

# CEPTOR



## Animal Health News

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### Scott Gillingham - OMAFRA's new poultry veterinarian



The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is pleased to announce that Dr. Scott Gillingham recently joined Veterinary Science - Fergus as the new veterinary scientist for poultry. Dr. Gillingham is certified with the American College of Poultry Veterinarians and brings international poultry health and industry experience to the work of Veterinary Science in outbreak investigation, technology transfer and disease surveillance. The Poultry Industry Council is partnering with OMAFRA to support and fund this new position. Scott will maintain an office at Fergus and at the Ontario Veterinary College, where he will strengthen the cluster of poultry expertise at the University of Guelph. Dr. Gillingham can be reached at 519-846-3418 or 1-800-265-8332 in Fergus.



Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Veterinary Science - Fergus

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veterinary science, technology transfer,  
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## Cryptosporidium survives manure storage

The report of a field study to examine **Cryptosporidium parvum** in livestock manure storages (10 farms), tile drains (20) and surface water (8 sites) was recently completed **in the watershed of the Thames river in south-western Ontario**. Here are three highlights from this report.

1. **Oocysts do not die-off in swine liquid manure storage.** 22 of 60 samples of liquid manure were positive and viable oocysts were found in 19 of the 22 positive samples.
2. **Concentrations of oocysts were significantly higher in subsurface tile drains from areas with livestock barns** (771 oocysts/100L ) compared to those drains with no barns (323 oocysts/100L).
3. **Surface water samples were found to be positive.** 14 of 32 samples were positive (average concentration was 279 oocysts/100L) with 71% of oocysts being viable.

This study indicates the contribution of many sources of *Cryptosporidium parvum* in the watershed. One potential source of viable oocysts is contamination from livestock. **This highlights the importance of a planned approach and strict precautions in manure handling so that surface water contamination is minimized.** A copy of the full report is available from primary investigator Ron Fleming at Ridgetown College - University of Guelph 519-674-1500 or at the website [www.ridgetownc.on.ca/CoInfo/Research/Current/CurFrm](http://www.ridgetownc.on.ca/CoInfo/Research/Current/CurFrm) Funding was gratefully acknowledged from the National Soil and Water Conservation Program, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and in-kind contributions from the University of Guelph and OMAFRA.

*Ron Fleming, Don Hocking, Heather Fraser - Ridgetown College, University of Guelph*

## David Alves and Paul Innes - OMAFRA West Nile Virus Alert

Veterinarians in Ontario should include West Nile Virus infection as a possible etiology of neurologic signs in domestic animals in 2000. Rabies should be ruled out first, using the usual precautions and steps. If rabies is unlikely or negative, consult the Animal Health Laboratory (University of Guelph) or Veterinary Science (OMAFRA) regarding laboratory diagnosis of West Nile Virus and other causes of encephalitis.

The disease will, likely, first become apparent causing mortality in wild birds, especially crows. Veterinarians and the public are asked to contact the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre regarding unusual mortality in wildlife (see CCWHC following). The virus is transmitted by infected mosquitoes or ticks and may cause encephalitis in many avian species and mammals.

Based on experience in New York State in 1999, horses are susceptible to West Nile Virus infection. Dogs and cats may also be susceptible to this virus. In New York City, seven people died from this disease last September and recent evidence indicates that the virus has over-wintered in the wild bird and mosquito population in the New York area.

In Canada, surveillance in domestic animals, wildlife, mosquitoes and humans has been increased to detect any emergence of this viral infection. If this virus is detected, the public will be alerted to take extra precautions to avoid mosquito bites, and other steps may be taken provincially. Fly-sprays, approved for use on horses, may have some repellent effect for mosquitoes on horses. No vaccines are available for West Nile Virus. The websites listed have further information for your clients. Watch for further information on this virus



from a provincial working group led by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOH-LTC). If you have any questions, please call any of the following numbers:

