any boosters are at the expense of the producer. A quarantine on animal movement will be in effect on the premises for 21 days after the last animal is vaccinated or 21 days after the last positive anthrax case on the premises. However, milk will not be quarantined. An indemnity is paid by the CFIA for animals confirmed by the CFIA to have died due to anthrax. The anthrax positive carcass will be disposed of under the guidelines of the CFIA including deep burial (8 feet or deeper) or incineration and decontamination of the area and equipment used to handle the carcass with lime or formalin.

**10. Life cycle of anthrax:** When an animal dies of anthrax the tissues are loaded with the bacteria. If the bacteria are exposed to oxygen from the carcass being opened they form spores. The spores are very hardy, surviving in the environment for many decades allowing cases to occur sporadically. The spores are brought up to the soil surface by digging and flooding and can be spread by scavengers. Herbivores ingest the spores and they are reactivated in the intestines and release a toxin causing death of the animal.

**11. Do animals survive anthrax?** Prognosis for animals with anthrax is very poor. Some may be treated with antibiotics and supportive care if diagnosis and treatment begin early in disease.

**12. When is it recommended to vaccinate livestock?** Vaccination is required for those premises with a confirmed positive anthrax case and will be administered by the CFIA. It is recommended that all livestock within 10 km of the positive premises also be vaccinated. 🐾

**References:**  
[www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca); [www.facs.sk.ca](http://www.facs.sk.ca) (accessed Aug. 2, 2006); [www.colorado-serum.com](http://www.colorado-serum.com) (accessed Aug. 4, 2006)

**Dairy Comp**  
 Herd Management Software

Developed for  
 dairy producers  
 AND  
 their advisors!

1.800.549.4373

canwestdhi.com

# New "Research Hub" Opens at WCVM

The spring of 2007 marks the beginning of an exciting new era for WCVM's research program: for the first time in its history, the College has a central facility specifically designed to support its diverse, multi-discipline research community.

The 1,468-square-metre, two-storey facility provides the College's scientists with some essential resources: multi-user laboratories and a series of cell culture-manipulation rooms on each floor, a baker's dozen of offices for faculty and visiting scientists, access to specialized equipment and expertise for molecular, cellular and immunological techniques, work spaces for nearly two dozen graduate students, computer work rooms, a cold room, secure storage space for liquid nitrogen . . . the list goes on.

All of these resources will be available to WCVM faculty and students who can access space in the research wing's multi-user laboratories for various periods of time.

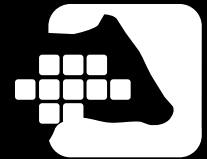
Here are a few more interesting facts about WCVM's new research wing:

- The facility meets Level 2 containment specifications – meaning that work involving agents of moderate potential hazard to personnel and the environment can be safely undertaken in the biosecure research wing.
- Westgen – a western Canadian producer-owned, non-profit society that promotes the use of artificial insemination – contributed \$640,000 toward the facility's construction. The multi-use laboratory on the second floor will be known as the "Westgen Research Suite" in recognition of the donation.
- New research equipment for the facility includes items for molecular techniques, proteomics and genomics as well as for microscopy and reproductive research.



- The research wing will be a base for the Canadian Animal Genetic Resources Centre at the University of Saskatchewan – a new partnership between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), WCVM and the U of S College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Two of the centre's scientists, Drs. Carl Lessard and Muhammed Anzar of AAFC, will be based in the research wing while Dr. Yves Plante – another AAFC scientist – will work in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.
- WCVM's new research wing offers faculty, staff and students a central meeting place with plenty of open space and natural light to encourage creativity, collaborative ideas and a fresh approach to scientific problem-solving. A glass-enclosed "link" to the College's main building on the first floor will be ideal for impromptu meetings and informal presentations, while the second floor's feature area provides faculty, researchers and students with an informal gathering space.

Want to learn more about WCVM's research programs and activities? Download your own copy of the 2006 WCVM Annual Research Report by visiting [www.wcvm.com/collegenews](http://www.wcvm.com/collegenews) or [www.wcvm.com/research](http://www.wcvm.com/research).



"The new research wing offers WCVM's scientists two multi-user laboratories equipped with molecular and cellular technologies. Photo courtesy of WCVM."



## WCABP

Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners



## Vet Advice Columns

"Vet Advice" articles are once again being submitted to the Canadian Cattlemen's magazine. Thanks for the articles I have received thus far, and thanks in advance for those of you on my list to write in the future. After talking with Gren Winslow (Cattlemen's Editor) we have tried to keep things very simple, straightforward, and in a somewhat conversational style – much as you might talk to a client in your practice. There are a few key things we are hoping to achieve with these articles:

- 1) Timely topics, which relate to the phase of the production cycle that we will be in at publication time.
- 2) Articles written in such a way as to encourage future dialogue/business with the producer's herd veterinarian.
- 3) Simple, memorable points which are reinforced to stick in the reader's mind. Think of it as, "The one thing I really want them to remember about my topic is \_\_\_\_\_."

