



# Virtual Beef

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# Wet Weather Woes

Megan Van Schaik, Beef Cattle Specialist, OMAFRA

## Navigating Through a Wet Haying Season

Every year comes with challenges. The past two hay seasons have certainly been a test to our patience as we attempt to put in adequate supply of good quality forage for cattle. Last year we experienced extremely dry conditions and poor yields in many parts of the province while this year we're facing the opposite problem— too much precipitation and concerns about forage quality. For many farmers, precipitation has interfered with hay crop harvest. Producers have had little choice but to wait to cut as forage matures or take a risk and attempt to make hay between the rains. Unfortunately, there are many opportunities for nutrient losses during a hay season that is characterized by high precipitation, particularly when hay gets rained on or when there's a prolonged drying process. Leaf loss, plant enzymatic activity, and leaching of nutrients, including soluble carbohydrates and minerals, all contribute to reduction in forage quality when cut hay gets rained on in the field. The rate of breakdown of protein to non-protein nitrogen is also rapid at high moisture levels. The most effective and accurate way to get a sense of forage quality after harvest is to take a representative sample and test.

The risk of spoilage is another threat to quality in wet years. All harvested forage contains fungal spores; however, the extent to which these spores reproduce and develop into mold depends on the growing conditions. Microbial activity, including activity of fungal spores, increases in hay that is harvested and stored at moisture levels that are too high (greater than 15% moisture).

What is it about mold that causes concern? The answer to that is multifaceted and complex in many ways. We know that mold impacts the nutritional integrity of feed. Since molds require nutrients to grow (in addition to moisture and other specific environmental conditions), they utilize nutrients from feed to propagate and feed value and digestibility are compromised as a result. Heating of forage, due to increased microbial activity, also contributes to decreased energy and vitamin levels in hay. Feed values can be reduced by 5-10%. Furthermore, moldy forage impacts palatability and can result in reduced dry matter intake or even feed refusals by cattle.

The other notable concern with moldy feed is that it can cause health issues in cattle, including reproductive and respiratory issues. Mold spores can irritate the respiratory tract and cause respiratory disease in cattle. The same mold spores are responsible for causing farmer's lung in humans, so care must be taken when handling moldy feed. Some moldy feeds may contain certain molds that have the potential to cause mycotic abortion. Dicoumoral, a toxin produced by certain molds in sweet clover, has an anti-clotting effect. It is important to consider that there are many things that can cause abortion and health issues in cattle. If you are experiencing health issues within your herd, consider all management aspects and seek veterinary consultation.

The challenge of anticipating the health and performance impact of moldy hay is that it is difficult to do through visual assessment or even to quantify through lab analysis. Although spore counts provide some idea of the extent of fungal contamination, they may not adequately capture the capacity of moldy hay to cause performance and health issues. Only certain species are toxic. The ability of molds to produce mycotoxins, toxic secondary metabolites, depends on the fungal species and growing conditions. A separate test can be conducted through laboratory analysis to test for a subset of mycotoxins.

So what can we do in years that aren't conducive to making good quality dry hay? The rain this year may have impeded your ability to get sufficient quantity of hay in. Now is the time to start taking inventory of your feed supplies for winter feeding – considering both quality and quantity. For circumstances where feed shortages are possible, consider options for feeding alternative feeds and extending the grazing period. Something else to consider now is proper hay storage that will help minimize spoilage and nutrient losses. Since dry matter losses in uncovered hay can occur at 20% or greater, it is a best practice to store hay out of the elements to preserve quality where possible. It is also important to develop a strategy for spoiled forage. Although it is ideal to avoid feeding spoiled hay altogether, it is not always possible and in this case it is important to manage how much is fed. Prioritize pregnant cows and heifers by excluding moldy hay from their ration where possible. Otherwise, dilution is the solution to minimize risk of poor performance and health issues. If moldy hay must be fed, blend it with good quality hay at a low rate. Be careful of how forage is blended as dominant cows can outcompete submissive cows for good quality hay. Always monitor for feed refusals and body condition scores of cattle and prevent performance slumps by supplementing poor quality hay. Contact your nutritionist or feed industry representative to advise on ration balancing and to help you interpret laboratory test results.

