PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE—Dr. Jamie Hobson

Tough times – they’re all around it seems now. 2008 hasn’t been a great year financially for many – I’ve long given up looking at my RRSP values and will likely continue to do so well into 2009! Unfortunately, OABP’s finances have not been spared either. As reported at the AGM, OABP ran a large deficit last year and both sides of the balance sheet affected this, with increased costs and reduced revenue. OABP still has reserve funds that are available in the case of emergency – a place we haven’t quite arrived at yet. However, our situation is a wake up call and has been the stimulus for some changes related to the organization’s finances. We are going to now track our profit and loss values much more frequently and eventually set up budgets to allow us to better manage our expenses. As for those expenses, while we are looking at any and all ways to reduce them, it should be noted that many of the increased expenses in 2008 were expected and required, i.e. a new computer purchase. As well, we have already arranged for less expensive ways to conduct board business. On the revenue side, we will explore using advertising in the newsletter and website to generate more income, as well as expanding the sponsorship opportunities at the continuing education meetings. These measures are deemed necessary if we are to continue to grow as an organization and look to develop better support for future bovine practitioners.

Support for students interested in a career in bovine medicine is going to be one area of focus over the next one to two years for OABP. We are currently setting out goals to establish a fund from which financial aid can be dispersed to students wishing to enhance their bovine experience during their education. In keeping with the previously mentioned financial constraints, we are looking at arrangements that would keep OABP costs in such an endeavour to a minimum.

Speaking of new practitioners, I would like to welcome the new members of the executive, Adam Haight and Kelly Barratt – your youthful outlook will no doubt serve the board and the membership well.

Similarly, I would like to give credit where credit is due, to James Dykeman for his tenure and valued contribution to the executive over the past years and to Warren Skippon for all his efforts, dedication and hard work over the past year in guiding the organization as President - job well done on all counts.

Looking towards the future, OABP hopes to develop some web based offerings of our CE and thus expand these benefits to more of the membership. OABP also has some interesting continuing education on offer for April 30th in the joint Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA) and OABP meeting. Topics include, stray voltage, new advances in mastitis diagnostics, mastitis – nutrition interactions, a 2008 forage quality summary, and more. Mark the date and hopefully we’ll see you there.

- Jamie
2009 OABP EXECUTIVE

President:   Dr. Jamie Hobson
Vice-President:  To be advised
Secretary:  Dr. Ann Godkin
Treasurer:  Dr. Rob McGregor
Past-President:  Dr. Warren Skippon
Executive Assistant:  Ruth Cudmore, Alma, (519) 846-2290, Fax: 519-846-8165
Email: oabpruth@everus.ca

Directors:
Dr. Kelly Barratt  Dr. Adam Haight  Dr. Andrew MacLeod
Dr. Henry Ceelen  Dr. Stephen LeBlanc  Dr. Phil Meadows
Dr. David Douglas  Dr. Lance Males  Dr. Wayne Shewfelt
Dr. Randy Graham  Dr. Rob McGregor  Dr. Rod Wieringa
Christie Morrow (OVC Student Representative)

NEW OABP BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Kelly Barratt is a large animal veterinarian practicing with the Listowel Veterinary Clinic/Fairles Veterinary Services. Originally from Tara, Ontario, Kelly began working in Listowel right after graduation from OVC in 2005. Kelly took the food animal stream in vet college and was a recipient of the Amstutz Scholarship (AABP) as well as the OABP future bovine practitioner award for the graduating class. She lives with her husband, Jeff Rye, on a 15 acre hobby farm just north of town. When not at work Kelly enjoys riding dressage and hiking with her dog. She has a keen interest in udder health and milk quality. Kelly is a mentor for a group in the OVC 2012 class and recently began leading a vet 4-H club.

Dr. Adam Haight graduated from OVC in 2005 and moved to British Columbia to work in an exclusively bovine veterinary practice. In 2007, he moved back to Ontario to work at his current location, the Kirkton Veterinary Clinic. His main interests lie in dairy production medicine and embryo transfer. He hopes to bring new ideas and views to the OABP Executive and would appreciate receiving any suggestions from members to relay to the Executive regarding the organization, meetings, newsletter, etc. He looks forward to working with OABP in the future.

Christie Morrow is a 3rd year OVC student raised on a dairy farm in Maxville, Ontario. In the summer of 2007, she worked for the CFIA on a Scrapie project for the goat industry and in 2008, worked for Schering Plough Animal Health and many Eastern Ontario veterinary clinics as a bovine reproduction consultant. She will be completing her externship and additional employment this summer with Listowel Veterinary Clinic and hopes to gain employment as a food animal veterinarian in Ontario upon graduation. Being the student representative on the OABP Executive is a great experience and she hopes to stay involved throughout the rest of her schooling and career.