Veterinarians or lay writers have written about most of the pertinent topics, usually in the recent past. We shouldn't try to duplicate the style or content of these articles. Our Vet Advice columns are our place to get through information from the experience of practicing veterinarians, and perhaps sometimes to right some wrongs, or correct misinformation that is out there in the media.

There will be some editing done with articles – Gren tells me we can get back edited material for final review (unless it is so late as to not have the time for that). Remember that we are earning \$150.00 per article for the Ray Butler Bursary, to help our next generation of bovine practitioners to get out and see practice. Please contact the WCABP office (1-866-269-8387; [info@wcabp.com](mailto:info@wcabp.com)) if you would be able to help us with an article. Deadlines are the first of the month for the next month's printing. Happy writing!

Andy Acton

## Why Use Detectable Needles?

Detectable needles are more widely available and their use is supported by the beef industry's on-farm food safety program. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association's Verified Beef Production™ program now includes a recommendation for producers to use detectable needles. Compared to standard aluminum needles, these ones are much firmer, stay sharper much longer and as a result are far more difficult to break.

"Research from the original Quality Starts Here program supported the development of these needles," says national VBP manager Terry Grajczyk. "Among the detectable needle types now available are two types – the Ideal D3 from Neogen and the HDN from Rivard Instruments. An early detectable needle version had some problems with breaking at the hub but the new detectable needles do not have that problem. Plus the costs have come down to that comparable with other needles."

Most traditional needles are not made of a magnetic stainless steel that makes them more detectable in processed meat. These non-magnetic versions are made of austenitic 304 stainless steel and other non-magnetic metals and alloys that are not detectable.

Both types of detectable needles are now available through veterinary drug distribution centres in various sizes and lengths.

Research results from Ag Canada's Lacombe Research Station showed clear results: detection rates for conventional needles at 0 to 8%, and detection rates for detectable needles – 93 to 100%. These results are highlighted for one inch 16 gauge needles over several types of meat cuts.

The use of detectable needles is part of the revised Producer Manual for the Verified Beef Production™ program. This includes simplified standard operating procedures and recommendations geared for practicality. Check out the new manual at [www.qualitystartshere.org](http://www.qualitystartshere.org) or call the provincial VBP coordinator for copies to have on hand at your clinic.

### For more information:

- Rivard Instruments, [www.rivardinstruments.com](http://www.rivardinstruments.com) (204)837-4435 or [cr@rivardinstruments.com](mailto:cr@rivardinstruments.com)

- Neogen, [www.neogen.com/d3.htm](http://www.neogen.com/d3.htm), 1-800-525-2022 or [inform@neogen.com](mailto:inform@neogen.com)

- Atlantic region VBP Coordinators:

British Columbia – Annette Moore 604-859-5962, email: [qfirst@telus.net](mailto:qfirst@telus.net)

Alberta – Elaine Deeg (temp.) 403-936-5991, email: [edeeg@platinum.ca](mailto:edeeg@platinum.ca)

Saskatchewan – Larry Lang (temp.) 306-696-2550

Manitoba – Betty Green 204-372-6492, email: [blgreen@mts.net](mailto:blgreen@mts.net)

# Think Large!



THINK LARGE materials are available from the WCABP Office. Contact us for details!



## Bayer HealthCare Animal Health

**Geoffrey Meadows, BSA**  
Senior Sales Representative

Bayer Inc.  
77 Belfield Road  
Toronto, ON M9W 1G6  
Cell. (204) 793-2837  
Office (204) 453-3333  
Fax (204) 489-1797  
Voice mail (800) 622-2937 Ext. 8634  
geoffrey.meadows.b@bayer.com



## Bayer HealthCare Animal Health

**Tracy Ward, B.Sc., D.V.M., M.Sc.**  
Regional Sales Manager/Field Veterinarian

Bayer Inc.  
77 Belfield Road  
Toronto, ON M9W 1G6  
Tel. (403) 201-4712  
Cell (403) 861-4453  
Fax (403) 201-3643  
tracy.ward.b@bayer.com



## Bayer HealthCare Animal Health

**Brigitta Smith, A.H.T.**  
Sales Representative

Bayer Inc.  
77 Belfield Road  
Toronto, ON M9W 1G6  
Cell (780) 235-1591  
Fax (780) 455-3328  
Voice mail (800) 622-2937 Ext. 8799  
brigitta.smith.b@bayer.com



## Bayer HealthCare Animal Health

**Doug Christie**  
Technical Sales Specialist

Bayer Inc.  
c/o R.R. #1  
Crossfield, AB T0M 0S0  
Cell. (403) 540-1506  
Fax (403) 946-4165  
doug.christie.b@bayer.com

# Bovi-Shield<sup>®</sup> GOLD<sup>™</sup> FP<sup>®</sup>

Protection without compromise.