For more information on alternative feed options, visit OMAFRA's website at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/facts/alternativefeeds.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/facts/alternativefeeds.htm).

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## Management Drives the Bus

Nancy Noecker, Calf and Heifer Specialist, OMAFRA

### Tech/Toys and Tools are Fun—BUT MANAGEMENT STILL DRIVES THE BUS!

It may just be that I am getting older (which I am), but it seems every time you turn around there is some new tech break-through that is going to revolutionize the industry! However, it still takes management to decide how and when - or IF - those technological breakthroughs will be of benefit to your operation.

This line of thought all started on a farm call up in Renfrew where we were discussing a “new” pasture mineral with garlic in it that is purported to help keep flies at bay. In fact, it was the sales rep/farmer that made the comment “but management drives the bus”. As with so many things, just buying the “new and improved” whatever doesn't guarantee it helps the operation.



Figure 1. Most cows are selected for other factors than fast gain/ growth.

For example, even if the purchased mineral is just dumped out and allowed to harden (poor management), consumption won't be what it is supposed to be and if that happens the product can't work as it is supposed to! This same example carries on in many forms in our cow herds. Through bull testing we proved over the years that many sires had the potential to sire calves that gained 4-5 lbs/day, yet feedlots have struggled to have pen close-outs that average much better than 2.5-2.8 lbs/day. The other mitigating factor in here is that the bull is only half the calves' genetics and most cows are selected for other factors rather than fast gain/growth...then once the calves are in the feedlot the ration and feeding regime are also of great importance...the old adage still applies "genetics determine what the cattle CAN do ...but feed will determine or dictate what they actually do". So you may buy the best but it will still take your management to get the best out of it!



**Figure 2. Good cattle management is important.**

Another tech device that got a lot of press this spring was a phone app to tell you if a cow or heifer was calving. If your parent or grandparent were in the business, I can only imagine what their response would be if you told them your phone was telling you about a calving! I would image that "what ever happened to your eyes and stockmanship/animal behaviour skills" would be an expected response! However, even if the phone tells you that an animal is calving, what good does that do unless you know she is in a clean-calving pen (which would be your prior management of the situation)?

Grazing is another area that has seen great advances in technology. For example, we now have better energizers including solar water pumps, wire reels, step-in fence posts, and tumble wheels. Yet all of these only help if you are watching and managing the grass availability for the stock. So once more, "management drives the bus."

Animal behaviour and handling (always dear to my heart!) is another example of how management trumps any new technology in itself! The most expensive and highest tech facilities can still create handling wrecks or disasters if the incorrect management and pressure are applied to the cattle. On the other hand, good stockman with good handling management can get a lot of cattle worked through some less-than-ideal facilities.

So the next time someone wants to sell you the "newest" and "coolest" toy or gadget that is going to revolutionize your operation, step back and consider how it might work in your set-up and what management skills it will need to get your money's worth out of it!

Because the bottom line will always be: Tech Toys and Tools are fun...BUT MANAGEMENT STILL DRIVES THE BUS!!!

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## Feeding Mineral to Beef Cows

**Ann Godkin, Disease Prevention Veterinarian (Cattle), OMAFRA, Elora**

Last winter several cow-calf herd owners discovered the perils of underfeeding, or not feeding, mineral to their pregnant beef cows. This may seem an odd topic for July – however, plans need to be made now to accommodate management or facility changes needed to improve future mineral feeding to cows.

Health problems associated with underfeeding mineral to beef cows are usually rare in Ontario. It may be that they do occur but are usually mild or very slow in developing and are therefore under-diagnosed. Last winter several situations occurred where herd owners experienced extreme problems that lead them to work with their herd vet or local feed advisor to get a diagnosis on their herd's problems. In one case, samples were collected for testing from cows that died or were euthanized, and in the others, calves were submitted to the Animal Health Laboratory in Guelph for post-mortem and testing. These situations highlight the importance of assessing and improving mineral feeding to beef cows.

