

**Serving Ontario through veterinary science, technology transfer,  
outbreak investigation and animal health surveillance**

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## Happy Trails Again for Dr. Leslie Woodcock

### Happy Trails Leslie

Sadly we report that Dr. Leslie Woodcock is turning in her badge as manager of the Animal Health and Welfare Group for at least a year. As of Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, she continues working within the Food Safety and Environment Division, but for the Chief Veterinarian of Ontario, Dr. Deb Stark, as the Provincial Liaison for Canada-Ontario Meat Inspection Review. Good luck with the project Leslie – hurry back to our group.

In the meantime, Dr. David Alves (Animal Health) and Dr. Robert Vanderwoude (Animal Care) will be the acting managers for the group.

## Encouraging Innovation in Agriculture

**Tim Blackwell and Neil Anderson, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA, and Len D. Lucier, Deloitte and Touche**

There is a story about a young reporter who interviews a very wealthy entrepreneur. “How did you acquire such wealth?” inquired the reporter. “Good decisions son, good decisions.” was the reply. “But how did you learn to make such good decisions?” asked the reporter. “Bad decisions, son, bad decisions.” was the reply. The Canada Revenue Agency through their Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) program can help remove some of the financial burden from livestock farmers who are on their way to making good decisions.

Despite the excellent quality of research performed by professional scientists, some of the most creative and useful innovations in agriculture come from the owners and operators of livestock farms, occasionally in consultation with their herd veterinarian. Seldom, however, can individual livestock farmers obtain grants to experiment with new ways to feed, house, or care for their animals. As a result, creative ideas by livestock producers often go untried and untested. Many producers are risk averse, particularly in difficult economic times, and are understandably unwilling to spend time and capital on experimental techniques that may not prove effective in the end result.

*(Continued on page 3)*

The Canada Revenue Agency's SR&ED program is designed to encourage small businesses to experiment with creative ways to improve productivity and competitiveness. Together with the Ontario incentive, SR&ED tax credits range from 20 to 41.5%, based on eligible expenditures of labour, materials, contract work, and overhead. These credits are cash refunds for most small businesses. Specialists in the SR&ED program are available to assess the eligibility of projects and to assist in the application procedure. These individuals generally work on a contingent basis so that, unless an application is successful, there is no fee for the service. Applications must be made for work that has already been completed and the Canada Revenue Agency is somewhat tolerant of gaps in documentation for first time applicants.

Many problems on farms today require farm-specific approaches. To determine these often unique solutions to a farm's specific production bottlenecks requires a series of trials before an optimal solution is identified. The SR&ED program recognizes this reality and is designed to offset the cost of developing or identifying farm-specific innovative solutions. Although we are often reluctant to talk about a series of failed attempts to develop a solution to a production problem, such a series of failed attempts is exactly what the SR&ED program is designed to compensate. If you know of producers who have experimented successfully or unsuccessfully with innovative solutions to agricultural business problems, they may well be eligible for significant tax credits under the SR&ED program. Encourage them to consult with an SR&ED expert to see if their trials and tribulations qualify.

## **Questions About the Circovirus Inoculation Program?**

***Tim Blackwell and Janet Alsop, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA***

The Circovirus Inoculation Program (CIP) is part of the government of Canada's Control of Diseases in the Hog Industry (CDHI) initiative. Hog owners or herd managers, whose animals were part of a swine herd affected by porcine circovirus type 2 between March 1, 2006 and December 31, 2008, can apply for funding assistance to offset the cost of diagnostic procedures and subsequent vaccination programs. For more information on the CIP, interested parties can call the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada toll-free line at 1-800-667-8567, visit the CIP website at [www.agr.gc.ca/CDHI](http://www.agr.gc.ca/CDHI), or email the program at [CIP@agr.gc.ca](mailto:CIP@agr.gc.ca).

## **Organic Meadow Co-operative Offers a Milk Quality Incentive**

***Ann Godkin, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA***

Wondering why your organic dairy clients are asking about lowering their SCCs and bacteria counts? As of September 2007's milk cheque, they were eligible to receive increased payment for their milk, based on quality. About 60% of organic producers received some form of increased payment on this first incentive cheque.

