As the incoming OABP President, I am excited and admittedly a bit intimidated about the responsibilities required to lead this strong and viable organization. Thank you to Dave Douglas for a job well done as President the past year. Your leadership was exemplary despite being a Senators fan! I also want to thank the outgoing Executive members, Drs. Adam Haight and Lance Males, for their dedicated hard work during their terms on the OABP Executive.

This year’s Annual General Meeting (AGM), held during our fall CE conference in November, was highlighted by awards given to two worthy candidates: the OABP Veterinary Service Award to Dr. Kerry Blagrave and the OABP Award of Excellence to Dr. Kerry Lissemore. Congratulations – well deserved!

Also during the AGM, we welcomed the new Executive members Dr. Jessica Retterath, Dr. Crystal Throop, and OVC student representative Gillian Marson (OVC 2016). Finally, my two new best friends are the OABP first and second Vice Presidents, Dr. Kelly Barratt and Dr. Chris Church. I look forward to working closely with you both in 2013.

I believe we are in the early stages of a major change to how we deliver our veterinary services in Ontario. More of our clients are purchasing technologies to save labour and increase efficiencies in their businesses. These technologies include chemical pregnancy testing, inline monitoring of daily milk components, and sophisticated feed delivery systems. Some will view these changes as a threat to their business while others will see it as an opportunity. I challenge you to take some time during your busy schedules over the next few months to sit down and plan how you will continue to bring value to your clients over the next five years. My goal as President is to provide OABP events in 2013 that will help you begin to navigate through this new technology era.

Merry Christmas! Enjoy some much deserved time off with your families over the holidays.

- Phil
Welcome to the December issue of the OABP newsletter. I’ll start by thanking Adam Haight, our previous editor, and Ruth, our hardworking assistant who have helped with my transition to editor. Please take some time to look through this edition and if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions for articles, news or other items you would like to see in upcoming editions, I would love to hear them. You can contact me at cmiltenburg@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays to you and your families.

- Cynthia
As 2012 draws to a close, so does my term as the Continuing Education (CE) chairperson. The second milk equipment evaluation workshop with Dr. Dave Reid was held in early November. A total of ten people participated with two of these people being milk equipment personnel from area dealerships. This was a unique opportunity to build relationships with the service people who do the work on our clients’ farms. There was very positive feedback from the participants about the experience they gained during the three-day event. Thank you to Dave Douglas, Cynthia Miltenburg, and Ruth Cudmore for making it a success. Well done!

Our fall CE meeting in November included a farm tour which was well received by those who participated. The conference as a whole was an opportunity for Ontario veterinarians to begin building relationships with the companies who are bringing new and exciting technologies to our clients. We received many positive comments both from speakers and participants during this meeting. Based on these comments, I am happy to say it was a great success! Thanks to everyone on the CE committee who contributed to making it a success, notably Ruth Cudmore, Jason Brownridge, and Kelly Barratt.

The evaluation form at our November conference included some ideas for workshops during 2013 to be provided outside of our two main CE events in the spring and fall. Ruth Cudmore will be tabulating the responses on the evaluation forms and the CE committee will begin planning our 2013 CE events once the results are finalized. Watch the OABP listserv for details of these events.

Finally, mark your calendars for the Annual Spring Joint Meeting with OABA scheduled for April 17th and 18th at the Holiday Inn, Guelph.

OABP congratulates Rebecca Cornell for placing first at the Student Case Competition, held recently in conjunction with the OABP Continuing Education meeting in November. Rebecca made a presentation about “Effect of increased protein feeding on Holstein heifer growth in a large Southwestern Ontario dairy herd” which was very informative.

The competition, sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, was open to current OVC students and recent graduates interested in bovine health management. Students were asked to work up an interesting medical/surgical case or project and prepare a written summary of 2-3 pages for submission to a review committee. From submitted papers, three finalists were selected and invited to make a 15-minute presentation as part of the OABP Fall CE agenda on November 15, 2012.

Congratulations to finalists Jenna Donaldson and Dr. Brett Gamble who placed second and third presenting cases entitled “An Outbreak of Viral Respiratory Disease in an Ontario Dairy Herd” and “Aspiration Pneumonia in Holstein Cow Following an Oral Liquid Calcium Drench”.