EDITOR’S NOTES—Dr. Andrew MacLeod

The OABP continues to work hard on behalf of the province’s bovine veterinary community to offer exceptional CE opportunities. We hope you are able to take advantage of these opportunities this spring in Guelph. An agenda of the meeting is included with this newsletter. As well, by including a variety of abstracts from the University of Guelph we are attempting to provide a smaller and more informal learning opportunity through the newsletter itself.

As always, suggestions and submissions for the newsletter are welcome.

- Andrew
In 2005 through 2007 a risk assessment (RA) based Johne’s disease (JD) control project was initiated in Ontario and Western Canada (MB, SK, AB, BC) by CanWest DHI, provincial veterinary offices and provincial milk marketing organizations. Over 627 herds enrolled. Currently a follow-up study, conducted by Dr. Ulrike (“Riki”) Sorge from OVC is underway. She is following a subset of the herds to investigate the program’s impact on JD prevalence and to evaluate the JD RA process for further use across Canada. The overall response rate to her request to participate in the follow-up was fantastic; throughout the five provinces almost 50% of producers enrolled again.

In Ontario 180 dairy producers are participating in the follow-up program. Some producers have already completed a second herd test and their second RA with their herd veterinarian. The study is expected to finish the data collection in July 2009. Preliminary results on the results of the 68 herds that have already completed the second round of testing are promising; over the three year interval the cow JD test-positive rate has dropped. Further analysis will be available once all testing and herd visits are complete.

An adjunct project, a survey of participating herd veterinarians for their opinions about Johne’s and this RA approach to prevention, was conducted in the summer of 2008. The results of the survey have shown that generally the program was well regarded by both the responding veterinarians and their clients. The paper describing the full results has been accepted for publication later this year by the Canadian Veterinary Journal.

Importantly, more funding has become available from the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. This additional funding is enabling the project to fully cover the costs of the second round of testing for the participating herd owners. Herd owners have been notified and have been asked to contact with their herd veterinarians shortly to complete their second risk assessment if they have not already done so.

Unfortunately, we have not been successful in soliciting funding to cover veterinary services as a separate item for this round. Our expectation is that charges to owners by veterinarians for conducting the second risk assessment will be handled by veterinarians in the manner they prefer. It is up to individual veterinarians to determine their own charging policy. We do ask that herd owners and veterinarians discuss payment arrangements when follow-up visits are scheduled.

We thank you again for your continued support of this endeavor and our ongoing efforts to develop the best program possible for Ontario and Canada’s dairy industry. Thanks also to DFO for their additional financial support.

NEW MASTITIS TEST TO BE OFFERED BY CANWEST DHI

Representatives from CanWest DHI have announced that the organization is planning a gradual roll-out of the Finnzymes PCR test for the detection of Staphylococcus aureus bacteria in preserved DHI milk samples, in the early spring. The gradual roll-out will give herd veterinarians time to learn about the new test. Interpretation of the test results, using knowledge of the cow, her SCC history, the herd’s mastitis pathogen status and the mastitis prevention practices in place will be critical to applying the test in an efficient manner. The test has been validated in Finland using North American strains of bacteria. CanWest DHI has conducted some preliminary research here in Ontario, running the test in parallel to conventional culture, and will soon be able to provide veterinarians with information about the test parameters and utility.

Stay tuned for more information. CanWest DHI plans a direct mail out of an information package to veterinarians in the near future.
OABP Fall 2008 Conference Launched “Practice Tips”

What do Dr. Henry Ceelen and Dr. Rod Wieringa have in common? Besides them both being outstanding bovine practitioners, they were also on the OABP Fall 2008 CE program to present “Practice Tips” last November. This segment of the CE program was very well received, with Drs. Ceelen and Wieringa offering fantastic tips that fit in perfectly with the theme of “Bovine Practice Management”.

Dr. Ceelen gave an overview of his practice and a neighbouring practice joining forces to share on-call services to their clients. This merger of services has provided many benefits and improved quality of life to both practices with virtually no downside. Those who attended this ‘Tip’ left the meeting thinking of ways that this type of merger of services could work in their practice.

Dr. Wieringa’s Practice Tip covered the details on how to effectively use an AHT in bovine practice. So often large animal practitioners think that an AHT’s realm should not extend beyond small animal practice, however Dr. Wieringa highlighted the many innovative ways a technician can be used by bovine practitioners that make such good business sense. He pointed out how such tasks as calf dehorning can be scheduled and performed by your technician in a way that clients really like.