In one herd the problem experienced was a high proportion of very poor-doing cows with very rough hair coats and a large number of open cows in the early winter. Cow mortality was also higher than in past years. Testing of liver samples from cows that died showed that copper deficiency was occurring in the cows. Forage testing showed that the hay being fed exclusively was high in molybdenum. In other herds the problems occurred mainly with the calves. One herd had about 25% of calves born in the spring with deformed limbs (dwarfism) due to manganese deficiency. Manganese deficiency is associated with silage feeding without grain or mineral supplementation. Three other herds had calves with selenium deficiency. In two herds, the calves had classical white muscle disease (WMD) where calves were weak and down about two weeks after birth. In one herd respiratory disease affected calves on pasture at about three weeks of life. Calves from this herd sent for post-mortem were found to have bronchopneumonia and lesions of WMD, suggesting the pneumonia may have been more severe because of concurrent selenium deficiency. In one of the herds where calves had WMD several calves also had congenital goitre, likely indicating iodine deficiency in the dams. In all cases, the history on farm management collected by the herd or laboratory veterinarian indicated that mineral was either not fed at all, was being underfed, or was being offered free-choice in a manner that likely prevented a proportion of the herd from receiving an adequate intake.

These are examples of problems in Ontario beef herds that could be prevented by improved nutritional management and provision of adequate supplies of mineral for the cattle. Not all problems are this severe but it seems likely that, currently, mineral feeding problems may not be diagnosed unless a high rate of problems trigger further diagnostics and testing. More subtle losses in productivity and performance are likely present in other herds with similar management but where a severe cattle health problem affecting numerous head has not occurred. In Western Canada, in a mineral feeding study livers from 129 calves (105 herds) that died between 3 days and 3 months of age were tested to identify mineral deficiencies. The results showed that 32.5%, 5.4%, 6.2%, 7.7%, 35.3% and 75.6% of these calves were deficient in selenium, copper, zinc, manganese, Vitamin A and Vitamin E respectively. The actual deficiencies may vary by region, however the results strongly suggest very poor mineral feeding practices to cows overall.

All cattle on pasture and on winter feeding require mineral supplementation to some degree. What they require can vary depending on geographical location (particularly true for molybdenum and copper related problems), forage type, forage quality and season. A key issue is ensuring appropriate and sufficient supply of minerals on a steady basis, if not daily then at least weekly. Most minerals and vitamins are not stored well or for any length of time in an animal's body, therefore an ongoing and steady supply is required.

In all the Ontario cases, post-mortem diagnosis and sample submission to the laboratory was a key step for obtaining a proper diagnosis and determining a specific remedy to the problem. Laboratory records show that this is an underutilized service, perhaps because of the difficulty in getting calves to the lab or because of an under appreciation of the value of post-mortem examination. It may also be that when common conditions like scours or pneumonia are seen, a presumptive diagnosis is made and samples or calves are not submitted to the lab. The potential negative impact of mineral deficiencies on the immune system is missed.

Testing forage is the only way to determine if a particular geographical region produces forages or other feeds with specific mineral deficiencies. Sometimes an area has previously been identified as deficient and nutritional advisors or vets can advise on specific requirements. However forage testing to estimate mineral content remains the best initial step in setting up a mineral supplementation program. Feed advisors, websites or feed testing laboratories can advise on the correct methods for collecting feed samples, how to submit samples to the feed lab and which tests to request. If cattle die, veterinarians can provide post-mortems on the farm or assist in getting liver samples (or whole carcasses where geography allows) submitted to the diagnostic laboratory.

Research from Western Canada has indicated that only about a third of cow-calf producers surveyed in a large study indicated they routinely provided mineral to their cows. Collection of information via a similar survey is underway currently in Ontario. When collated it may help to target mineral feeding as an area of beef cow-calf management that should be addressed to improve cattle health and productivity, prevent disease and reduce the need for antibiotic use on cow-calf farms.

