Dear Members of the OABP:

At our June 15th meeting, the Executive received a letter of resignation from Dr. Jamie Hobson, our Vice President. Jamie is recovering from surgery for testicular cancer and his prognosis is very good. Jamie wishes to remain as a Director but not actively participate in Executive activities at this time. The letter was accepted with regret, total understanding, and support. Jamie has been a great contributor to your OABP association. Jamie’s message is “May I suggest a monthly ‘herd check’ and the use of our sensitive palpation skills on ourselves! Early detection will save lives!”

I am pleased to inform you that our new Vice President is Dr. Rod Wieringa. Thank you Rod for filling this position. I look forward to working with you in your new role.

Our Executive continues to be an active voice for our membership. At present we are providing comments for the species-specific prudent use guidelines for the administration of antimicrobials to dairy animals. The creation of a Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners continues to be an active project. Our goal of increasing membership continues. Our Executive will be sending a letter of invitation to join our association to all bovine practitioners not currently members.

The Continuing Education Committee presented “Managing Milk Components – What Does the Future Hold?” on Thursday, April 20 at the Holiday Inn, Guelph. This was a joint meeting involving the Ontario Agri-Business Association and the OABP. Dr. Staples and Dr. Richard Wallace presented cutting edge information on rumen dynamics, fat metabolism in the rumen, ration formulation and their impact on milk components. Evaluations of the presenters and their topics were very positive. The day ended with Dr. Al Mussell, George Morris Centre, discussing the “Canadian Quota System Today and Beyond”. Everyone appreciated his knowledge of the quota system, as it is today and how the present pricing of milk to processors has created the opportunity for processors to import cheaper oil -blend products. The oil-blend products are displacing milk as an ingredient in many dairy products.

Our fall CE will be held on November 30th at the Holiday Inn, Guelph. Dr. Jeff Stevenson will lead a ‘Reproductive Symposium’. Mark the day on your calendar to learn about new research on reproductive needle programs, reproductive economics, the impact of anestrus in dairy herds, and more.

I wish everyone a great summer. I hope you are able to have some holiday time away from practice life.

- Wayne
Summer is here. We had planned to add a few new features to the newsletter, but it seems everyone involved is enjoying the great weather and out of the office. So watch for more additions to the next newsletter.

In the meantime, I hope you get a chance to take some time away from practice and partake in some relaxation. Remember: if you watch the game, it’s relaxation. If you play the game, it’s recreation. If you work at the game, it’s golf.

Here’s to a happy and safe summer for all.

- Andrew
Hello all. I thought that I would take a moment to share something of my experiences out here in East Central Alberta. I am working on a 8500 acre ranch operated by Charles and Nora Gould. I arrived in early May. Charles and Nora elect to calve their cows in June and background them in their own feedlot over the winter. A few days after I got here last year's calves were loaded onto cattle liners and taken to Western Feedlots where they are finished. I was in charge of counting while they were being loaded, and got to see inside the cattle liners (while the calves weren't in there . . . ;) ). We were checking the cows every other day at that point, while watching their fifteen goats very closely. In mid to late May they started to kid, and I got to put my hand in and assist a few times, which was a first experience for me.

In late May we moved the cow herd from the pasture where they wintered to the calving pasture. It was an eleven mile trek. I rode in the truck for the first part, and then I was given a horse and allowed to ride along and drive them for the last few miles. It was one of the neatest things I've ever done!

A few days after we moved the cows they started calving. They were on a half-section (320 acres) with a few low bushy areas and one big coulee that we had to check each day on foot. We rode in a truck with a calf chute/scale bolted into the back. When we spotted a calf, I'd hop into the back of the truck in the corner behind the driver (usually Nora) with the calf hook. Most of the time the calf is less than a day old, so the catch is not too difficult. However, occasionally we miss calves, and have to catch them when they are older. This means that I have to grip the edge of the box with my elbows and dig my boot toes into the grooves in the truck bed, while the truck roars around in circles and I try to hook the calf's back leg, avoiding the irritated mother. The biggest calf I have pulled into the box myself was 116 lbs. I have been to the chiropractor once so far :).

Over 200 of the 325 cows are now calved out, and the goats are all finished. They are hoping to hay soon, but we have been getting quite a bit of rain. I have heard that the weather at home has been great for haying.