Below, Dr. Randy Graham, Pfizer Animal Health, presents awards to the three finalists.
CABV PRESIDENT’S REPORT—Dr. Melanie Chan

At a recent bovine veterinary meeting, I proudly included in my speaker bio that I was the current President of the Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (CABV). When the veterinarian introducing me mentioned this particular role, he asked me to elaborate on “what the CABV was all about because this was something new.” This made me realize that despite the fact that the CABV officially came into existence more than five years ago, many of the bovine veterinarians that we represent across Canada are unaware of the role that the CABV plays in supporting their professional endeavours. In the hopes that “someone new to CABV” is actually reading my President’s report, I thought this would be a good time to let them know what the CABV is all about.

The CABV represents approximately 600 veterinarians from across Canada who have a specific interest in bovine health and production medicine. The Board is composed of members who are also representatives on the Boards of Canada’s four regional bovine associations: Atlantic Bovine Practitioners Association (ABPA), l’As-sociation de Médecins Vétérinaires Praticiens du Québec (AMVPQ), Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners (OABP), and the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (WCABP). The corporate objectives of the CABV are to:

1. Provide leadership on issues that are of a national importance to bovine practitioners.
2. Liaison in a timely, unified and efficient manner, with other national associations (i.e. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association) and government agencies (i.e. Canadian Food Inspection Agency), on matters of national importance that relate directly or indirectly to the cattle industry, and more specifically, to bovine practitioners.
3. Coordinate the development and dissemination of position statements and associated correspondence that represents the collective interests of bovine practitioners in Canada.
4. Assist in the coordination and promotion of continuing education programs that are offered by the regional Associations.
5. As designated by the Board, establish and maintain liaison activities with academic institutions, regulatory agencies, and veterinary and agricultural organizations.

Our Annual General Meeting was once again held in conjunction with the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) conference on September 20, 2012 in Montreal, Quebec. As highlighted by our Past-President, Dr. Jean Baril, many of the CABV’s interactions and accomplishments over the past year continue to fulfill the corporate objectives as outlined above, including:

- Working on positions statements with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) involving the Castration of Cattle, Sheep and Goats and the Own Use Importation of veterinary products.
- Providing input to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) with respect to documents involving national farm-level biosecurity standards for dairy farms.
- Actively engaging in organizations directly related to the Canadian cattle industry by providing CABV director representation on advisory boards such as the Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) program and Canadian gFARAD.

We will continue to proudly represent the Canadian bovine veterinary profession. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your local CABV director to learn more about the CABV and let us know if there are any bovine related issues arising that we should be aware about. CABV’s current Board of Directors include:

WCABP: Dr. Melodie Chan, Dr. Dorothy Krysak, Dr. Oliver Schunicht
OABP: Dr. Dave Douglas, Dr. Phil Meadows, Dr. Henry Ceelen
AMVPQ: Dr. Jean Baril, Dr. German Nappert
ABPA: Dr. Wilma Schenkels, Dr. Frank Schenkels
One of the benefits of being a member of the Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (automatic with OABP membership) is having access to the “FORUM”. Located on the CABV/ACVB website (www.cabv.ca), the “FORUM” is an opportunity for members across the country to communicate on matters of mutual interest. In order to access this discussion area, login as follows: Username: bovine   Password: bovine

Once you have logged in you are able to view any topics that have been posted on the Board Index, however, in order to contribute, you must register by:

- Entering your Username (this will be the name that you will be identified as on the Forum so ideally please use your first initial and last name).
- Entering your email address and password.
- Click on User Control Panel and then Profile tab. Please fill in the mandatory fields which are indicated by an asterisk. In the Association field indicate your regional association affiliation (OABP).
- You will receive confirmation of your registration via email from CABV/ACVB.

Once successfully registered, go to the Board Index and then the CABV Forum. You are then able to post a “Topic” or “Reply”. You will receive an email notification anytime a new “topic” or “reply” is posted.

If you have any questions, contact Phyllis at the CABV/ACBV office at 306-956-3543 or email to cabv.acvb@sasktel.net.

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This fall semester has come off to a great start for the Bovine Club here at the OVC. Our annual steak barbeque was a hit this year, leaving our club members happily bloated! We have had a number of interesting lunch talks including: talks on welfare by Dr. Margit Bak Jensen and Dr. Jennifer Walker who were both in town for the Dairy Cattle Welfare Symposium; a talk by Dr. Chris Clark on Malignant Catarrhal Fever in Bison; a Vetoquinol sponsored talk on biosecurity; and most recently a talk sponsored by Merck on the impacts of endometritis on reproduction.