The OABP thanks Drs. Ceelen and Wieringa for making this such a successful part of our CE program – so much so that many of the Evaluation Forms for the event specifically ask for more! If you have a tip that you would like to hear, or have one that you would like to present, please contact the OABP Executive Assistant, Ruth Cudmore (oabpruth@everus.ca).

OABP Award of Excellence

The OABP Award of Excellence is presented to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the practice of bovine veterinary medicine in Ontario. The award is only presented when a truly exceptional, highly deserving candidate is nominated.

The nominee’s contributions can include:
1. Exceptional efforts in the area of continuing education for veterinarians engaged in bovine practice.
2. Outstanding achievements in veterinary practice or medicine with involvement in affiliated professional or industry associations.
3. Significant involvement representing and speaking on behalf of food animal practitioners.
4. Distinguished efforts, through formal research or activities in regulatory agencies, which has had a positive impact on members of the OABP.
5. Actions that have elevated the standards of bovine practice, the professional reputations of veterinarians and strengthened the public’s appreciation for the role of the veterinary practitioner in Ontario’s food production system.

Past recipients of this award are Dr. Neil Anderson, Dr. Daniel Butler, Dr. Reny Lothrup, Dr. Ann Godkin, and Dr. Ken Leslie.

If you know of a worthy candidate, please complete the enclosed nomination form and forward, with supporting documentation, to Ruth Cudmore, OABP Executive Assistant, by June 1st.
FOOD ANIMAL ELECTIVE STIPEND (FAES)

The OABP has been supporting final year veterinary students to gain practical food animal experience prior to graduation through participation in food animal electives. The increased interest in this funding support has led to the OABP developing a formal process of application and review to determine the best students and activities to endorse. The OABP executive has developed the OABP Food Animal Elective Stipend (FAES). The following explains the details of the process for applying for this stipend. This competition is open to veterinary students preparing for their final year.

************************

Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners (OABP)
Food Animal Elective Stipend (FAES)

Funding
The OABP will annually fund up to $1800 toward 4th year food animal elective opportunities at OVC. There will be a minimum of $300.00 per student awarded. Therefore, at least 6 veterinary students will be eligible for support in any one year. More money per student or more students funded might be possible in some years depending on available funds and quality of applicants.

Student Eligibility
Students partaking in the Food Animal Stream for final year will be given priority for elective support by OABP. Students enrolled in the Mixed Animal stream but having a strong food animal interest will be considered. All students must submit the following to OABP to be eligible to be considered for an OABP FAES:

1. Resume with emphasis on Food Animal experience.
2. Letter of intent – explaining:
   a. Career plans;
   b. Plans for the elective that this money would help support.

Decision Process
The deadline for application for these awards will be May 1st of each calendar year. Each application must be submitted to Ruth Cudmore, OABP Executive Assistant, with a postmark of no later than May 1st. The applications will be reviewed during an OABP Executive meeting in June. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and cheque in September and will be announced in the Fall OABP newsletter.

Send Applications To:

Ruth Cudmore,
Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners
7423 SR20, R.R. #1, Alma, Ontario, N0B 1A0

Phone: 519-846-2290
Fax: 519-846-8165
E-mail: oabpruth@everus.ca
The Structure and Function of the Rumen Epithelium During Acute Ruminal Acidosis

Steele, M.A.\textsuperscript{1}, Alzahal, O.\textsuperscript{1}, Hook, S.E.\textsuperscript{1}, Croom, W.J.\textsuperscript{2}, McBride, B.W.\textsuperscript{1}

\textsuperscript{1}Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada; \textsuperscript{2}Department of Poultry Science, North Carolina State University, North Carolina, Raleigh, USA.

The rumen epithelium performs vital roles in the absorption of volatile fatty acids and the protection of the animal from microbial infection. The objective of this study was to characterize the structure and function of the rumen epithelium during ruminal acidosis. A mature, non-lactating Holstein dairy cow was induced to develop ruminal acidosis by increasing the amount of rapidly fermentable carbohydrate in the diet. A control diet (CD) (90.6% dry matter, 600g neutral detergent fibre/kg dry matter, 173g non-fibre carbohydrate/kg dry matter) was fed from days 1 to 7 followed by a transition to an acidosis diet (AD) (88.9% dry matter, 117g crude protein/kg dry matter, 240g neutral detergent fibre/kg dry matter, 580g non-fibre carbohydrate/kg dry matter, 501g starch/kg dry matter), rich in rapidly fermentable carbohydrates from days 8 to 14.