CCWHC Ontario Region -	519-823-8800 Ext 4556
CCWHC - National information line	1-800-567-2033
Animal Health Laboratory, Dr. Grant Maxie -	519-824-4120 Ext 4544
MOH-LTC, Dr. Dan Strassbourg -	416-314-6197
Veterinary Science (OMAFRA), David Alves -	519-846-3408

[www.ci.nyc.ny.us/home.html](http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/home.html)  
[www.cdc.gov/ncidod](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod)

[www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us)  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ep/WNV/summary](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ep/WNV/summary)

*(Adapted from material prepared by Dr. Jim Goltz - New Brunswick Veterinary Laboratory Services and Dr. Ian Barker, University of Guelph)  
David Alves*

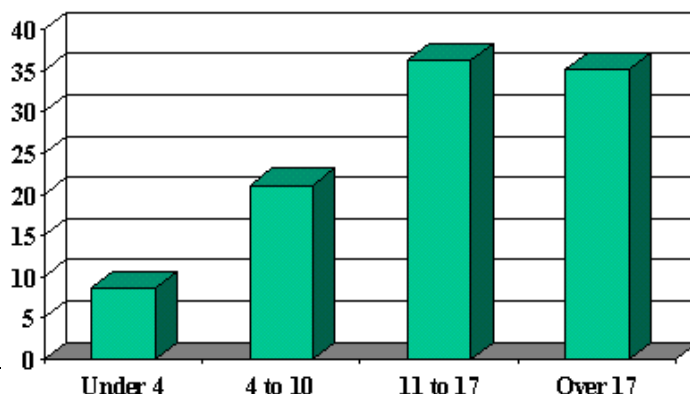
## Biosecurity in layer barns. How do your clients measure up?

Biosecurity in layer barns was featured in a survey of 526 facilities by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System "Layers '99" report. A full copy of the report is available at their web site, [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm), or by calling 970-490-8000. Here are selected results from the study.

1. Fully 68% of farms limited entry to visitors with a business function at the farm.
2. If visitors were allowed, only 62% requested the vehicle to not have visited another poultry farm that day. Only 30% made these visitors park in a restricted area.
3. Clean boots were required on 76% of sites and footbaths were used by 34%.
4. About 34% of farm sites had cattle (only 2% had other poultry).
5. About 30% of sites had downtimes less than 11 days (see Figure 1).
6. 28% of sites had a problem with mice and 8% had on-farm problems with rats.

This work reveals some preventable management practices that put farms at a greater risk of exposing birds to pathogens, and helping adequate contact for infection to occur (and these were likely underestimates). **These and other items in the full report may help start discussions to improve farm biosecurity for your clients.**

**Figure 1. Percent of farm sites by number of days layer houses were empty between flocks in a NAHMS survey of 526 sites in 1998.**



David Alves



## VTEC outbreak associated with a petting zoo



OMAFRA assisted the Middlesex-London Health

Unit (MLHU) to investigate an outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 in October-December 1999 where 159 people became ill. The outbreak was associated with visiting a petting zoo at an agricultural fair. Through follow-up testing, genetic characterization, and a case-control study, the infection was associated with a group of goats and sheep at the farm where the petting zoo animals originated. Confirmed human cases and petting-zoo animals were culture positive with the same pulsed gel electrophoresis pattern of *E. coli* O157:H7 phage type 27 (an unusual phage-type for Ontario). Multiple follow-up testing of the farm animals demonstrated transient shedding of this organism among the small ruminants (sheep, goats, and pygmy goats) on this farm. All other exotic species at this farm, as well as cattle exhibited at the fair, were culture negative. Full details of this investigation are available from the MLHU at 519-663-5317.

This work was a good example of a coordinated outbreak investigation between the MLHU, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, OMAFRA, CFIA, Health Canada, York Region Health Services, London Public Health Laboratory, Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit and the fair board.

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**Veterinary Science - Fergus is running a follow-up field study to assess the risk of on-farm-composting** when animals are infected with a virulent pathogen such as this strain of *E. coli* O157:H7. This is relevant to Ontario as many producers are turning to composting as a means of dead animal disposal.