Bovi-Shield<sup>®</sup> GOLD<sup>™</sup> FP<sup>®</sup>

### Only Bovi-Shield<sup>®</sup> GOLD<sup>™</sup> FP<sup>®</sup> offers the following:

- 365 days of fetal protection against Type 1 and 2 BVD PI and IBR abortion.
- Safe for use in pregnant cows\* previously vaccinated within 12 months.

Protection:	Express 5	Pyramid FP 5	Arsenal 4.1 Starvac 4+	Vista SQ 5	Bovi-Shield GOLD FP
BVD Type 1 & 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BVD Type 1 & 2 Fetal Protection	✓	✓		✓	✓
IBR Fetal Protection				✓	✓
BVD Duration of Immunity				6 months	12 months
IBR Duration of Immunity				6 months	12 months
12 Month Safety Intervals					✓
Pregnant Cow and Nursing Calf Claims		✓			✓

- The Bovi-Shield GOLD Advantage**
- An important part of herd protection
  - Not all vaccines deliver fetal protection
  - The ONLY vaccine that has a full 365-day duration of reproductive protection
  - The ONLY vaccine that can be used in pregnant cows vaccinated within the last 12 months\*
  - Greater flexibility for protocol compliance



Pfizer Animal Health

\* Provided the cow was vaccinated with one of the following within the past 12 months: Bovi-Shield<sup>®</sup> FP<sup>®</sup> 4 L5, Bovi-Shield<sup>®</sup> FP<sup>®</sup> 4 VL5, Bovi-Shield<sup>®</sup> GOLD<sup>™</sup> FP<sup>®</sup> 5 L5, Bovi-Shield<sup>®</sup> GOLD<sup>™</sup> FP<sup>®</sup> 5 VL5, PregGuard<sup>®</sup> FP<sup>®</sup> 9 or PregGuard<sup>®</sup> GOLD<sup>™</sup> FP<sup>®</sup> 10.  
 ® Registered trademark of Pfizer Products Inc.; Pfizer Canada Inc., licensee. ™ Trademark of Pfizer Products Inc.; Pfizer Canada Inc., licensee.



# WCABP

Western Canadian Association  
of Bovine Practitioners



## WCABP Vaccination Certificate Program

The WCABP's Breeding Soundness Evaluation form has become the standard for the beef industry. We believe the WCABP Vaccination Certificate (which was released for sale on April 5th) has the potential to impact the beef industry in a similar fashion. The primary purpose is to allow veterinarians and producers to design, implement, and monitor a herd-based vaccination program. The true utility of the program is that the vaccination program can be verified by generating a Vaccination Certificate that is linked to the CCIA Age Verification database.

There are three parts to the program: 1) Vaccination Protocol Generator, 2) Vaccine Sales Record System, and 3) WCABP Vaccination Certificate.

### This program will assist your practice by:

- providing clients with vaccination protocols in a standardized format
- storing protocols in an electronic format for improved medical records
- easier modification of protocols in future years
- assisting your staff as they dispense vaccines
- compatibility with On-Farm Food Safety and other programs, and
- the WCABP Vaccination Certificate may bring added value to feeder cattle and breeding stock.

Note: Microsoft Access 2003 is required to run the application. The application is provided as an Access database file.

To your order your copy of this program call 1-866-269-8387 or print the order form from the website ([www.wcabp.com](http://www.wcabp.com)). Cost: Members - \$250 + GST; Non-Members \$350 + GST

Please see example of a Vaccination Certificate above. Booklets containing 25 Vaccination Certificate forms (in duplicate) are now also available from the WCABP office.



# WCABP

Western Canadian Association  
of Bovine Practitioners

### Rob Leslie

Sales Manager - Western Division

## Wyeth



### Wyeth Animal Health

Division of Wyeth Canada

519 837 2040 ext. 4384 tel  
519 837 9342 fax  
800 265 7200 customer service  
leslier@wyeth.com  
www.wyethah.com



### Dr. Bill Sanders, B.Sc., D.V.M.

Technical Services Veterinarian

### INTERVET CANADA LTD.

Office: 403.317.2935  
Toll free: 866.317.2935  
Cell: 403.308.3057  
Email: [bill.sanders@intervet.com](mailto:bill.sanders@intervet.com)  
Web: [www.intervet.ca](http://www.intervet.ca)

Lee Irvine  
Sales Representative



Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd./Ltée  
**Vetmedica**  
5180 South Service Road  
Burlington, Ontario L7L 5H4  
Telephone 1-800-263-5103 Ext. 4425  
Customer Service 1-800-567-1885

Jim Armitage  
Cell: 403-341-9444

Messages: 1-800-263-5103 ext 4422#

Email: [jarmitage@bur.boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:jarmitage@bur.boehringer-ingelheim.com)



Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd.  
5180 South Service Road  
Burlington, Ontario L7L 5H4



## MEMBER PROFILE Sylvia Checkley



Sylvia Checkley was born in Edmonton, AB and has lived in the Edmonton area pretty well most of her life.