Students from all years went to the OABP fall continuing education conference and enjoyed the various speakers and the bus tour. Brett Gamble, a recent graduate, and two current students Rebecca Cornell and Jenna Donaldson, participated in the OABP/Pfizer case competition.

Through support from the OABP and the Bovine Education Trust, a record 28 students attended this year’s AABP conference in Montreal. Several events such as the Student Delegate Program and the Quiz Bowl fostered student participation. Students greatly appreciated the opportunity to benefit from exposure to the latest research, practical advice at the Practice Tips session, and networking with students and professors from other universities, and practitioners as a whole.

I would like to extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to present a lunch talk or has an idea of an event we can run. Please feel free to contact me, Gillian Marson at gmarson@uoguelph.ca.

**RESEARCH UPDATE**

The University of Guelph High Immune Response (HIR) technology continues to prove itself as a useful new breeding and management tool to predict immune response capability and improve disease resistance of dairy cattle.

The Semex Alliance will soon launch a line of elite Immunity + sires that have superior breeding values for immune response based on the HIR technology. The inventor of the technology, Professor Bonnie Mallard (OVC, Dept Pathobiology) and her team, will also be testing more cows this year in Ontario and beyond as part of a research project to look at genomic and other aspects of the HIR test.

Prior to herd testing, veterinarians working within these test herds will be contacted to be informed and educated about the test procedures.

Bovine practitioners wanting more information on HIR or those interested in participating in upcoming HIR workshops and webinars in 2013 are encouraged to contact Dr Mallard at bmallard@uoguelph.ca.
The effect of respiratory disease and a preventative antibiotic treatment on growth, survival, age at first calving, and milk production of dairy heifers

Bovine respiratory disease complex (BRD) is a common disease in weaned dairy calves that incurs economic and welfare costs. This study was an extension of a randomized clinical trial in which a single injection of tulathromycin (TUL) or oxytetracycline (TET) was administered at first movement to group housing for the prevention of BRD in the 60 d following antimicrobial treatment (BRD60). Calves treated with TUL were 0.5 times [95% confidence interval (CI): 0.4 to 0.7] as likely to be treated for BRD60 as calves treated with TET. The objectives of the current study were to evaluate the long-term effects of BRD and antibiotic treatment on growth of heifers until breeding age, age at first calving, incidence of dystocia, milk production, and mortality before first calving and mortality before 120 d in milk. At entry to the breeding barn (382 d of age), calves that experienced BRD60 weighed 16.0 ± 2.3 kg less than calves that did not. Survival to first calving was recorded for 98% (1,343/1,392) of the heifers on this trial. For TET and TUL heifers with BRD60, 63% (94/150) and 73% (64/88) survived to first lactation, respectively. For TET and TUL calves without BRD60, 84% (436/517) and 84% (494/588) survived to first lactation, respectively. The median age at first calving for heifers with and without BRD60 was 714 (95% CI: 705–723) and 702 (95% CI: 699–705) days, respectively. Heifers with BRD60 were 1.5 (95% CI: 1.1–2.2) times more likely to have a calving ease score ≥2 at their first calving compared with heifers without BRD60. The administration of TUL at movement to group housing may have a role in the prevention of BRD and in mitigating some of the long-term effects of this disease.


Herd characteristics and cow-level factors associated with Prototheca mastitis on dairy farms in Ontario, Canada
Pieper L, Godkin A, Roesler U, Polleichtner A, Slavic D, Leslie KE, Kelton DF.
Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1G 2W1

Prototheca spp. are algae that cause incurable acute or chronic mastitis in dairy cows. The aim of this case-control study was the identification of cow- and herd-level risk factors for this unusual mastitis pathogen. Aseptically collected composite milk samples from 2,428 milking cows in 23 case and 23 control herds were collected between January and May 2011. A questionnaire was administered to the producers, and cow-level production and demographic data were gathered. In 58 of 64 isolates, Prototheca spp. and Prototheca zopfii genotypes were differentiated using PCR and matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry. All isolates were identified as Prototheca zopfii genotype 2. The mean within-herd prevalence for Prototheca spp. was 5.1% (range 0.0–12.5%). Case herds had a significantly lower herd-level prevalence of Staphylococcus aureus and a higher prevalence of yeasts than did control herds. The final logistic regression model for herd-level risk factors included use of intramammary injections of a non-intramammary drug [odds ratio (OR) = 136.8], the number of different injectable antibiotic products being used (OR = 2.82), the use of any dry cow teat sealant (external OR = 80.0; internal OR = 34.2), and having treated 3 or more displaced abomasums in the last 12 mo OR = 44.7). The final logistic regression model for cow-level risk factors included second or greater lactation (OR = 4.40) and the logarithm of the lactation-average somatic cell count (OR = 2.99). Unsanitary or repeated intramammary infusions, antibiotic treatment, and off-label use of injectable drugs in the udder might promote Prototheca udder infection.