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The investigation also highlights that co-housed young ruminants can have their gastrointestinal tract transiently colonized with a virulent strain of VTEC. Young children should be discouraged from handling young ruminants if the risk of oral-fecal contact is high and the compliance for proper hand washing is low. A follow-up working group will be making recommendations to reduce the risk of zoonotic disease from animal exhibits.

David Alves

## Leptospira isolated from eyes of horses with uveitis

The October 1999 issue of **CEPTOR** contained a brief report on uveitis in horses. Recent German research sheds new light on this disease.

Recurrent uveitis (periodic ophthalmia or moon blindness) is thought to be an immune-mediated reaction and a sequellae to *Leptospira pomona* infection which occurred months or years previously<sup>(1)</sup>. However, a recent German study isolated leptospires from the eyes of 27% of 130 affected horses. These isolates belong to the *grippotyphosa* serogroup (n = 31) and to the *australis* serogroup (n = 4). This is a remarkable achievement because of the difficulty of isolating this bacterium<sup>(2)</sup>.

In the past antibiotics were indicated when there was evidence of an acute infection or secondary bacterial infections. However, the demonstration of living *Leptospira* in the eyes of affected horses opens the way for studies to determine better ways to treat this stubborn disease<sup>(2)</sup>.

1. Rebhun WC. *Diagnosis and treatment of equine uveitis*. JAVMA, 1979; 175 (8): 803-808. Review.
2. Brem S., Gerhards H., Wollanke B., Meyer P., Kopp H. 35 *Leptospira* isolated from the vitreous body of 32 horses with recurrent uveitis. Berl Munch Tierarztl Wochenschr, 1999; 112(10-11): 390-3. (German).

Bob Wright



## Ontario's BSE surveillance program

As core members of the Ontario Animal Health Surveillance Network (OAHSN), OMAFRA Veterinary Science and the Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph, contribute to national disease surveillance programs that help maintain international markets for Ontario's livestock. One example is the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program coordinated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Statistics are compiled on the number of brains examined histologically and the conditions diagnosed. Table 1 summarizes the diagnoses made by the Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph, for 1999.

International trade requirements increasingly stress the need to demonstrate acceptable levels of surveillance for certain animal and zoonotic diseases, the details of which diseases are of concern, and what constitutes "acceptable" are continuously evolving. It is important, therefore, that Ontario, through OAHSN, continues to take a proactive approach to disease surveillance.

Because laboratory submission forms provide an important source of disease surveillance information, **an accurate history, signalment and impact information** greatly improve the quality of disease surveillance data provided by the Province.

**Table 1. Histologic diagnoses of central nervous system diseases from bovine brains examined in 1999.**

Diagnosis	Number of cattle with central nervous system diagnosis by month in 1999												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Edema	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
Polioencephalomalacia	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	3	7
Septicemia	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	4
Meningitis	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	3	2	1	3	16
Encephalitis	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	8
Malignant Catarrhal Fever	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
ITEME (H. Somnus)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Granuloma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hemorrhage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Listeriosis	2	3	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	14
Rabies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Degenerative condition	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spongiform encephalopathy (non-BSE)*	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>67</b>

\*Non-BSE spongiform encephalopathy diagnosed in 2 beef calves (weight=31 kg, 38.5 kg) from the same premises. The calves were presented because of persistent tremors; a total of 6 calves had the condition. Viral and bacterial pathogens were neither isolated nor identified. Main rule-outs were congenital brain edema of Hereford calves and hereditary neuraxial edema of polled Hereford calves.