Sylvia's first two years of post secondary education were in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Alberta where she took two years of pre-veterinary medicine. Sylvia then enrolled in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, receiving her DVM in 1992.

After graduating from the WCV, Sylvia spent 8 years in rural veterinary practice with the Sturgeon River Veterinary Group in the Onoway/Morinville area of Alberta. This was a very busy practice with food animal and companion animal medicine, surgery, obstetrics, and theriogenology. During this time, Sylvia was also able to gain experience with game-farm and exotic animal elective and emergency work.

In 2000 Sylvia returned to WCV to pursue graduate studies in epidemiology. While at WCV, Sylvia also became involved with the disease investigation unit and worked first as a teaching assistant and then as an assistant professor, teaching epidemiology and clinical trial design at the undergraduate and graduate level at WCV. She also authored numerous producer and veterinary articles.

Sylvia is finishing her PhD on 'Antimicrobial Resistance in Feedlot Cattle' and has joined the Food Safety Division at Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development in April 2004. Sylvia leads the Livestock Disease Investigation Network and is helping develop the Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network. She joined the WCABP Board of Directors January 2007.

In addition to her profession, Sylvia has an eight-year-old daughter that helps keep her busy! 🐾

# WCABP's Letter to the CFIA Regarding the Introduction of Enhanced SRM Regulations



February 26, 2007

The Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (WCABP) represents over 250 members who have a special interest in beef and dairy cattle practice. The WCABP agrees that the enhanced feed ban is an important step in mitigating the recycling of prion particles. However, we have a number of concerns relating to the permitting process and the disposal of specified risk materials (SRMs). Regretfully, our concerns are not limited to the substance of the new regulations. We, like many of other veterinary associations, are profoundly disappointed with the lack of a consultative process on this issue.

While the CFIA expects private practitioners to educate producers in regards to the new regulations, we have received little to no training on the subject. The CFIA must become more proactive when it comes to educating veterinarians and producers alike. Information sessions for practitioners regarding the enhanced feed ban would be useful. With regards to the details of the regulations, one of the most basic of questions that needs clarification is "what is the purpose, or desired outcome, of these new permitting regulations as they relate to veterinarians, and how do they contribute to the overall goal of ensuring no SRMs enters animal feed?" We appreciate the utility of tracking the movement of dead stock from farms to rendering plants. However, we are particularly concerned with the scenario in which an OTM dies at the clinic and the need for hauling the carcass to a sanctioned SRM disposal site. This is not only a costly and time-consuming event, but it is also inconsistent with how an OTM that dies on the farm is handled. That is, the producer can dispose of the carcass on the farm without the need of a permit. We fail to see why an animal that dies at the clinic and is returned to the producer for disposal on their premises poses a higher risk than if the animal had died on the farm.

There is also confusion regarding the removal of SRMs, particularly the distal ileum from UTM carcasses. The Veterinarians Section of the CFIA website states that "If you remove the distal ileum from a UTM animal as a service to your client, please provide a signed note stating that the remaining carcass is free of SRM". Why would a veterinarian want to remove the distal ileum as a service to their client? This not only generates more paperwork (permits) but veterinarians must now dispose of the ileum. In the rare cases where the veterinarian could dispose of the material on-site, will they now be deemed to be a waste management site, which creates another level of inspections and permits? We appreciate that removing ileums from feedlot carcasses will facilitate their transport to a rendering plant, etc. However, there is no cogent reason why the typical bovine practitioner, who services the dairy and cow-calf industries, would want to remove the ileum just so the producer can transport the carcass without a permit. Unfortunately, regardless of what the veterinarian does, they will be burdened with paper work and the legal requirement to archive records. If the veterinarian removes the ileum (UTM) then they must generate a note stating the carcass is SRM-free, plus they have the added responsibility for disposing of the ileum. If they do not remove the ileum then they will need to generate a permit to transport the carcass from the clinic.

Routine post-mortem examinations are a central tenet of every good herd health program and disease surveillance system. Therefore we are seeking clarification as to whether permits will be required whenever a producer brings an animal into the veterinary clinic for a necropsy.

The current system of issuing permits for transporting animals to and from veterinary clinics will not mitigate the spread of BSE, but will serve as an impediment to having producers bring animals to veterinary clinics. The WCABP urges the CFIA to amend the permitting requirements to allow all bovines, dead or alive, and regardless of age, to be transported to a veterinary clinic and back home without the need for permits. More specifically, we are seeking relief from the current regulations so that veterinarians can return all SRMs to the producer for final disposal on the property from which they were transported.