The November 2007 newsletter from Organic Meadow describes the payment scheme in detail. Quality is assessed quarterly for payment. A producer who achieves the highest level for Bactoscan and SCC will receive a total of 2 cents more per litre for their milk. This translates to an additional \$1200 that quarter for a herd that shipped 20,000 litres per month.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Table 1. Milk Quality Incentive Payment Levels.**

<b>Quality Result</b>	<b>Reward</b>
SCC over 300,000	No reward
SCC 200,000 to 300,000	½ cent /litre
SCC < 200,000	1 cent/litre
Bactoscan over 20,000	No reward
Bactoscan 15,000 to 20,000	½ cent/litre
Bactoscan < 15,000	1 cent/litre

Forty percent of organic producers should be calling you!

## **Can We Prove Mastitis Management Programs Really Work?**

**Ann Godkin, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA**

Evaluating herd management programs can be difficult and, until recently, there have been no good trials showing that a formal management plan worked to reduce clinical mastitis on dairy farms. A recent landmark trial has now been completed in the UK.

Martin Green and associates reported the results of their trial in March 2007 in the *Veterinary Record*. In their trial, 52 herds with more than 35 cases of clinical mastitis per 100 cows during the previous 12 months were recruited for participation. Following a formal selection process, herds were randomly divided into two groups, one of which received the intervention at the start of the trial, and a control group, which received the intervention after one year.

The intervention was a carefully developed management plan, called the “Mastitis Diagnosis and Control Plan,” that was designed, using current research literature, to improve mastitis prevention. As part of the intervention, the herd owner had three herd visits, plus follow-up phone calls to assess compliance, done between April 2004 and May 2005. During the visits, information was gathered on the farm, the herd, management routines for all cattle on the farm, milking routines, facilities design, cow environment and treatment regimes.

As part of the implementation of the Plan, mastitis pathogens in each herd were assessed by milk culture. Based on these findings and the information gathered, existing farm practices were compared to those recommended in the Plan and recommendations for management changes were made. Herd owners were monitored for compliance. Details regarding the recommendations in the Plan, those made on farms and producer compliance are in the full paper.

The researchers were able to demonstrate that the Plan worked. After one year, there was a significant 22-percent reduction in the proportion of cows affected with clinical mastitis on the intervention farms compared to the control farms. Additionally, there was a reduction of 20 percent in first cases of clinical mastitis and in the occurrence of changes in the SCCs of individual cows from below, to above 200,000 cells/ml.

*Green MJ, Leach KA, Breen JE, Green LE, Bradley AJ. National intervention study of mastitis control in dairy herds in England and Wales. Vet Rec 2007;160:287-293.*

## **Veramix® Sponges Off the Market**

**Jocelyn Jansen, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA, and**

**Paula Menzies, Department of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College (OVC)**

Veramix® sponges (Pfizer Canada), a popular hormone product used for the induction and synchronization of estrus in sheep and goats, are no longer available for sale due to a loss of the third party supplier. Veramix® sponges (medroxyprogesterone acetate) have been an integral part of the year-round production of small-ruminant meat and milk products through the induction of estrus out of the natural breeding season. Pfizer Canada, OMAFRA, OVC and the small-ruminant industries are working with the Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) in Ottawa to provide access to an alternative product for small-ruminant producers in Ontario.

We hope to have more information for veterinarians and producers within the next month.

## **Take-Home Messages from the CanWest DHI Johne's Project**

**Ann Godkin, Jocelyn Jansen, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA, and**

**Richard Cantin (CanWest DHI)**

Part 1 (Ontario) and Part 2 (Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia) of the Johne's Project are drawing to a close this fall. Our final report will be circulated to participating veterinarians and will be available on request. In the meantime, here is a summary of what we found to be important.

- The Johne's milk ELISA identified cows that may be shedding, NOT all infected cows.
- Individual cows were tested to establish the status of the HERD.
- Cow testing was used to answer three questions about the HERD.
  - Does this HERD have Johne's?
  - Is Johne's a big or small problem in this HERD?
  - Does the number of infected cows justify changes to calf-management practices?
- Johne's infection limited milk production. Cows with positive tests made 3.3 kg less milk than test-negative herd mates on test day, after taking into account all other factors that could affect milk production.
- Breed mattered. Jersey cows were twice as likely to have a positive Johne's test, compared to Holstein cows. We don't know why. However, with fewer herds to trade cows amongst, the probability of introducing and circulating Johne's may be greater.
- Calves were exposed to the most hazards during the first two months of life. The first day of life was the time with the highest number of risks.