Well, that's all for now. This has been a great experience for me so far and I am learning a lot about beef cattle, among other things. I am trying to keep up with the OABP emails . . . there are quite a few! :)

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**OABP WEBSITE UPDATE—Dr. Jim Fairles, Webmaster**

Hi all, this is a brief update on the OABP website www.oabp.ca. As with any site, it is important to keep updating with new material. If you would like to add items, pictures, etc. I would be glad to accept! By the time you read this I should have more added to the members side of the site (newsletters, Executive meeting minutes, meeting speaker files, etc.). You will need the user name and password to access this. Since this newsletter is a more public document, I am not going to include those here. Please email me if you need the username and password (jim@skyvet.com).

We are updating our email list and I have set up a new listserv where we can send general communications to all OABP members who have supplied an email address (and kept it current!!). If you have not supplied your email address and would like to be informed of OABP happenings and issues by email, please email the information to our Executive Assistant, Ruth. Once you have been added to the list, this address will be available only by the OABP Executive to send messages to the membership.
The following abstract from the Population Medicine Dairy Health Management Group is being presented at the annual American Dairy Science Association Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota this summer:

**Effect of isoflupredone acetate with or without long acting insulin on postparturient energy metabolism in lactating dairy cows**

Seifi\(^1\) H.; LeBlanc\(^2\) S.; Leslie\(^2\) K.; Duffield\(^2\) T.  
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\(^2\)Department of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Canada

Glucocorticoids are commonly used to treat cows with clinical ketosis and fatty liver disease. This study investigated the effects of isoflupredone acetate (IA), alone or with long-acting insulin, on the energy metabolism of early postpartum dairy cows. A total of 1162 Holstein cows and first lactation heifers received, by double blind random assignment, one of three treatment regimens between the day of calving and 8 DIM. The treatments were: 20 mg IA IM plus 100 units of insulin SC; 20 mg IA IM plus sterile water SC; 10 ml sterile water IM plus 1 ml sterile water SC (controls). Serum samples obtained at the time of treatment, and at weeks 1 and 2 following treatment, were analyzed for \(\beta\)-hydroxybutyrate (BHBA), non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA), glucose, calcium, potassium, sodium and chloride. Data were analyzed using a repeated measures mixed model that accounted for the effects of parity, BCS, and the random effects of cow and farm. BHBA and NEFA concentrations at 1 week following treatment were significantly higher (P<0.02) in both treatment groups compared to control cows. In addition, cows that received IA plus insulin had lower glucose (P<0.01) concentrations at 1 week after treatment. Calcium concentrations were significantly lower (P<0.01) for cows treated with IA plus insulin, and IA alone, in week 1. Sodium, potassium and chloride concentrations were not influenced by treatment. Among 190 cows that were ketotic before treatment, neither treatment improved resolution of subclinical ketosis (SCK; \(\geq 1400 \mu\text{mol/l}) relative to control animals. In fact, cows receiving both IA and insulin tended (OR=2.0, P=0.06) to be more likely than controls to remain ketotic at 1 Week after treatment. Among 972 cows that were not ketotic at enrollment, cows that received IA plus insulin, or IA alone, were 1.7 and 1.6 times more likely, respectively, to develop SCK 1 week after treatment.

**Bottom Line:**

1. Practitioners should where possible avoid the use of steroids in clinically healthy postpartum dairy cows.  
2. Steroids on their own or in combination with insulin do not appear to be effective treatments for ketosis.

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**CABP REPORT—Dr. Brian MacNaughton**

A Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (CABP) listserv has been established through the University of Guelph thanks to Dr. Walter Johnson. Included on the listserv are representatives from all four regional bovine veterinary associations in Canada - WCABP, OABP, AMVPQ, and the ABPA. Dr. Murray Jelinski of the WCABP, along with myself and Dr. Randy Graham of the OABP, sent a letter to the AMVPQ in Quebec and the ABPA in Atlantic Canada on March 20th, 2006 via the CABP-listserv outlining our proposal for how we feel the CABP should function and a “draft” copy of the proposed by-laws. These proposals were sent to these two associations for their consideration and comment. To date, we have heard some feedback from the AMVPQ but nothing from the ABPA. We will keep you posted as things evolve.
Over the last few OVMA Board meetings, several issues of interest to the OABP were discussed. They include:

1. **Species-Specific Prudent Use Guidelines for Antimicrobials from the CVMA**

   At both the OABP and OVMA meetings, several items in the proposed guidelines were contentious. In particular, the second phase (which will identify specific bacterial diseases of beef, dairy, poultry and swine and the first and second line antimicrobials to treat these infections), and the third phase (one common infectious disease will be selected and a decision tree on which to base treatment decisions will be formulated). The objections to these phases were two-fold: that this would be undermining veterinary prescription privilege and will restrict the practitioner from performing the art of veterinary medicine; and that these guidelines will someday become regulation. The Phase One document was deemed to be acceptable.

   To help resolve the issue and to provide some clarity, the OVMA invited Dr. Tim Blackwell, Chair of the CVMA Guidelines Committees, to discuss the guidelines with the OVMA Board. Dr. Blackwell was very effective in ameliorating the concerns. He stressed that the final document will be filled with statements that indicate the CVMA Prudent Guidelines are just that—GUIDELINES. He could not promise however, that these guidelines would not become regulation, nor that they would become incorporated in the commodity-specific quality assurance schemes. In spite of this, the OVMA Board endorsed the initiative. And, looked forward to more communication from the CVMA species-specific committees.

2. **Livestock and Poultry Council (LPC)**

   The OVMA (as does the OABP) has a seat on the LPC. The primary mandate of the LPC is to assist livestock and poultry producers and veterinarians to prevent disease outbreaks and prepare to respond effectively to those outbreaks should they occur. As such, there was a simulation that occurred in Perth County in December, 2005. Other simulations are planned to better prepare all concerned parties.

   The stakeholder groups involved in the LPC are now asked to contribute monies to fund the LPC. The OVMA is committed to help fund the LPC following the funding guidelines provided by the LPC.

3. **Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) Publication: “The Real Dirt on Farming”**

   OFAC has produced an excellent thirty-two page primer aimed at the non-farming public to better educate them on the roles, practices and economics of modern agriculture. The OFAC asked for the OVMA’s assistance to distribute the publication to veterinary practices across Ontario as waiting room material. The OVMA agreed to assist the OFAC in this regard. I encourage each of you to place this publication in your waiting rooms, and to take the opportunity if it arises to answer any questions your clients may have. The booklet addresses all the controversial issues (from the non-farming public’s perspective) head-on.

4. **Training Veterinarians in Biosecurity and Emergency Preparedness**

   OMAFRA is working with partners and stakeholders to improve their detection and response capabilities under the concept of “provincial” biosecurity. Veterinarians are an integral part of the system and must be included in the process. Industry groups have identified vets as a potential source for the introduction and spread of diseases, and are concerned about the perceived lack of awareness and
standard procedures for on-farm biosecurity. Additionally, biosecurity protocols for veterinary facilities are as important as they are on farms.

OMAFRA is interested in working with the veterinary profession, through the OVMA, to provide educational and training resources to vets for the purpose of improving their component of provincial biosecurity. These projects could be developed and delivered with OMAFRA and industry input, and administered through the OVMA. The OVMA endorses the initiative and looks forward to working with OMAFRA in the delivery of the project.

5. CVO Position Statement on Delegating Auxiliaries in Large Animal Practice

This policy has been in place for several years, and is up for review. The OVMA asked the affected species group organizations (OABP, OASP, and OAEP) for their input. Representatives of these groups indicated that they had not encountered any problems with the policy. OVMA lent their support as well.

6. Canadian Veterinary Reserve Program

This program is a joint CFIA and CVMA initiative that aims to provide a sufficient arsenal of appropriately trained professional staff in the event of a catastrophic animal disease occurrence or a public health emergency. It is conceded that in the event of such an occurrence, that the present Public and Animal Health personnel may not be able to adequately manage the disaster.

The development of a private sector capacity is a warranted investment in the current global threat environment as well, and that this reserve may be needed at both the national and international level. The role of the reserve could have wide-ranging capabilities including sentinel surveillance, on-farm safety and eco-system programming, animal welfare, public awareness/education/communication, and zoonoses control.

This program plans to solicit private practice veterinarians to become involved, train them and have them available if such a need occurs.