Thank you for consideration of this letter and we would appreciate a written reply that we can disseminate to our membership.

Sincerely,  
**Tye Perret**  
President, WCABP

## Response from the CFIA

March 6, 2007

Thank you for your letter of February 26, 2007, outlining your Association's concerns with various aspects of the enhanced feed ban regulations. Our aim in implementing the new specified risk material (SRM) permitting provisions is to provide the necessary information to affected parties and to work closely with all sectors to assist in complying with the new regulations.

On July 12, 2007, new regulations will come into effect, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will begin administering a new permit system for controlling and segregating SRM in bovine carcasses. This is a measure that responds directly to the recommendations of the International Panel of BSE Experts. All SRM, as well as bovine carcasses that contain SRM, will require staining and a permit for transportation, receipt, processing, destruction, and storage, etc. There is no charge for CFIA SRM permits. However, SRM tissues, or carcasses containing SRM, that are submitted directly to a laboratory are exempt from this staining and permit requirement but will require a permit to leave a laboratory.

Clearly, as you noted, the enhanced feed ban is an important step in preventing BSE prion proteins from entering the feed system. The infective dose of prion protein can be as little as a .001 gram of material; thus, it is imperative that the infective tissues be prevented from accessing the feed system. The enhanced feed ban regulations are one element in BSE disease control. Other strategies, currently operational in Canada, include the BSE surveillance system, SRM removal from the food supply, and the traceability system.

With respect to your question on the purpose or desired outcome of these new permitting regulations as they relate to veterinarians and how they contribute to the overall goal of ensuring no SRM enters animal feed, the SRM that leaves the premise of origin could potentially contaminate rendering and feeding systems downstream. The CFIA permitting provisions seek to maintain control of the SRM following departure from the premise of origin. This control extends until the SRM reaches its endpoint at either a containment or destruction facility. Any SRM, regardless of whether it originates from animals older than 30 months (OTM) or under 30 months (UTM), that leaves the premise of origin poses a higher risk to the feed system in Canada.

Although it is conceivable to create scenarios where in the SRM would not pose a risk to the system, the regulations are designed for implementation nationwide and in all bovine sectors. Veterinary clinics are subject to the same requirements as those in butcher shops, auction marts, local abattoirs, and for any other person who handles bovine carcasses or SRM. In fact, some veterinarians in public forums have suggested that they be treated the same as other industry operators and are uncomfortable with any consideration for "special provisions".

Specifically, when veterinarians work with clients, they may wish to minimize the SRM by removing 200 cms of the distal ileum to achieve complete SRM removal in a UTM animal, and subsequently accounting for this procedure with a statement. This could be done on the farm of origin or if performed in a clinic, the remaining carcass could go back to the premise of origin. The CFIA will work with those veterinarians who service feedlots, if they choose to decrease the SRM produced on these premises.

Relating to waste management, veterinary clinics will be subject to municipal and provincial licensing requirements under which they currently operate. While it is acknowledged that handling an OTM in a clinic would create a need for special arrangements, the majority of practitioners suggest that an OTM dying in a clinic is a rare occurrence.

Regarding record keeping, records must be kept for 10 years and include the transporter of the SRM, the weights of SRM, and the final SRM disposal. For practitioners who receive SRM, the CFIA will issue the required permit. Although this practice may be viewed as excessive paperwork, records are integral in accounting for the SRM produced in Canada. In fact, international auditors use these records to verify the level of compliance of the enhanced feed ban in Canada. Demonstrating an effective feed ban is in the beef industry's best interest.

The veterinary community is vital to communicating the rationale for the enhanced feed ban and for the anatomical education as to the location of SRM in a carcass. To this end, private practitioners have played a major role in the past to monitor for reportable diseases that are at risk in the Canadian herd. In the future, the private veterinarian will continue to be the primary link to food animal producers in Canada. Under the current regulations, a permit will be required when a carcass for post-mortem leaves the farm, which may be facilitated by the practitioner or producer to continue current clinical procedures. Permit applications are available at your local CFIA district office, or at the following website: [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca).

I understand that you've had an opportunity to discuss this impending regulation in August 2006, with Dr. Greg Douglas. Although your Association was unavailable at the time for consultation, I understand that communication has occurred recently.

Please be assured that every effort will be made to assist practitioners to comply with the new regulation and with a minimum of impact. The BSE disease specialists are meeting within the next month, and this subject will be on their agenda.

Again, thank you for writing on this important matter.

Respectfully,

**Dr. Francine Lord, Director**  
Animal Health and Production Division

# WCVM Expansion Surpasses Halfway Mark

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine's four-year, \$57-million expansion surpassed the halfway mark this spring – but it wasn't just construction facts and figures that illustrated the reality of this major milestone.

It was also the sight of faculty, staff and graduate students moving their equipment and belongings into the College's new research wing – a 1,468-square-metre, two-storey facility that was ready for its new occupants in late April.