This Johne's project was about calf-herd health. Producers and veterinarians found the standard method of evaluation useful. The project also may have provided some tools and incentive to make calf-herd health a permanent addition to overall herd-health programs. Perhaps more veterinarians and herd owners will use the hazard-assessment strategy to limit Johne's and enhance calf health.

A follow-up project is underway and seeking participation from veterinarians and herd owners involved in Part 1 or 2. This new project will assess changes made, costs to producers and impact on the prevalence of Johne's and other calf diseases. Contact Dr. Riki Sorge, [usorge@uoguelph.ca](mailto:usorge@uoguelph.ca), for more information.

## Survival and Dormancy of *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis*

Neil Anderson, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA

Climatic conditions at the site of this research in New South Wales, Australia, differ from Ontario for some of the year. However, this research answers a few questions often posed by producers. The paper contains graphs showing temperatures and solar radiation during the experiment. It is available at <http://aem.asm.org/cgi/content/full/70/5/2989>.

**Abstract.** The survival of *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* was studied by culture of fecal material sampled at intervals for up to 117 weeks from soil and grass in pasture plots and boxes. Survival for up to 55 weeks was observed in a dry fully shaded environment, with much shorter survival times in unshaded locations. Moisture and application of lime to soil did not affect survival. UV radiation was an unlikely factor, but infrared wavelengths leading to diurnal temperature flux may be the significant detrimental component that is correlated with lack of shade. The organism survived for up to 24 weeks on grass that germinated through infected fecal material applied to the soil surface in completely shaded boxes and for up to 9 weeks on grass in 70% shade. The observed patterns of recovery in three of four experiments and changes in viable counts were indicative of dormancy, a hitherto unreported property of this taxon. A *dps*-like genetic element and *relA*, which are involved in dormancy responses in other mycobacteria, are present in the *M. avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* genome sequence, providing indirect evidence for the existence of physiological mechanisms enabling dormancy. However, survival of *M. avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* in the environment is finite, consistent with its taxonomic description as an obligate parasite of animals.

Whittington RJ, Marshall DJ, Nicholls PJ, Marsh IB, Reddacliff LA. Survival and dormancy of *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* in the environment. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 2004; 70(5):2989-3004.

## Formic Acid Kills MAP at 8 Hours Post-treatment of Raw Milk

Neil Anderson, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA

Acidification significantly reduced the colony forming units (cfu) of *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* (MAP) recovered from raw milk. Lucy Mutharia and Melinda Raymond (University of Guelph) reported their preliminary findings at *The 9th International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis* on October 29, 2007.

The table shows the results from a comparison of milk pH and acidifying agents on MAP viability. Mutharia and Raymond seeded raw milk with  $1 \times 10^4$  cfu/mL of MAP. They reported results as percent cfu recovered after treatment. The shaded rows highlight their findings for pH 4.0-4.5, the recommended range for acidified milk-feeding systems being used in Ontario.

Acidifier	Percent Viable MAP (Madonna strain) After 8 h and 48 h in Acidified Raw Milk		
	pH	8 hours	48 hours
Hydrochloric Acid	5.0	100	100
	4.5	100	100
	4.0	100	64
	3.5	100	54
AgriAcid	5.0	100	100
	4.5	100	100
	4.0	100	40
	3.5	100	10.1
Formic Acid	5.0	91	100
	4.5	89	11.6
	4.0	16	0
	3.5	3.4	1.25

Formic acid was the most effective acid tested in killing MAP. The researchers observed killing by 8 hours. Greater than 90% of MAP were dead at 48 hours post-treatment at pH below 4.0. All acids achieved significant bactericidal activity after 48 hours at pH below 4.0.

(Continued on page 7)

Preliminary findings are encouraging. Since infection may be dose dependent, a significant reduction in the cfu of MAP in acidified raw milk may reduce the hazard and benefit calves. A contact time of 8 hours is practical to apply on farms. The Guelph researchers have more studies underway concerning pH, contact time and MAP viability.

*Mutharia LM, Raymond M. Poster Presentation 156E. Acidification of raw cow milk and effects on the culturability of Mycobacterium avium subsp. paratuberculosis. The 9th International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis, in Tsukubu Japan, October 29 - November 2, 2007.*

## **Check Valves for Gravity-flow Milk-feeding Systems** **Neil Anderson, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA**

Several Ontario producers have automated their free-access, acidified-milk-feeding systems. For gravity-flow systems or those with pumps, the challenge has been finding a suitable check valve. John Ortt, a man who outfitted equipment for a successful outer space project, solved the problem.

