



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Veal Association

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, Ontario N1K 1B1

T: (519) 824-2942 F: (519) 824-2534

www.ontarioveal.on.ca

GETTING CALVES OFF TO A GOOD START IS THE KEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Thursday, November 23, 2006

Each year dairy and veal producers record calf mortality rates of 10 percent up to 15 percent which translates into a financial impact of over \$50 million of lost potential revenue for farmers across the industries. The Ontario Veal Association (OVA) is pleased to announce that the second, biennial Building the Foundation: Dairy and Veal Healthy Calf Conference will be held on December 5th, 2006 at Woodstock's Oxford Auditorium. The conference aims to provide both dairy and veal farmers with practical information they can implement on their farms to increase calf health and quality.

"We all know that healthy calves are the building blocks to a successful dairy or veal operation" says Jennifer Haley, OVA Executive Director. "This conference brings together a strong line up of expert speakers presenting techniques that can help increase calf health and quality and get calves off to a good start. "

Speakers for this year's conference include Dr. Sam Leadley, Ms. Jeanne Wormuth and Dr. Ken Leslie. Topics being covered include increasing awareness of calf disease challenges, hints and tips for raising quality calves from a producer perspective and an overview of what is happening on Ontario's farms in terms of calf immunity, respectively.

"The first Building the Foundation: Dairy and Veal healthy Calf Conference was held in 2004 to rave reviews," explains Haley. "Farmers are always interested in new ideas, practices, and management tips that they can incorporate on their farms."

The registration fee of \$65 per person includes all speaker presentations, an industry tradeshow, lunch and a copy of conference proceedings.

"Ultimately, in the veal industry we would like to see a lower mortality rate for calves, especially since we are dealing with a finite supply of bull calves that we can finish for our veal market to begin with" explains Haley. "This means that the dairy and veal sectors need to work together to get all calves on the dairy farm, heifers and bulls, off to a good start".

For more information or to register for the conference please call the OVA office at 519-824-2942. A copy of the conference registration form and information can also be found on the OVA's website at www.ontarioveal.on.ca

- 30 -

For more information contact:
Marianne Fallis, Communications Coordinator (519) 824-2942

Building the Foundation

2006 Dairy and Veal
Healthy Calf Conference

Agenda

- 9:00am **Registration, Morning Refreshments and Tradeshow**
- 9:30am **Welcome**
- 9:40am **Acidified Milk Program Update**
Dr. Neil Anderson, OMAFRA
- 10:00am **Increase your awareness of calf disease challenges**
Dr. Sam Leadley, Attica Veterinary Associates, New York
- 11:05am **Calf immunity – what is happening on-farm**
Dr. Ken Leslie, University of Guelph
- 11:35am **Nutritional management for healthy calves**
Mr. Bill Woodley, Shur-Gain
- 12:15pm **LUNCH**
- 1:45pm **Hints and tips for raising quality calves: a producer perspective**
Ms. Jeanne Wormuth, CY Farms, New York
- 2:45pm **Protecting your herd from disease challenges**
Dr. Rob Bell, Pfizer Animal Health
- 3:15pm **Top ten take home tips for calf management**
Dr. Tom Fuhrmann, DairyWorks™, Phoenix, Arizona
- 4:15pm **Adjourn**