"The research wing certainly isn't the first new facility to open since we began construction on the College's multi-phase infrastructure project in 2004. But because it's beside WCVM's main entrance in a prominent location, many people – including our visitors and alumni – have been watching its progress with great interest," points out WCVM Dean Dr. Charles Rhodes.

"Now, they can see our staff and students in their new work space: it's a clear message that we're making real progress in WCVM's overall expansion."

The research wing joins the growing list of WCVM construction projects that have reached completion in the last two and a half years. The list includes a biosecure loading dock on the College's west side, a new food animal teaching centre, and a renovated and expanded Animal Care Unit.

Another cluster of finished projects is located inside the College's Veterinary Teaching Hospital: a newly-designed large animal chute system, an

equine isolation unit and new stock area for horses, plus larger, remodelled areas for small animal anesthesia, surgery, intensive care and treatment.

As well, WCVM will soon be able to add another major project to the list. The Veterinary Teaching Hospital's two-storey addition on the College's east side is nearing the completion mark with final finishing work wrapping up inside the facility.

What's exciting is that construction crews have managed to stay on schedule for all of the College's infrastructure projects despite the challenges created by a nation-wide shortage of experienced tradespeople and labourers, adds Rhodes.

As well, careful co-ordination of construction projects has allowed WCVM to continue with all of its regular academic activities and clinical services in its Veterinary Teaching Hospital over the past two and a half years.

"Virtually every part of the veterinary college has been – or will be – affected by construction activities. Once people realize that fact, they're amazed that we've been able to maintain the 'business as usual' approach in teaching, research, clinical and diagnostic services for so many months," says Rhodes.

Here's a brief update of WCVM's expansion and renovation projects that are still under construction or in the planning stages:

- Veterinary Teaching Hospital addition: Tradespeople are working on the two-storey

facility's interior finishes. The addition includes additional room for patient examinations, specialized services and small group teaching, new client reception areas for the College's Large and Small Animal Clinics, a larger area for materials management, administrative space, and new garages and office space for the College's field service.

- Diagnostics area: Work on the foundation and supporting walls continues while the erection of forms for a round stairwell has added some height to the construction site, located on the southeast side of WCVM. Expansion of the College's diagnostic area and post mortem room is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2008. Future renovations to various diagnostic laboratories are also part of the overall infrastructure project.
- Large Animal Clinic renovations: Renovation projects in the veterinary teaching hospital's bovine and equine facilities are in the tendering process and will begin later in 2007.

Keep up to date on WCVM's construction projects: visit [www.wcvm.com/construction](http://www.wcvm.com/construction).



"Southeast view of the new two-storey addition to WCVM's Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The addition is expected to be completed in June 2007. Photo courtesy of WCVM."

## EIDAP Livestock RFID Reader



**Handheld Computer with Windows CE.NET Operating System**  
**Reads All Cattle Tags • Cattle Export to USA Program Installed**  
**Age Verification Program Installed as per CCIA Specs**  
**Pocket CowCalf 5 Software Installed**

Delivers the performance, ruggedness and durability required for mobile data collection in harsh environments in a very user-friendly, ergonomic package.

Includes Workabout Pro with ISO 11785 Compatible Reader, Docking Station, Two High Capacity Rechargeable Batteries, 1 GB SD Card

**CCIA Verified:** Eligible for CRFID Reader Program

**EIDAP INC.**  
 ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS

14 CHIPPEWA ROAD  
 SHERWOOD PARK, ALBERTA, CANADA T8A 3Y1  
 TEL.: 780-467-2707 FAX: 780-467-5160  
 E-MAIL: [INFO@EIDAP.COM](mailto:INFO@EIDAP.COM)  
**WWW.EIDAP.COM**



Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd.  
 5180 South Service Road  
 Burlington, Ontario  
 L7L 5H4

Milt LeBaron  
 Home: 780-467-1253  
 Home Toll Free: 1-800-221-8725  
 Cell: 780-707-4373  
 Email: [lebaron@shaw.ca](mailto:lebaron@shaw.ca)



**Novartis Animal Health Canada Inc.**  
 Suite 400, Plaza 3  
 2000 Argenta Road  
 Mississauga, ON L5N 1V9

Territory Managers:

**Trenna Derdall**  
 Saskatoon area  
 306 / 227-9391

**Patty Marsh, DVM**  
 Edmonton Area  
 780 / 995-1170

**Corby Sylvester, B.Sc.**  
 Winnipeg area  
 204 / 745-9554

**Adam R. Carlson, B.S.A.**  
 Southern Alberta & North BC  
 403 / 331-3611

# PROPOSED Animal Welfare Position - Pain Control in Animals

Drafted December 2006

**Position:** "The CVMA opposes the performance of any surgical procedure on any animal without the use of appropriate anesthetic and analgesic drugs. The potential for pain in animals with surgical or medical conditions must always be considered, and such pain should be prevented or treated whenever possible."