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## Tracing Canada's Livestock

### Livestock premises identification helps Canada respond to emergencies

The Canadian government is proposing changes to the Health of Animals Regulations that will require all farmers with livestock to have a premises identification number (PID). A PID is a unique national number assigned to a piece of land by a provincial or territorial government. Under the proposed amendments, anyone who sends or receives livestock will need a PID—including producers, auction marts, assembly yards, abattoirs and deadstock collectors.

#### How it Works

PIDs make it possible to trace an animal's movements from one point to another throughout the supply chain, making it easier in turn to control the spread of disease and minimize any impact on the industry. The proposed amendments are expected to strengthen Canada's ability to respond quickly to health threats and other emergencies.

"As farmers, we use traceability as a farm management tool. It helps us manage our animals better and bring more value to the market," said Pascal Lemire, a Québec dairy farmer. "Traceability is key to the future of Canadian agriculture."

But not every Canadian livestock operator has a PID number yet. Although all jurisdictions can issue PIDs, only Québec, Alberta, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan have laws requiring them.

### **A Free Safety Net**

Livestock PIDs are free to Canadian farmers looking to protect their livestock should a safety issue occur, such as a flood, fire or disease outbreak.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is encouraging producers and stakeholders across the supply chain to raise this issue with their peers and register as soon as possible.

Getting involved now will help stakeholders be compliant by the time the proposed amendments are compulsory, and will prevent a surge of requests from premises yet to be identified. Canada's reputation for producing safe and healthy food is world-class. A robust traceability system will help uphold this reputation at home and around the world.

Please visit [here](#) to learn more about premises identification and how to participate.

Find out more

[Canada's Livestock Identification and Traceability Program](#)

[Canadian Cattle Identification Agency](#)



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
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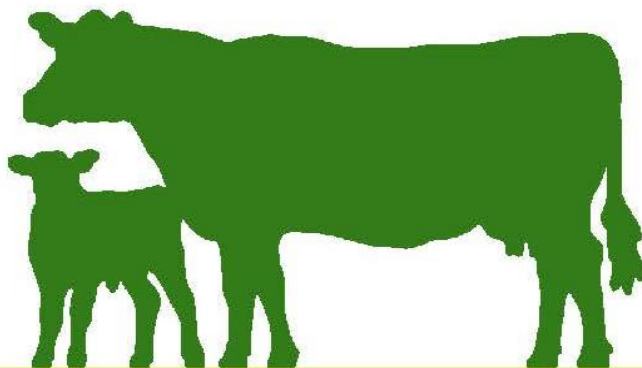
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## Student Corner: Emily Potter

### Improving Cow-Calf Performance Through

# Body Condition Score Management & Supplementation

### During Late Gestation



By Emily Potter

Based on the research done by Bohnert, D. W., Cooke, R. F. and Nyman, A. (Oregon State University); Falck, S. J. (USDA-ARS); Mills, R. R. (Oregon State University Extension Service); Stalker, L. A. (University of Nebraska)

***Late gestation supplementation of beef cows differing in body condition score: effects on cow and calf performance***  
**Journal of Animal Science**

Volume 91, Issue 11, Pages 5485-5491

Published November 24, 2014

## Background

Cow management prior to calving can have a long-term impact on the performance of both the cow and the calf. Research has shown that the body condition score of cows at calving can have a dramatic effect on the future reproductive performance of the cow. A good body condition score of 5 or 6 (US) will increase reproductive performance.

In addition, cow nutrition during gestation can affect calf productivity. Providing a protein supplement during this time can improve calf performance.

Understanding the relationship between maintaining good body condition scores and providing a protein supplement during the late gestation period may improve production efficiency and increase profitability of cow-calf operations.

## Research Goals



**This study was conducted to determine the influence of the body condition scores (BCS) of cows and providing dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS) as a protein supplement on the long-term performance of both the cow and the calf.**

## What did they do?

The experiment was repeated twice using 120 Angus/Hereford cross mature cattle. Cattle were managed to enter the third trimester of gestation at a body condition score of either 4 or 6 (US) and then were grazed with either supplementation of DDGS (0.9kg/cow/day) or no supplementation. Cow body weights and BCS were taken at the start of the trial, at calving and at weaning.