The four-year Ontario Johne’s Education and Management Assistance Program wraps up over the next ten months, ending in October 2013. So far approximately 50 to 60% of producers per county have participated in the testing and Risk Assessment and Management Plan program. The final three windows for testing will be completed as of May 2013.

Herd owners who still wish to participate but missed their original opportunity, or who tested once but wish to test a second time, will be allowed a final chance for participation. For herd owners planning for the future, the program provides a chance to identify the level of infection in their herd and to get farm-specific veterinary advice on how to prevent Johne’s spread via RAMP (Risk Assessment and Management Plan) completion.

For the upcoming final part of the program, the Ontario Johne’s Program working group has created the following plan for additional participation. Note that if your clients wish to enroll a second time they need to sign up in advance.

Two testing and participation opportunities are offered:

- Herd owners that have never participated can herd test between Feb 1st and Mar 31st, 2013.
- Herd owners that have previously participated can herd test between April 1st and May 31st, 2013.

For all testing under the Ontario Johne’s program, a Testing Submission Form, available on the Johne’s website (www.johnes.ca) must be completed and submitted with milk or blood samples. Prior sign up is not required for herds participating in the program for the first time.

Sign up is required for herd owners wishing to test a second time. This enrollment starts January 2nd, 2013. Enrollment is “first come, first serve”. The number of herds able to be tested a second time will depend on the funds available. The date and time of sign up will be noted, starting January 2nd, and the signup list will be used to determine the order of inclusion should demand be greater than funding allows. Herd owners accepted for a second round of participation will receive confirmation from the Johne’s program co-coordinator.

To sign up, a request must be sent to either johnes@uoguelph.ca or to 226-979-1664. The request must include the producer’s DFO license number, full herd owner name, and phone number or email address.

Program activities for this final round of testing are the same as those for the original program and are explained in more depth on the Johne’s website at www.johnes.ca

Testing can be done using either DHI test day milk samples (at CanWest DHI) or blood samples (Animal Health Laboratory, Guelph). Producers are referred to vets for details. Non-DHI herds should contact DHI if they wish to test using milk samples. Testing is for the lactating cow herd only.

(cont’d…..)
Test costs of $8 per cow are rebated provided enrollment is accepted in the program and the full components of the program are completed. To receive reimbursement enrolled producers must complete the RAMP with a trained vet practitioner. All High Titre (HT) cows found on testing (HT cows are those with test results of 1.0 or higher, but are NOT all positive cows) must be disposed of by burial, composting or deadstock removal. HT cows continue to be eligible for reimbursement provided disposal is done as required and prior to the next calving after testing.

All program requirements must be completed within 90 days of test date.

Herd owners participating for a second time, and who have completed a RAMP within the 12 months prior to their second herd test, will be exempt from completing an additional RAMP.

For more information contact the program directly at johnes@uoguelph.ca or 226-979-1664. Further information is also available from Ann Godkin, OMAFRA, Elora ann.godkin@ontario.ca or 519-846-3409.
At OABP’s November continuing education meeting, two awards were presented to very worthy recipients.

**Dr. Kerry Lissemore** was presented the **OABP Award of Excellence** by Dr. David Kelton. Following is the nomination letter submitted by Dr. Jamie Hobson:

> **Dr. Lissemore has long been involved in the Ontario bovine veterinary community and has had a key role in leading the bovine veterinary profession into the modern world of population medicine and dairy information management with the introduction of Dairy Comp 305 to Ontario. This has immensely helped bovine veterinarians and their clients make rational, evidence-based decisions for their operations.**

> **Dr. Lissemore’s more recent roles at the Ontario Veterinary College have been organizational in nature as the Acting Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, OVC. Kerry’s low key, calm and organized approach is well suited for making the immense machine that is OVC run efficiently. One of the greatest lessons I have taken away from Kerry is to deal with adversity in this calm approach. Another trait of Kerry’s worth mentioning is his endurance. He seems to tirelessly go from one problem or issue to another and quietly gets things resolved.**