*Paul Innes, David Alves,  
Beverly McEwen - Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph*



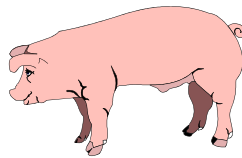


## Ontario Animal Health Surveillance Network web site

The web site of the **Ontario Animal Health Surveillance Network** was recently updated. This site outlines the network objectives, contacts and some examples of surveillance activities in Ontario. **It also demonstrates the strength of the provincial outbreak investigation/extension unit formed by the staff at Veterinary Science - OMAFRA and the Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Guelph.** Check the OAHSN web site out at [www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/infores/oahsn/ahsn](http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/infores/oahsn/ahsn). We thank Andrea Gomirato (OMAFRA) for expert webmaster assistance.



## The Canadian Pork Quality Assurance (CQA) Program needs validators



Approximately 40% of Ontario pork is exported. Over 60 countries around the world purchase Canadian pork products. In the competitive global market for pork, buyers have become more attentive to the quality and safety of the pork on the market. As a result, all major pork-exporting countries have quality assurance programs to assure buyers that they produce pork in accordance with a set of best management practices designed to maximize quality and safety.

The Canadian Pork Council decided that veterinarians are the best individuals to validate farms under the Canadian quality assurance program. Practitioners provide an essential service by applying their expertise in animal husbandry, infectious disease, zoonoses, and pharmacology towards the betterment of quality assurance initiatives. **The validation process is progressing well in southwestern Ontario where over 50 veterinarians are certified CQA validators. However, there are opportunities in Northern and Eastern Ontario where there are few validators and where producers are having trouble acquiring CQA validation.**

Most veterinarians in Northern and Eastern Ontario have only a few swine clients. Nevertheless, all swine herds must be validated. It is also very likely that, in the near future, similar quality assurance programs will be requirements for the other food-producing species. In order to assist your swine clients in achieving CQA validation, and as a first step in getting in line with quality assurance programs for all species, **you should become a CQA validator.**

Validator certification requires attendance at a half-day course. **Please contact Ms. Debbie Dougan at Ontario Pork, 416-621-1874,** to arrange for a validators certification program in your area.

*Tim Blackwell*

***We must dare to think unthinkable thoughts. We must learn to explore all the options and possibilities that confront us in a complex and rapidly changing world. We must learn to welcome and not to fear the voices of dissent. We must dare to think about unthinkable things because when things become unthinkable, thinking stops and action becomes mindless.***

**- J. William Fulbright**



## Dairy cows more comfortable in soft beds

In recent studies at Lennoxville, QC, Jeffrey Rushen and Anne-Marie de Pasillé compared the behaviour of cows kept on concrete stalls with straw, to cows kept on geotextile "mattresses" or soft rubber mats. Cows kept on the softer flooring stand up and lay down almost twice as often as cows kept on the concrete stalls with straw. Once up, the cows stood longer before lying down again. The cows housed on mats lay down for 1.5 hours longer each day.

Rushen and de Pasillé report the main advantages of the softer flooring are apparent when the cows change position - less pressure and pain on the knees when rising or laying down. This explains their willingness to stand up and lie down more readily and may be equally or more important than the extra cushioning for the bony protrusions of the cow when she lies. In another Lennoxville study, they found cows in high comfort pens spent more time lying down and less time standing idle than cows in low comfort stalls.

The Lennoxville research supports the efforts of dairy producers who provide stalls that encourage adequate rest. The rationale for encouraging more resting time hinges on increased blood flow to the udder and increased rumination time when cows lay down. These actions have been associated with greater milk production.

*Abstracted from the proceedings from the conference: "Dairy Housing and Equipment Systems: Managing and Planning for Profitability", February 1-3, 2000, Camp Hill, PA. NRAES Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY*

*Neil Anderson*

***Begin growing from where you are- not from where others think you ought to be by now.***

**- Steven Douglas Lawrence**

## Narrow stalls are the wrong solution

The wrong solution for preventing manure on the stall platforms in free stall dairy barns is to build 44 to 46-inch-wide stalls. Yet, that's the prescription being dispensed to dairy producers across North America. Take that advice and you deprive your cows of their normal resting postures - and, most likely, milk production and healthy feet and legs.