Ortt's solution is a plastic check valve with a spring that holds a stainless ball against a seat. After considerable in-house testing, he found one that opens with the vacuum created on a nipple by a suckling calf. The valve does not leak under the head pressure of a few hundred gallons of milk in a bulk tank. The valves have been in use with Peach Teats™ at a veal farm since February 2007.

The photograph shows the plastic check valve with male NPT American Standard pipe thread. The nut has an embossed arrow showing the direction of flow to assure proper installation. A compression tubing adapter is available for connection to a plastic line or it can be fit to a female adapter.



John Ortt advanced automation of free-access, calf feeding by finding the check valve. Interpump Ltd., Fergus, Ontario. 1-800-265-9355, [john@internationalpump.com](mailto:john@internationalpump.com)

## **Keeping the Chill Out of Free-access Milk in Bulk Tanks** **Neil Anderson, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA**

Lawrence Brubacher uses coolant lines in his bulk tank to circulate warm water and keep the chill off milk for his veal calves. A small, hot water heater supplies warm water in a closed loop. A pump circulates warm water from the water heater to the bulk-tank coolant line and back to the drain on the water heater. He plumbed the water-heater cold inlet to his cold-water pressure system. A temperature probe at the bulk-milk tank signals the pump to circulate warm water.

The bulk-milk tank containing acidified milk sits outside the Brubacher veal barn. The bulk tank is the milk reservoir for his gravity flow feeding system. Warm water, from a small water heater, circulates through the cooling coils of the milk tank. Warm water leaves the hot outlet and returns to the drain of the water heater. A temperature sensor automatically starts and stops a circulating pump to keep milk at 20°C.



(Continued on page 8)

Insulation encloses warm water lines going to and returning from the cooling coils of the bulk tank. A heating cable and insulation cover milk lines from the bulk tank outlet and around the plastic barn. Lawrence inserted a check valve (sourced from John Ortt, Interpump, Fergus, ON) into Peach Teats® and threaded the check valve into a fitting in the milk line.

### Acknowledgement

Lawrence Brubacher, his wife and children raise red veal calves in a Harnois plastic barn near Harriston, Ontario. With ingenuity and perseverance, Lawrence automated his free-access feeding system and keeps the chill out of large volumes of milk for calves in his care.

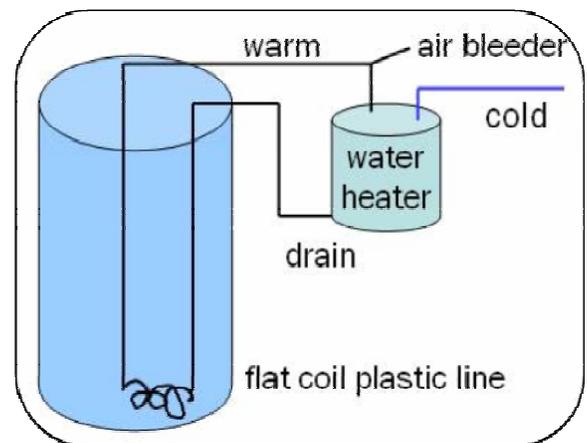
## Using a Water Heater for a Free-flowing Milk Warmer

**Neil Anderson, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA**

Kevin Martin uses a surplus water heater, garden hose, copper tubing, fittings, and silver solder to keep the chill out of free-access milk for his calves.

For his prototype, Kevin fashioned a coil of copper tubing to rest on the bottom of his milk barrel and he soldered hose fittings onto each end. He also soldered fittings to the warm outlet and cold inlet of the water heater. The water-heater drain already had a hose fitting. Kevin put the water heater outside the group calf pen and near his barrel of acidified milk. Using garden hose, he connected the cold water inlet to his water pressure system, one end of the copper coil to the warm outlet, the other end of the copper coil to the drain outlet, and turned on the water source. After adjusting the thermostat to a low setting, Kevin plugged into the electricity.

Kevin Martin's free-flowing milk warmer uses a water heater. The system can be made with a small 110-volt water heater. The target temperature is 20-25°C for milk, so adjust the thermostat accordingly. Calves get diarrhea when offered hot (greater than 25°C) milk in a free-access system. Plastic lines are used to withstand the corrosiveness of acidic milk.