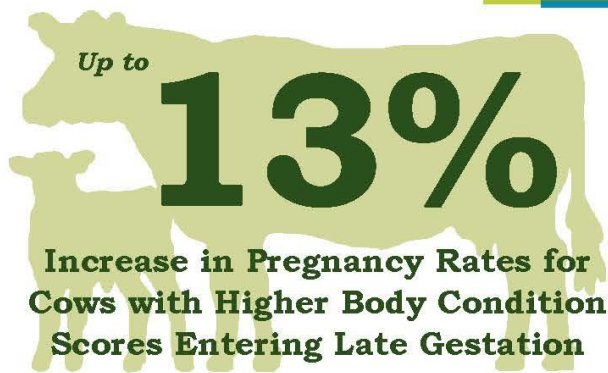
Once calving was complete, supplementation stopped. After weaning, steer calves were placed in a grower lot and then a feedlot. Heifer calves were kept for herd replacements and not analysed further. Steer calves were analysed for feedlot performance and carcass characteristics.

**Cow reproductive performance, cow and calf body weights at different stages, calf post-weaning performance and carcass characteristics were analysed to determine the treatment effects.**

ANSC\*4260  
Winter 2017







## Good Management Leads to Success

### Weaning Weight/Cow (kg)



Low Cow BCS



High Cow BCS

## Implications

The importance of meeting the protein requirements for cattle increases as calving approaches. Providing a supplement may be necessary in order to meet these requirements. This may add an extra cost to production, however the overall benefit from increased cow-calf productivity and efficiency will outweigh the cost of supplementation.

Maintaining an appropriate body condition score for cows enter the late gestation period will have a positive long-term effect on the performance of cows and calves. The Beef Cattle Research Council has created a scale to help producers score the body conditions of their cattle. It can be found at [bodyconditionscoring.ca](http://bodyconditionscoring.ca).

Good management practices to maintain good cow BCS and providing a protein supplement will pay off in the end, making producers more successful in raising beef cattle.

## Key Results

### Cow Performance

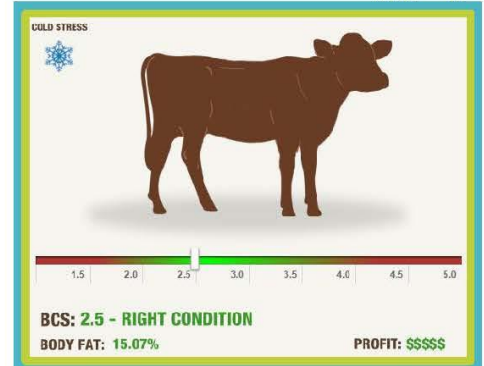
- Cows given supplements had higher body weights and BCS at calving
- Pregnancy rates were higher for cows with high BCS by up to 13%

### Calf Performance:

- Cows with higher BCS had 10% more live calves at birth and weaning
- Birth weights were higher for calves from high BCS cows by 2.6 kg
- Weight at weaning and average daily gain was higher from supplemented and high BCS cows
- Calves from cows given supplements had higher body weights entering the growing lots
- Both cow BCS and supplementation had no effect on calf performance in the feedlot or on carcass characteristics
- Calves from cows with high BCS had higher body weights entering the feedlot

**Total weaned calf weight per cow was 26 kg higher for cows with high BCS.**

Producers can use the BCS scale to score their cows



[bodyconditionscoring.ca](http://bodyconditionscoring.ca)

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 Emily Potter, Student  
 University of Guelph  
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## Production Insurance Forage Rainfall

The Production Insurance Forage Rainfall Program may be a good fit for you. The forage rainfall plan uses rainfall as an indicator of quantity and quality of forage. There are two coverage options available:

- Insufficient rainfall
- Excess rainfall

### Insufficient Rainfall

The insufficient rainfall option protects against insufficient rainfall only. If the measured rainfall at the station you choose during the insured period is less than 85 per cent of the long-term average rainfall for your area, a claim may be paid. The producer can choose the rainfall collection station data to use.