Cows lying corner-to-corner (crossways) in the stalls and manure on the stall corners are the observations that spawned the narrow stall treatment. Narrow the stall partitions, the cows will lie straight, and the stalls will be cleaner is the logic behind the recommendation. Sure enough, it does, but improper stall width is the wrong diagnosis. That's my conclusion after watching hundreds of hours of video footage and on-farm observation of cow behaviour.

**In the majority of barns with a dirty stall problem, low height and incorrect positioning of the neck rail are the reasons for cows standing crossways before lying down.** Once positioned sideways, they lie down sideways. They stand sideways to get extra room to avoid as much trauma as possible when hitting the malpositioned neck rail during lying.

**The ideal treatment for the dirty stall problem (with Canadian Holsteins) is to raise the neck rail so the bottom of it is 50 - 52 inches above the stall mattress, and to position it about 66 inches on the horizontal from the rear curb.**

Be aware that the height and position of the brisket board (or any curb to position the cow in the stall) may also contribute to problems with stall and cow cleanliness. Average sized



Canadian Holsteins need about 70 - 72 inches of platform from the rear curb to any positioning device on the platform. (This position will allow too much platform for first calf heifers, but that's the compromise we make when housing all cow sizes and having only one stall size in a barn.)

With the neck rail positioned at 50-52 inches above the mattress, with partitions spaced at 48 inches, and with 70 inches of platform available for lying, the majority of cows will lie straight in the stall with their tails tucked up on the platform.

I know of three manufacturers and dealers who position the neck rail higher than the standard 42 - 44 inches. PROMAT LTD. takes the prize for the loftiest installations at 52 inches, Houle is next at 48, and BSM has a new partition being placed at 47 inches.

Check with your local equipment dealers; ask about the new installations; and take the time to visit the farms with this leading edge stall installation before you renovate or build your barn. The cows stand straight and lie straight in the stalls. They lie down and stand up without trauma, injury or fear of entrapment. The owners give the new stalls a high rating too.

*Neil Anderson*

### **Raising the bar in tie stalls**

Several owners of tie-stall dairy barns have discovered the merits of raising the height of the single tie-rail in their barns. Some have the tie rail set at 44 inches, while the high end of the range is 48 inches. The measurement is from the top of the mattress or bedding pack to the bottom of the tie rail. In these barns, with the mangers elevated 4 inches above the cows feet,



the bottom of the tie rail can be found at 40 to 44 inches above the manger surface.

The comfort issues in tie stall barns parallel those in free stalls - stall cleanliness, and ease of lying down and standing up without injury or fear of entrapment. The single tie-rail positions the cow for lying down just as the neck rail does in free stall barns. Position it too low and too close to the manger curb and the cows will stand sideways and lie down sideways in the stalls.

At one meeting this winter, two producers described cows being injured (and subsequently destroyed) within a month of moving into their new tie stalls. The tie-rails were set at 40 inches off the mattress and 36 inches off the manger. The story is a common one. Often, owners lower the tie rail assuming it is too high and that it allows the cows to get too far forward. I see the opposite: it is too low. The cows struggle to stand, crawl forward, and become trapped under the tie-rail because it is too low and there isn't enough lunge space. While teaching a cow comfort course last week, I watched with several producers as a cow struggled to stand up in similar stalls - she gave up after many frustrating attempts.

Look for the higher tie-rail to be one innovative solution to some health and behaviour problems cows encounter in tie stall barns.

*Neil Anderson*

***Vision without action is merely a dream; Action without vision just passes time; Vision with action can change the world.***

**- W. Edwards Deming**

***A smile is a curve that can set a lot of things straight.***

**- Anonymous**





## Tools for managing E. coli mastitis outbreaks



Early results from the

Sentinel project in Ontario show the participating producers recorded more cases of clinical mastitis during late summer and early fall. These results, plus our findings during mastitis outbreak investigations during the same period, confirm the need to prevent clinical mastitis attributable to environmental pathogens. Here are the findings from recent research in the Netherlands and opinions about using them to our advantage in Ontario.