The CD resulted in a higher average daily ruminal pH ($P<0.001$) of 6.59 ± 0.02 compared to the AD diet with a minimum of 6.42 and a maximum of 6.85 (Table 1). In contrast, the average daily ruminal pH during the AD was 5.41 ± 0.09 with a minimum of 4.89 and a maximum of 6.31. Rumen pH was under 5.6 for 1073 minutes (17.9 hours) per day and under 5.0 for 130 minutes (2.2 hours) during the AD therefore confirming the development of the acute form of ruminal acidosis.

Table 1. Summarized data of continuous rumen pH measurements and blood BHBA taken during the control and acidosis diets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Acidosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean daily rumen pH</td>
<td>6.58</td>
<td>5.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum rumen pH</td>
<td>6.42</td>
<td>4.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum rumen pH</td>
<td>6.85</td>
<td>6.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes &lt; rumen pH 5.0 (min/day)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes &lt; rumen pH 5.6 (min/day)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood BHBA ($\mu$mol/L)</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most striking difference in an analysis of blood metabolites was the increase in BHBA ($P<0.001$) in the CD versus the AD diet. Since the NEFA levels did not increase on the AD, the elevated plasma BHBA must be derived from increased ketogenesis in the rumen epithelium. An increased expression of HMG-CoA synthase in rumen papillae during the acidosis supports the hypothesis that increased plasma BHBA is due to increased rumen epithelial ketogenesis.

Rumen papillae biopsies were obtained from the ventral sac and light and scanning electron microscopy was used to assess the histological and ultrastructural effects of ruminal acidosis. Rumen papillae from the AD showed noticeable evidence of extensive sloughing of the stratum corneum. The adhesion between cells of the stratum corneum and stratum granulosum appeared to be compromised, as evidenced by great gaps between cells. Non-differentiated keratinocytes with intact nuclei were discovered on the surface of the epithelium on the AD which is consistent with ruminal parakeratosis. This case presents evidence that the rumen epithelium reacts quickly to acute acidosis by altering its structure and function. We propose that dramatic shifts in rumen substrate cause the rumen epithelium to orchestrate a rapid, complex adaptive response to reorganize its structure and function to maintain whole-animal homeostasis.
The Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians / Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Bovins is very pleased to unveil its website at:

www.cabv.ca OR www.acvb.ca
You are able to enter the site either in “English” or “French”.

You will find the following pages:

1) About Us – Information on the composition of CABV/ACVB, corporate objectives, as well as a link to the four regional associations.

2) News & Events – dates for the following meetings: a) four regional associations, b) World Buiatrics Congress, and c) American Association of Bovine Practitioners, as well as links. Issues that CABV/ACVB have commented on are listed on this page.

3) Board of Directors – contact information

4) Contact Us – coordinates for the CABV/ACVB Office

5) Forum – This is a method for CABV/ACVB members across the country to communicate on matters of mutual interest. In order to access this Forum login as follows:

   Username: bovine
   Password: bovine
   LOGIN

Once you have logged in you are able to view any topics that have been posted on the Board Index (CABV Forum), 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 (i.e. ABPA, AMVPQ, OABP, WCABP)
- 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.

In summary, remember that EACH time you visit the Forum opening page, you must login with:

   Username: bovine
   Password: bovine

You are then able to view Forum topics; however, in order to contribute you must login with your own personal Username and Password.

If you have any questions, contact Phyllis at the CABV/ACBV office at 306-956-3543 or email to cabv.acvb@sasktel.net.
VET’S CORNER - Dr. Rod Wieringa

The “Ontario Dairy Farmer” and the “Ontario Beef Farmer” are magazines distributed to dairy and beef farmers. Both magazines have a column in each volume that is entitled “Vet’s Corner”. This is a column written by Ontario bovine practitioners discussing topics that are “near and dear to their hearts” related to the dairy and beef industries. Past columns are posted on the “Members” area of the OABP website.

The OABP has been administering the submission of articles for these magazines and we are looking for Ontario veterinarians who would be interested in contributing to these magazines. The magazines will compensate your time to write for the column.

If you are interested, we encourage you to contact OABP by email at oabpruth@everus.ca.

2009 COMING EVENTS


April 30 OABP/OABA Spring Continuing Education Meeting, Guelph. The agenda and registration form is enclosed with this newsletter.  www.oabp.ca

June 3-6 2009 ACVIM Forum & Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Convention, Montreal, Quebec.  www.acvimforum.org

July 7-9 Inaugural International Conference on Bovine Mycoplasmosis, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.  www.bovinemycoplasma.ca

September 10-12 42nd Annual AABP Convention, Omaha, Nebraska.  www.aabp.org


October 17-20 CanWest Veterinary Conference, Banff, Alberta.  www.canwestconference.ca

November 14-18 26th Congress of the World Association for Buiatrics, Santiago de Chile, Chile.  www.buiatrics.com