The federal government has not provided funding for the program, but it is felt that this will forthcoming in the relatively near future.

The OVMA supports the initiative, however made it clear that participating private practitioners should be remunerated appropriately for their involvement, and not be expected to “donate” their time and effort.

Dr. Rod Wieringa, OABP Vice President, presents the OABP Award to recipient Dr. Melissa Wallace, OVC 2006.

This award is presented annually to a student in the graduating class of the Ontario Veterinary College who has demonstrated proficiency in the area of bovine herd health management and an interest in bovine practice.

Congratulations, Dr. Wallace.
Hi all. I have been asked to give an update on happenings at the Animal Health Lab. Some pertinent points are listed below. Please feel free to give me a call if there are any questions about lab related issues. You can use my cell number (519-323-5558) so we don't get into that telephone tag thing!

- AHL is embarking on a **new computer system**, which should be ready for implementation in the new year. We are interested in feedback as we redesign submission forms, reporting formats, etc. We may be contacting you for input from time to time. Thanks in advance for the feedback!
- In our current system, we now have **on-line results** look-up available. Please phone or email and we can set you up. This is always useful if you were like me in practice and were looking through results after hours and didn't have all that you were looking for available.
- For those that are working with Drs. Godkin and Jansen with **Johne's herd protocols**, we do have available the Johne's Bactec fecal culture system if you are looking to confirm MAP shedders in the herd. High shedders can be positive within two weeks. A negative result is reported at the end of eight weeks. Direct PCR is also available (less sensitive).
- In Bacteriology we routinely do Kirby Bauer **susceptibility testing** according to CLSI standards. We also now have available susceptibility testing via MIC's (minimal inhibitory concentrations). Interpretation is more complex and we are developing training material.
- We now offer **Colostrum and Bedding bacterial counts**. Please call for further information.

And finally, just a reminder that meaningful laboratory results are directly dependent on the quality of the submission. Separating serum, slides made fresh from EDTA blood, separate bagging of tissues, 1:10 tissue to formalin ratio, good histories, preserving the cold chain with ice packs, all go a long way to getting the best results.

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**P R A C T I C E  T I P S — S H A R P S  D I S P O S A L**

For disposal of "sharps", we use a company called Medical Waste Management in Brampton (1-866-836-6660). We order a box of 4 sharps containers (each 5" X 5" X 12" high) for $49.95. The price includes disposal. If clients are interested (we sell some to dairy farms), we sell them a sharps container for $20 (includes disposal) and they bring it back to us when it is full. When we have a full box, we fax a form back to the company, and they arrange for Purolator to pick it up. The company also has a "pharma pail" program. It is basically a five gallon lined bucket that we throw expired drugs into. It also costs $49.95 with disposal, and it is the same pickup system. The company claims to be a "government licensed Canadian processing site for the transport, treatment, destruction, disposal, and recycling of biomedical, pharmaceutical and dental waste respectively".

Sorry to sound like an infomercial, but we have been using this service for over two years and it seems to be working well. We keep probably a half dozen empty sharps containers in stock along with the ones in each practice vehicle and all the exam rooms, treatment rooms, and surgery in the small animal clinic.

Also, you need to register your clinic with the "Hazardous Waste Information Network" (HWIN) through the Ministry of Environment (www.hwin.ca). The cost is $50 per year.

Submitted by Dr. Lance Males  
Temiskaming Veterinary Services
To the OABP,

On behalf of myself and the students involved in the Master Hoof Care rotation in Florida, I would like to thank you for your sponsorship of the rotation. The opportunities that were made possible due to your support have proved to be very valuable to both our educational experience and to our future careers in food animal medicine. Your interest in our success as veterinarians is truly appreciated and we hope that the skills and knowledge we have gained through this rotation will aid in the advancement of the bovine industry.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Melissa Wallace

2006 COMING EVENTS

August 9 & 10 National Mastitis Council (NMC) Regional Meeting, Delta Prince Edward Hotel, Charlottetown, PEI. www.nmconline.org/meetings.htm

Sept. 21-23 American Association of Bovine Practitioners Annual Convention, Saint Paul, Minnesota. www.aabp.org


Nov. 30 OABP Fall Continuing Education Meeting, Holiday Inn, Guelph.