### Excess Rainfall

The excess rainfall option provides protection against excess rainfall during the chosen harvest period. The producer selects a rainfall threshold of 5 mm or 7 mm. If you do not have any consecutive five-day windows in your intended harvest period with less rainfall than your chosen threshold, a claim will be paid.

Visit Agricorp for [full program details](#)

Source [Agricorp Production Insurance Forage rainfall](#)

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## Farmer Mental Health – A Conversation that Matters

Jessica Kelly, Direct Farm Marketing, OMAFRA

*“That project taught me some important lessons like just because something looks profitable in Excel does not necessarily translate into actual profitability. That project was an unmitigated disaster from a production standpoint and the timing coincided with a run up in corn values and collapsing hog prices. As fall turned to winter in 2012, our financial position deteriorated rapidly and losing everything that Mum and Dad had built became a real possibility. I internalized this, blaming myself entirely for the failure of the project and causing the extra level of vulnerability for my parent’s finances. I could not sleep nor could I communicate with loved ones as I retreated down the dark path of depression. My self-hate knew no bounds, I would scream at myself in the barn when I made simple errors, I would be paralyzed in the seat of my car when I got to the barn, dreading actually going in to the building.”*

*“Everyone was frustrated and angry about the cows being sick, frustrated about losing money, frustrated that we were failing, but my husband seemed to take the full weight of our troubles onto his shoulders. If he was in a bad mood, nothing I could say would be able to cheer him up. He was never angry towards me or the rest of the family, but he would just be so mad some days. I would worry when something else bad happened, fearing how he would react. I would put a lot of effort into trying to hide as many problems from him as I could. I was beginning to feel that I had to constantly be ‘up’ to balance him being so down. Many days, I wanted to rant and be angry too but I bottled it up not wanting to add to his worry.”*

These two excerpts are taken from blogs written by Ontario farm families who have bravely shared about their mental health journeys.

Until recently, there wasn't data about the mental health of Canadian farmers. Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton and PhD Candidate Briana Hagen of the Ontario Veterinary College are changing that. During Phase 1 of their project (September 2015 to January 2016), they conducted a nationwide survey on producer stress levels and resilience, with 1,132 farmers responding. The results showed that approximately 45 percent of farmers surveyed were classified as having high levels of stress, while 58 percent were classified with varying levels of anxiety and 35 percent met the definition for depression.

Evidence of higher than average stress levels among farmers is perhaps unsurprising given the unique patchwork of risks and challenges – drought, pests, disease, extreme weather, volatile prices, pressure to carry on family legacy, etc. However, these scores were two-to-four times higher than previous studies of farmers in the United Kingdom and Norway using the same scales. Even more alarming, the results showed that we have a long way to go on the stigmatization of mental health: 40% of farmers said that they would feel uneasy seeking professional help because of what other people might think and one-third said that seeking such help can stigmatize a person's life.

Dr. Jones-Bitton and Hagen are passionate and committed to transforming these results into action that will leave a positive impact on our industry. For Phase 2 of the project, they will be conducting one-on-one interviews with producers, industry support staff, government personnel, and veterinarians to discuss their thoughts and experiences with respect to mental wellness and resilience in the agricultural community as well as hear ideas about what resources and support the industry needs. From these interviews, a mental health literacy training program will be developed specifically for agriculture, along with a mental health emergency response model for times of crisis (i.e. outbreaks, barn fires).

What an opportunity this is to share our stories and be a part of improving mental health in Canadian agriculture! Please consider making time to participate in this worthwhile project.

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Interviews will take approximately 1 hour and can be scheduled in a location of your convenience between now and early fall. In appreciation for your time and valuable insight, an honorarium will be provided. Please contact Briana Hagen ([bhagen@uoguelph.ca](mailto:bhagen@uoguelph.ca) or 306-381-8927) or Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton ([ajones@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ajones@uoguelph.ca) or 519-824-4120 ext. 54786) if you are interested in participating.