**Background:** Nociception and the pathophysiology of pain in mammals are well described (1,2). Species-typical responses to pain are increasingly well understood. Thus the capacity of animals to experience pain is no longer a matter of debate, and absence of pain should not be surmised from the stoic behaviour that is typical of many species (3-5). Instead, a precautionary approach is required, in order to practice veterinary medicine in an ethical and humane manner.

In the case of surgically-induced pain, successful management typically requires the use of analgesic drugs preoperatively and postoperatively, in combinations that ensure intervention at more than one level of nociceptive pathway. The concurrent use of two or more pharmacological classes of analgesic drugs (opioids, alpha-2 agonists, anti-inflammatories, local anesthetics, dissociative anesthetics) generally provides more effective pain control, with fewer side-effects, than therapy with a single drug (1,2). While sedatives (phenothiazines, benzodiazepines) and general anaesthetics (thiopental, propofol, gas anaesthetics) alter the perception of pain, they do not substantially alter nociceptive processing and should not be considered analgesic drugs.

Currently, some anesthetic and analgesic drugs are licensed for use in companion animals, but few are licensed for use in livestock or wild animals. The CVMA recognizes that there is an urgent need to approve anesthetic and analgesic drugs for species used for human consumption, and to provide veterinarians and producers with appropriate withdrawal times for these drugs. There are quality assurance programmes for some livestock species that prohibit the extra-label use of anesthetic and analgesic drugs. It is unlikely that the extra-label use of anesthetic and analgesic drugs in some situations poses a significant risk to human health (i.e. young farm animals that are months away from market, or wild animals anesthetized for research or animal control purposes that are months away from legal harvest seasons). The CVMA cannot support quality assurance programmes that, however, unintentionally, promote inhumane treatment of any species by prohibiting the extra-label use of anesthetic and analgesic drugs.

Veterinarians are obligated to manage perioperative pain effectively, and to be aware of and treat pain associated with medical conditions (5). Performance of any surgical procedure (e.g., castration, ovariohysterectomy, dehorning) in any species without appropriate anesthetic and analgesic drugs is an unethical and unprofessional practice. Given the current lack of anesthetic and analgesic drugs licensed for use in companion animals, livestock, wild animals, or many species used for research, the CVMA supports the responsible extra-label use of these drugs by veterinarians to ensure the humane treatment of animals. The CVMA also urges federal regulators to develop programmes that

facilitate approval of both old and new species-appropriate anesthetic and analgesic drugs, or to exempt most of these drugs from restrictions that unintentionally promote the inhumane treatment of animals.

References:

1. Muir, WW, Woolf, CJ. Mechanisms of pain and their therapeutic implications. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2001; 219: 1346-1356.
2. Lemke, KA. Understanding the pathophysiology of perioperative pain. *Can Vet J* 2004; 45: 405-413.
3. Anand, KJS, Craig, KD. New perspectives on the definition of pain. *Pain* 1996; 67: 3-6.
4. Paul-Murphy, J., Ludders, JW, Robertson, SA, Gaynor, JS, Hellyer, PW, Wong, PL. The need for a cross-species approach to the study of pain in animals. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2004; 224: 692-697.
5. Stookey, JM. The veterinarian's role in controlling pain in farm animals. *Can Vet J* 2005; 46: 453-8.

## WCABP's Letter to the CVMA Regarding the Proposed Position Statement on Pain Control in Animals

March 26, 2007

Dear Dr. Boutet:

RE: CVMA's Proposed Animal Welfare Position - Pain Control in Animals

While the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (WCABP) applauds the effort by the CVMA to promote and support animal welfare, it is extremely concerned with both the wording and intent of your proposed position on pain control in animals. Let it first be stated that the WCABP fully supports the veterinary oath and is committed to appropriate pain control in beef cattle. However, we are particularly alarmed with the opening line of the statement, "The CVMA opposes the performance of any surgical procedure on any animal without the use of appropriate anesthetic and analgesic drugs". This bold, and perhaps ill-conceived statement, mitigates, if not entirely removes, the veterinarian's discretion on whether an anesthetic and analgesia is warranted. Keep in mind that the administration of these drugs can be of themselves painful and every drug has the potential to induce harmful side effects.

Unfortunately, our concerns are not limited to the opening line of your statement, we also found the following statement to be extremely inflammatory, "Performance of any surgical procedure (e.g. castration, ovariohysterectomy, dehorning) in any species without appropriate anesthetic and analgesic is an unethical and unprofessional practice." This statement is extremely provocative and we cannot recall the last time

the CVMA, or any other provincial veterinary association for that matter, labeled a significant percentage of the profession as being "unethical and unprofessional"; by extension veterinarians would be considered unethical and unprofessional should they be aware of any of their clients performing procedures without an anesthetic and analgesic?