Researchers from the Netherlands described the patterns of E. coli (EC) mastitis infection in low SCC (<400,000 cells/ml) herds. Producers from 300 low SCC herds cultured all clinical quarters for 18 months. Intensive study of a subset of these cases involved 75 farms. Researchers wanted to find how often the same cow got repeat clinical cases of EC mastitis in the same quarter and, within the same cow, in different quarters. Using PCR techniques the researchers 'fingerprinted' the DNA and identified the EC genotypes from these cases.

1. EC were isolated from 2247 of all 9186 (24.5%) mastitis episodes.  
Comment: EC mastitis infections are common in low SCC herds. **We need to identify (by milk culture) the bacteria causing problems when we do outbreak investigations.**
2. In 13% of all clinical mastitis caused by EC in the study, different EC genotypes were isolated from recurrent episodes of clinical mastitis in the same cow.  
Comment: **These cows were highly susceptible to recurrent intramammary infections caused by EC.** We need to

identify the high-risk cows. Do they have compromised immune function or are there overwhelming hygiene, ventilation, or management factors increasing their risk of infection? We need to know before advising removal of the high-risk cow or changes to husbandry.

3. About 5% of all clinical EC cases were attributable to persistent quarter infections with the same EC genotype.  
Comment: We commonly expect EC mastitis infections to be of short duration.  
**This research shows persistent infections in the same cow and quarter are part of the epidemiology of EC mastitis.**
4. About 3% of all clinical episodes of EC mastitis were due to the same genotype in the same cow but in different quarters each time.  
Comment: **Transmission of EC strains among quarters within one cow might have occurred.**

With good records (cow identification, quarter affected, date), milk culture, and a critical inspection of the housing and environment, we have the basic information to investigate and advise practices for prevention of outbreaks of environmental mastitis.

*"Recurrent Clinical Mastitis Caused by Escherichia coli in Dairy Cows," Dopfer D, HW Barkema, TJGM Lam, YH Schukken and W Gaastra. J Dairy Sci Jan 1999; 82(1):80-85.*

*Ann Godkin*

***Good judgement comes from experience; and experience, well, that comes from bad judgement.***

**- Anonymous**



## Support needed for Canadian gFARAD Centre

US veterinarians have had access to a food animal residue avoidance databank (FARAD) for 18 years. This computerized database contains up-to-date information on drug residues, residue avoidance and toxicology for food animals. Through gFARAD, a group of experienced pharmacologists and toxicologists provide a residue avoidance decision support system with both telephone and Internet access.

With increasing emphasis on food safety and the prudent use of pharmaceuticals, veterinarians need accurate information on the elimination and metabolism of livestock medicines. Recent Canadian quality assurance programs for pork and beef assume such information is available to practicing veterinarians in Canada. It is not. Canadians do not have access to the gFARAD database. Canada has the opportunity to link with gFARAD worldwide. Access to the information will put Canadian veterinarians on an equal footing with our American and international colleagues when prescribing extra-label medications for food animals.

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine submitted an application for a grant to fund Canadian membership in gFARAD. As with most grants today, the government will match funds contributed by the private sector for those projects deemed of merit. The challenge is to get pledges for the matching funding to accompany the application. We are helping by campaigning for matching funds from all provincial veterinary associations and livestock commodity groups across Canada.

If you believe access to gFARAD is important in attending to your responsibilities in food animal practice, please telephone or write to your species-specific associations (e.g. Bovine, Swine and Poultry Practitioners in Ontario) and your provincial veterinary association. Inform them that you support funding for a gFARAD Centre in Canada. Your support will help a Canadian gFARAD Centre provide an important service for veterinarians and our food animal industry.

*Tim Blackwell and Neil Anderson*

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## Resources

National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS- USA) [Beef '97 information related to Johne's disease and BLV](#) is available from the NAHMS web page: [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm) (see beef cow-calf). The Johne's Info Sheet contains new information. Forty cows were positive (0.4 % of 10,372 cows in 380 herds from 21 states). The 40 positive animals originated in 30 of the tested herds.