> **Over the years, Kerry has mentored many veterinary and graduate students in various ways: as an instructor in the DVM curriculum, an advisor in the graduate program, and now as acting Dean of Academic Affairs. Finally, in an effort to further the learning experience of bovine oriented students at OVC, Kerry initiated a collaboration between the OVC and OABP to start the Bovine Education Trust. The BET is an endowment fund aimed at providing the necessary funds to allow final year veterinary students to obtain learning placements thereby enabling them to excel at bovine veterinary medicine.**

> **Finally, in describing Kerry as a person, one would have to describe him as humble, polite, extremely intelligent, and an excellent problem solver and organizer. In his interactions with people it is obvious how much he respects them and in doing so generates respect for himself. His inclusionary approach is to be commended and celebrated.**

**Dr. Kerry Blagrave** was presented the **OABP Veterinary Service Award** by Dr. David Hunsberger. Following are some excerpts from letters of support received by Drs. Neil Anderson, Kevin Kieffer, and Bruce Robinson:

> “Dr. Blagrave earned professional degrees in cattle nutrition and veterinary medicine in preparation for a distinguished 36-year career. Kerry has demonstrated considerable energy, skill and talent in the provision of dairy cattle nutrition, herd health, preventive medicine, clinical practice, and extension education to his clients. He also made significant contributions to his community and his veterinary profession with his volunteer activities. On a daily basis, Kerry shows that he understands farming and cares about the well-being of his clients and their cattle. He is excellent at working with people and has used (cont’d……)
VETERINARIAN RECOGNITION (cont’d)

these skills well in leadership roles in veterinary medicine (e.g. OABP) and human medicine (e.g. Listowel Memorial Hospital, South West Health Integration Network) as a volunteer on their Board of Directors. Heartland Animal Hospital and Veterinary Services has grown in size and reputation because of Kerry’s noteworthy contributions to a caring workplace.”

“Dr. Blagrave has set a high standard for veterinarians in general and for dairy practitioners in particular. He has been a leader among veterinarians in developing a holistic and encompassing approach to dairy practice, whereby he advised his clients in areas that were non-traditional then, but seem common place now. In this way he has helped our producers to look to us to help them in virtually all aspects of their operation.

Dr. Blagrave was, and continues to be a fixture at continuing education presentations, thus remaining "cutting edge" in his grasp of the scientific literature in his field of specialty.

As well, and just as important, he is always generous in his willingness to help other veterinarians, within and outside of his practice, in the pursuit of excellence.”

"Kerry has dedicated his veterinary career to dairy practice and improving the quality of life for the dairy cow and the dairy farmer.

He was an important early partner in the development of the Listowel practice and has left a legacy of a dedicated practice team as he moves to spend more hours with his grandchildren.”

Congratulations to Dr. Kerry Lissemore and Dr. Kerry Blagrave for this well-deserved recognition!
GOING GREEN

In an effort to “go green”, the Executive are trying to be more environmentally friendly and in so doing, propose a move from mailing a paper copy of the OABP newsletter to delivering it electronically to all members. Currently, 68% of the membership are still receiving paper copies of the quarterly newsletter. Over the next year, or so, the goal is to have 100% of the membership electronic. This would decrease expenses dramatically (photocopying, envelopes, postage), decrease the time from final edit to arrival in members’ hands, plus save a bunch of trees in the process!

Beginning in March 2013, unless a paper copy is specifically requested, we will email an electronic version to the email address we have on file. Newsletters will be available two ways—e-mailed as an attachment via the members’ listserv, as well as a link in the email directing members to a copy on the OABP website.

If you have any questions, or wish to check your email address in the OABP membership database, please contact Ruth Cudmore at oabpruth@bell.net or Cynthia Miltenburg at cmiltenburg@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 17-19, 2013 Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners 2013 Annual Conference, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. www.cabp.com

January 27-29 National Mastitis Council 52nd Annual Meeting, Omni Hotel, San Diego, California. www.nmconline.org

February 6 & 7 Canadian Dairy Xpo, Canada’s National Dairy Showcase, Stratford Rotary Complex, Stratford, Ontario www.dairyxpo.ca

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF BOVINE PRACTITIONERS

Promoting bovine medicine for the Veterinary Practitioners of Ontario

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