Warm water flows magically without a pump through the copper coil and returns to the drain. Kevin reports his system kept milk at 25°C consistently through the winter. Well almost always. Two or three times, he found the milk cold because the system had developed gas. It needed a good burp, something that can be done by putting a tee and tap at the warm water outlet and attaching another piece of garden hose. This modification makes bleeding easy and provides warm water for washing his boots. Lastly, he cautions against using metal parts in the barrel because the acid is very corrosive. Shut-off valves, plastic tubing and fittings put finishing touches to the plumbing.

### Acknowledgement

Kevin Martin farms in partnership with his dad, Ralph, near Drayton, Ontario. At Joyvin Holsteins, Kevin's idea keeps the chill out, and maintains intakes, of free-access milk for his calves.

## Group Size, Respiratory Tract Disease and Automatic Milk-Feeders

**Neil Anderson, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA**

Ontario producers are gradually buying automatic milk-feeding systems and putting calves into group pens. Manufacturers claim some of their feeders can handle two pens with 30 calves in each. Producers look for labour saving, health and growth with the new technology. However, Swedish research shows automatic milk-feeding systems are associated with increased risk of respiratory tract disease and reduced growth rate in calves kept in large groups. They compared two different group sizes of calves (6-9 versus 12-18) on nine commercial dairy farms. The researchers recommend pens with 10 or less calves.



For the abstract, go to PubMed at [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez) and type in the last name of both authors.

*Svensson C, Liberg P. The effect of group size on health and growth rate of Swedish dairy calves housed in pens with automatic milk-feeders. Prev Vet Med 2006; 73(1):43-53.*

## Hoof Trimming in Sows

**Janet Alsop, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA**

Dr. John Deen and co-workers at the University of Minnesota have recently been experimenting with trimming the hooves of gestating sows<sup>1</sup>. Lameness due to elongated claws is a major cause of culling and euthanasia in some sow herds. If sows hooves were trimmed, this would extend their longevity, thus reducing replacement costs and increasing lifetime productivity per sow. Also, lameness is painful, thus creating welfare concerns. Lameness may be associated with several factors, including conformation, floor surface and housing type.<sup>2</sup> Sows housed on slatted floors may trap their feet between the slats, especially if they have elongated claws, and this can lead to tearing of the dewclaws with secondary tissue swelling or infection.

Pastern angle can affect claw growth. Sows with weak pasterns may be prone to claw elongation due to a change in the wear pattern. Some genetic lines of sows have poor conformation and this may predispose them to abnormal hoof growth. Sows housed in gestation stalls have less opportunity for movement and wearing down of their hooves compared with loose-housed sows. Crated gestation housing could be a risk factor for elongated claws in sows with poor leg conformation.

Since trimming should involve more than just clipping the tips of the toe, and should include actual reshaping of the foot, a method of restraining the sow during the time required to trim the feet properly needs to be used. Deen *et al.* have developed a chute in conjunction with Zinpro Performance Minerals (Eden Prairie, MN) and the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca, MN. The chute was tested in the sow facility at the Waseca facility.

The chute consists of a sling made up of five horizontal rubber belts and three longitudinal rubber belts. The belts are connected to each other in such a way that they provide an opening for each leg and a support extension for the head. The belts are attached to two metal rods on either side. The rods are connected to two electric motors. The sling is enclosed in a metal crate fitted with front and rear doors and lockable wheels.

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The sow enters through the rear door of the crate and the motors are switched on, so that the belt assembly slowly lifts the sow. At the Lemman Swine Conference in September 2007, Dr. Deen presented a videotape that showed several animals having their hooves trimmed by an experienced dairy veterinarian. Surprisingly, the animals remained calm and did not struggle or vocalize, even when their feet were manipulated.

The payback period for the cost of building a chute would depend on the prevalence of the problem in the herd. Based on genotype and other unknown factors, some herds have real problems with elongated claws while others do not. Dr. Deen feels that hoof trimming could easily extend a sow's productive life by at least one parity. The data is limited at this point in time, however. If further work proves this to be economically feasible and effective, hoof trimming of sows in large herds may become as common as hoof trimming of dairy cows.



Figure 1. Before trimming



Figure 2. Same animal after trimming

### References

1. Deen J, Anil SS, Anil L, Baidoo SK. A chute to trim sow claws. *Proc. Allen D. Lemman Swine Conference 2007*:130-131.
2. Anil SS, Anil L, Deen J, Baidoo SK, Walker RD. Characterization of claw lesions in gestating sows. *Proc. Allen D. Lemman Swine Conference 2005*:193-199.

