



# Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) Bovine Expert Network Industry-Producer Report

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Report #6

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## Quarterly Teleconference

A total of 32 veterinarians, down two from last quarter, completed the survey covering the time period from September to November 2016. Twenty-seven veterinarians indicated that they work with beef cattle. The number of respondents reporting abortion and pneumonia increased since last quarter, while the number of respondents reporting diarrhea and death decreased since last quarter. One veterinarian reported cases of bloat that did not respond to treatment by trocar or antibiotics and required rumenotomies to resolve. Another veterinarian reported cases of pinkeye and leptospirosis.

All 32 veterinarians reported attending to dairy cattle. The number of respondents reporting abortion, pneumonia and injury/welfare concerns increased since last quarter, while the number of respondents reporting mastitis and metabolic disease decreased since the last survey.

Four veterinarians reported that mycotoxins were present in feed. Information on the effects of mycotoxins on cattle is available on the [OMAFRA website](#) and information on testing for mycotoxins is available on the [Agriculture and Food Laboratory website](#).

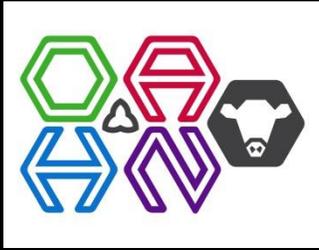
Six veterinarians reported working with veal calves. Respondents reported increases in pneumonia, diarrhea and death.

The Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) reported three cases from two farms where Salmonella Thompson was isolated from abortions or stillbirths in dairy heifers. One of the farms involved also had a case of diarrhea and fever in a young calf associated with Salmonella Thompson concurrent with the abortions. Salmonella Dublin continues to be isolated: three positive submissions were received from three premises.

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## Calf Health Surveillance Project

The purpose of the OAHN Calf Health Surveillance Project is to investigate mortalities in calves less than six months of age from dairy, veal and beef cow-calf herds in Ontario. The project provides support for postmortems



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(PMs) and selected further laboratory testing. Postmortems can be done by veterinarians on the farm or veterinarians can arrange for calves to be submitted to the AHL for PM.

As of December 1st 2016, 32 calves have been submitted to the project. On-farm PMs were done on 25 calves and seven were submitted to the AHL for PM. The history provided with the submissions described herd issues with calf diarrhea (13), pneumonia (8), poor-doing calves (4) and calves found dead or with sudden death (10). In two cases no history was provided.

Diagnoses from these calves included septicemia (13), pneumonia (12) and diarrhea or other gastrointestinal problems such as abomasal ulcers (14). Salmonella Dublin was isolated from one calf. Two other calves had other serotypes of Salmonella isolated.

Interestingly, when comparing farm history to the PM findings, the history matched the PM diagnosis in 11 cases, but in 16 calves the PM findings would logically redirect the investigation of the cause of calf mortality on the farm. In two cases while the PM diagnosis matched the history, additional useful preventive information was also provided.

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## Congratulations to Dr. Dave Douglas

Dr. Dave Douglas was the recipient of the Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioner (OABP) Award of Excellence at the OABP Fall Continuing Education Meeting. Dave was nominated for the award because of his service to the veterinary profession, the bovine industry and his community. Dave is the eastern Ontario representative on the OAHN Bovine Network. Congratulations Dave!

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