Be brave enough to start  
a conversation that  
matters.

- Margaret Wheatley

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# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COW-CALF ROADSHOW

## COW-CALF ROADSHOW SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2017

By popular request, the 2017 Roadshow will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Northern Ontario with an ambitious schedule of farm visits and a two-night's stay at the Holiday Inn in New Liskeard, ON.

### Northern Ontario

For a detailed agenda and transportation routes, please visit [www.ontariobeef.com](http://www.ontariobeef.com)



**Beef Farmers**  
*of Ontario*

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# ONTARIO FARM ANIMAL CARE HELPLINE SERVICE

**5 1 9 - 8 3 7 - 1 3 2 6**

*A farmer helping farmer approach to animal care*

## How does the Ontario Farm Animal Care Helpline Work?

The Helpline accepts calls about most types of farm animals: beef cattle, dairy cattle, veal calves, pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, and turkeys.

Helpline calls are accepted at the Farm & Food Care office at **519-837-1326**, during regular office hours - typically **Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.** Callers can also leave a message at any time and we will follow-up.

Callers are asked to provide specific and detailed information necessary to pursue the case. The information about the case, but not the name of the caller, is then passed on to the appropriate commodity group(s) for follow-up and/or visit. The Helpline is designed to report instances of farm animal neglect or lack of proper care.

Helpline representatives are farmers or experienced staff who can assess the situation and offer practical advice. If necessary, emergency feed, site visits and assistance from livestock professionals, or veterinarians can be offered. Callers to the Helpline are asked to identify themselves for purposes of follow-up, but such information is kept strictly confidential with Farm & Food Care.

The Helpline also provides a resource for farmers or members of farm families if they find themselves in a tight situation. Farming can be a stressful business and farmers need to know there are resources available. The Helpline is a confidential "farmer helping farmer" approach of advice and referral on animal care. For more information, please visit: [www.farmfoodcareon.org/farm-animal-care/farm-animal-care-helpline](http://www.farmfoodcareon.org/farm-animal-care/farm-animal-care-helpline)

For animals in emergency distress call the OSPCA directly at: 1-888-668-7722





## What's the difference between the Helpline and the OSPCA?

Here's a good way to explain the difference between the Helpline and the OSPCA: the Farm & Food Care Helpline deals with thin animals, not starving animals. The idea is to try and reach those cases and animals before the situation worsens. The Helpline is a volunteer service; the OSPCA has legal authority. Sometimes, Helpline representatives find that the case needs to be turned over to the OSPCA, and in reverse, sometimes the OSPCA representatives call the Helpline.

## Why is the Helpline service needed?

The Helpline was started by the Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) in 1992 as a way to help improve farm animal care. The Helpline service came about because people within the farm community felt such a service was needed to allow farmers to get involved.

The Helpline is one way for the farming community to work together to help fellow farmers and farm animals. It's also yet another good example for the public that demonstrates if there's a problem with animal care, farmers want to be part of the solution. It's good for agriculture, it's good for the farmer, and most importantly, it's good for the animals.

## Who can use the Helpline?

Anyone who observes situations where farm animals are not receiving proper care or individuals working with livestock that might not be able to properly care for their own animals.

## What doesn't the Helpline cover?

The Helpline responds to farm animal inquiries including: beef cattle, dairy cattle, pigs, veal calves, sheep, goats, chickens and turkeys.

Calls relating to pets, horses and other types of livestock can be reported directly to your local Humane Society or the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) at 1-888-668-7722.

**Illegal Activities:** If any laws are broken, the call must be forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

*For more information on Farm & Food Care or the Helpline Service, contact our office at:*

100 Stone Road West, Suite 202,

Guelph, ON, N1G 5L3

Phone: (519) 837-1326

Email: [info@farmfoodcare.org](mailto:info@farmfoodcare.org)

Website: [www.FarmFoodCareON.org](http://www.FarmFoodCareON.org)