As food animal veterinarians, we have always endeavored to pursue a pragmatic approach to animal welfare. Your current position statement will undoubtedly be rejected by producer groups and will not be enshrined in any provincial Veterinary Act, at least not in the foreseeable future. Your Committee must be aware that some Veterinary Acts still allow lay people to castrate horses, and despite our best efforts, the profession has been unable to convince our politicians that such practices are no longer ethically and socially acceptable.

We appreciate that the CVMA needs to be seen as a leader in areas of animal welfare, but it must also be mindful of the industries we serve. The veterinary profession has spent many years encouraging producers to become more aware of animal welfare issues. The shipping of "downer" animals and the timely euthanasia of animals with "cancer eye" are two good examples of how we have moved the entire industry forward. As food animal practitioners, we support the humane treatment of all animals and we are pleased with the progress that we have made over the years in working with producer groups in the area of animal welfare. One of the unintended consequences of your current position will be to marginalize both producers and food animal veterinarians, in which case the animal pays the price.

We would encourage the CVMA to abandon the current statement and to strike a new committee to ensure that food animal practitioners are equally represented. The WCABP supports the CVMA's role in urging "federal regulators to develop programmes that facilitate approval of both old and new species-appropriate anesthetic and analgesic drugs..." This approach by the CVMA would be the most beneficial representation of veterinarians and their patients as opposed to proposing a position statement that accuses and convicts its members of "unethical and unprofessional practice", particularly while these members practice under the limitations of pharmaceutical labeling and food safety constraints. We agree that, "It is unlikely that the extra-label use of anesthetic and analgesic drugs in some situations poses a significant risk to human health (i.e. young farm animals that are months away from market, or wild animals anesthetized for research or animal control purposes that are months away from legal harvest seasons)." However, the CVMA's position statement does not assist the veterinarian in the decision making process relative to human health and food safety that occur regularly in private rural practice.

Respectfully,

Tye Perrett  
President, WCABP

At the writing of this newsletter, a response has not been received from the CVMA. 🐾

## MISSION STATEMENT



WCABP  
Western Canadian Association  
of Bovine Practitioners

The objectives of the Association are:

- 1) To elevate the standards of bovine practice in Western Canada by:
  - a. organizing at least one continuing education conference, per year, dedicated to dairy and beef cattle practice;
  - b. preparing and/or distributing to the membership information that is deemed to be relevant to bovine practice; and
  - c. otherwise encouraging the professional development of each member.
- 2) To promote research into bovine diseases by:
  - a. identifying topics of special interest to the bovine industry that require additional research;
  - b. bringing these topics to the attention of the Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, and any other appropriate institution or organization;
  - c. otherwise encouraging research into beef and dairy production.
- 3) To establish and maintain liaison with appropriate organizations as designated by the Board.



 EXPRESS VERIFIED

You've done all the right things...  
Now you can prove it!

## Express<sup>®</sup> Verified Cattle **Stand Out**

BVD persistently infected (PI) calves can mean real trouble. The new Express Verified Vaccination Program lets you differentiate your calves as guaranteed BVD PI free when you use Express in your breeding herd. Working in conjunction with the CCIA database, it is the first and only program that allows you to easily verify and market your calves as guaranteed to be free of the most economically significant infectious disease of cattle.

**NO OTHER VACCINE CAN DO THIS FOR YOU. ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN FOR DETAILS.**

SCOUR BOS® 9

# SCOURS HAPPENS. REDUCE THE RISK.

Vaccinate your cows and heifers with Scour Bos 9 and spend less time worrying about an outbreak of scours. Scour Bos 9 provides a long duration of immunity. No revaccination is required during calving season, saving you time and money. Vaccinate cows 8-10 weeks and heifers 8-16 weeks before calving starts. Early vaccination means less stress on the cow.

When you vaccinate with Scour Bos 9, you increase antibody-rich colostrum by increasing maternal antibodies during the entire period of colostrum formation. Calves nursing cows vaccinated with Scour Bos 9 receive colostrum that protects them against *E. coli*, rotavirus, coronavirus and *C. perfringens* Type C, four of the most common agents of calf scours. And that means healthier calves and increased weaning weights<sup>1,2</sup>.

Reduce the risk of calf scours this calving season. Talk to your veterinarian about Scour Bos 9.



 NOVARTIS

©2007 Novartis Animal Health Canada, Inc. \*Registered trademark of Novartis AG; Novartis Animal Health Canada, Inc. authorized user.

<sup>1</sup> Bovine Veterinarian, Calf Immunology, February 1996.

<sup>2</sup> Wittum TE, Perino LJ, Passive immune status at postpartum hour 24 and long term health performance of calves. Am J Vet Res, 1995, 56(9) 1149-1154  
05/07-4846