Zoonotic disease tutorial on the web. <http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/pbs/zoonoses> It contains photos of lesions, references, and disease presentations in animals and man for over 50 zoonotic diseases.

**PubMed** is the National Library of Medicine's search service that provides access to over 10 million citations in MEDLINE, PreMEDLINE, and other related databases, with links to participating online journals. You will find abstracts or full text for most citations. It is easy to use. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=PubMed>



## **OMAFRA - Veterinary** **Science expands service**

OMAFRA Veterinary Science conducts outbreak investigations, and provides information transfer and disease surveillance on animal health issues important to Ontario.

OMAFRA is enhancing and expanding veterinary science and health management services with the addition of two new employees. Dr. Scott Gillingham will work with poultry and Dr. Jocelyn Jansen will work with ruminants.

Veterinary Science veterinarians assist veterinary practitioners with difficult cases, consult on treatment or prevention options, act as resources for health information, and teach across Ontario. Province-wide, the group tracks and responds to cases that pose significant risk to domestic animal health, related public health or market access. We continue to provide on-farm assistance and work closely with colleagues in government, industry, academia and laboratories (e.g., the Animal Health Laboratory of the University of Guelph). Please telephone, fax or email if we can be of assistance.

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Scott Gillingham	846-34 18	<a href="mailto:scott.gillingham@omafra.gov.on.ca">scott.gillingham@omafra.gov.on.ca</a>
Ann Godkin	846-3409	<a href="mailto:ann.godkin@omafra.gov.on.ca">ann.godkin@omafra.gov.on.ca</a>
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<b><i>Toll free line:</i></b> 1-800-265-8332		<b><i>Fax number:</i></b> (519) 846-8101



## Continuing Education

- April 13, 2000 Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners / Ontario Agri-Business Association - Spring Seminar. Holiday Inn, Guelph, ON.  
Todd Duffield 1-519-824-4120 or fax 519-763-8621.
- May 23 - 25, 2000 Minnesota Dairy Health Conference. Earle Brown Center, St. Paul, MN  
Jan Storebo 1-612-624-3434 <http://www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach>
- May 24 - 25, 2000 Layer School I - Diseases of Laying Hens, Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus, Vet. Diagnostic Lab. <http://www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach>  
Sarah Summerbell 1-612-624-2424
- May 30 - June 1, 2000 Dairy Health Management Certificate Program Annual Educational Update Meeting. Ontario Veterinary College.  
Kathleen Day, Population Medicine, OVC, 1-519-824-4120, or fax 519-763-8621
- June 8 - 9, 2000 Western College of Veterinary Medicine June Conference. Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Saskatoon, SK 306-966-7267  
<http://www.usask.ca/wcvm/juneconf.htm>
- July 2 - 6, 2000 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Animal Hygiene, Maastricht, the Netherlands. Marjolijn Fijten, Royal Netherlands Veterinary Association, PO Box 14031, 3508 SB Utrecht, the Netherlands.  
E-mail: [knmvd@pobox.ruu.nl](mailto:knmvd@pobox.ruu.nl) or visit the website:  
<http://www.knmvd.nl/isah.htm>
- July 5 - 8, 2000 Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Saint John, NB  
1-800-567-2862, X23; <http://cvma-acmv.org>
- August 7 - 11, 2000 International Society of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics Conference, Breckenridge, CO, USA  
<http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/cveadss/isvee.htm>
- August 11 - 15, 2000 Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis, MN.  
1-612-624-3434; <http://www.swans032@tc.umn.edu>
- Sept 3 - 7, 2000 XI International Symposium on Disorders of the Ruminant Digit and III Conference on Bovine Lameness. Parma, Italy. +39-0521-293913  
<http://www.newteam.parma@iolit>



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Topics for future issues include: .....

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**Deadline for next issue:**

**May 15, 2000**

# HAPPY EASTER