## Dairy Housing Seminars—Free Stall and Tie Stall

### Free-stall Housing

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Jan. 30 & 31, 2008 | Woodstock OMAFRA Office                               |
| Feb. 6 & 7, 2008   | Listowel Agricultural Hall                            |
| Feb. 27 & 28, 2008 | Purvis Hall, Kemptville College, University of Guelph |

### Tie-stall Housing

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Jan. 29, 2008 | Woodstock OMAFRA Office                               |
| Feb. 5, 2008  | Listowel Agricultural Hall                            |
| Feb. 26, 2008 | Purvis Hall, Kemptville College, University of Guelph |

Contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre, 1-877-424-1300.

## **K-Mar Lifter – a Handy Tool for Bovine Foot Care** **Neil Anderson, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA**

Two recent Ontario studies have shown 13-20% of tie-stall cows may be lame. The numbers indicate an ongoing need for care of sore feet. Out on the 8<sup>th</sup> Line, Kevin Martin moved into his new tie-stall dairy barn and found routine foot care a challenge. As many of us have done, he used an overhead beam and rope for lifting hind feet in his old barn. His new barn has a smooth ceiling with no beams. Kevin dreamed up and built a solution.

Kevin Martin's *K-Mar Lifter* has two arms that attach to the divider on each side of the cow. After placing a soft strap around the lower leg, a few quick cranks of the winch lifts the leg into position. The *K-Mar Lifter* is unique because it allows producers to lift a cow's hind leg and trim or treat claws while the cow remains in her stall. With 100% immobility of the foot, treatments are safer for the cow and for the person attending to the foot. The foot is fully exposed for cleaning, trimming or application of bandages.

Kevin Martin's invention adds to health and safety of dairy cattle and their caregivers. He has built 11 Lifters for use by his neighbours. For more information, telephone Kevin at (519) 669-9106.



## **Continuing Education/Coming Events**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Jan. 11, 2008        | Bull Evaluation and Management Conference. Contact David Anderson, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University, (785) 532-4259, <a href="mailto:danderso@vet.ksu.edu">danderso@vet.ksu.edu</a>                           |
| Jan. 15-18, 2008     | Banff Pork Seminar, Banff, Alberta. <a href="http://www.banffpork.ca">www.banffpork.ca</a>   |
| Jan. 16-18, 2008     | Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners 17th Annual Conference, Executive Royal Inn, Calgary, Alberta. <a href="http://www.wcabp.com/">www.wcabp.com/</a>   |
| Jan. 23, 2008        | Vet College, sponsored by Grober Nutrition, Holiday Inn, Cambridge, Ontario. Contact Michelle, 1-800-265-7863 ext. 219, <a href="mailto:marketing@grober.com">marketing@grober.com</a>   |
| Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2008 | 10th Congress of the World Equine Veterinary Association, Congress Centre Holiday Inn Sokolniki, Moscow, Russia. <a href="http://www.weva.info/">www.weva.info/</a>  |
| Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2008 | Ontario Veterinary Medical Association Annual Conference, The Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Ontario. <a href="http://www.ovma.org/upcoming_events/conference.html">www.ovma.org/upcoming_events/conference.html</a>                |
| Feb. 21-23, 2008     | Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians 30th Anniversary Conference, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto, Ontario. <a href="http://www.oavt.org/conference/oavtconf2008short.pdf">www.oavt.org/conference/oavtconf2008short.pdf</a> |
| Mar. 4-7, 2008       | 26th Western Canadian Dairy Seminar, Managing Resources for Increased Profitability, Capri Centre, Red Deer, Alberta. <a href="http://www.wcds.afns.ualberta.ca/">www.wcds.afns.ualberta.ca/</a>                                     |
| May 28-30, 2008      | International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare, Manhattan, Kansas. <a href="http://www.isbcw.beefcattleinstitute.org/">www.isbcw.beefcattleinstitute.org/</a>  |

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Clinic name: .....  
Practitioners: .....  
Mailing address: .....  
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Telephone: ..... Fax: .....  
E-mail: .....

Please return this form with your comments to:  
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Wellington Place, R.R. # 1, Fergus, Ontario N1M 2W3  
Tel.: (519) 846-3409 Fax: (519) 846-8101 E-mail: [ann.godkin@ontario.ca](mailto:ann.godkin@ontario.ca)

Comments: .....  
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**Deadline for next issue:** February 15, 2008



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