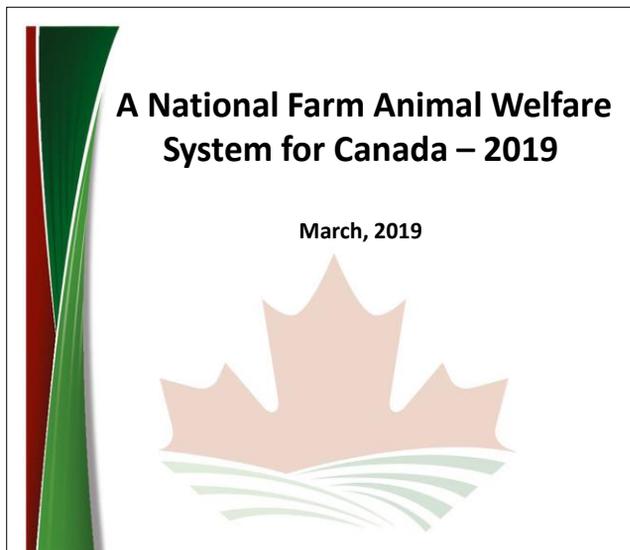


Marketing of Male Dairy Calves in Canada

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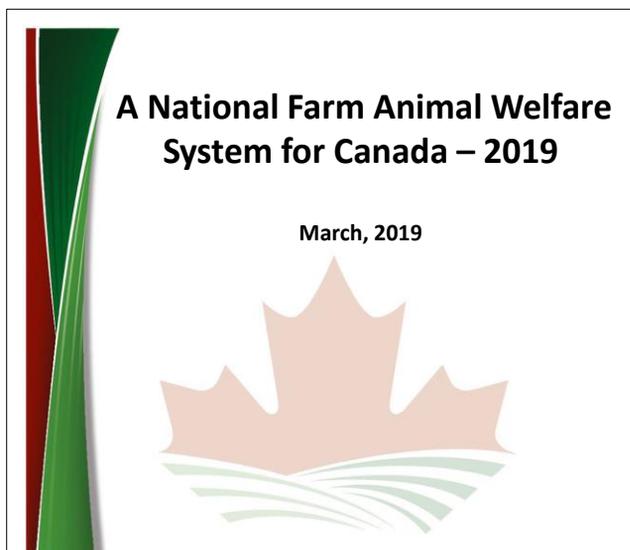


2



that NFAHWC extend its process of reviewing animal welfare and biosecurity in the marketing process, especially for vulnerable groups of animals.

3



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- Cull dairy cows
- Male dairy calves

4



Expert Consultation Meeting, Vancouver, April 30-May 1, 2019

5

Derrick Canning (Nova Scotia)	Dairy
Nathalie Côté (Quebec)	Veal
Terri Giacomazzi (BC)	Provincial regulatory
Craig Jacklin (Alberta)	Auction
Kendra Keels (Ontario)	Veal
Reny Lothrop (Ontario)	Veterinarian
David Renaud (Ontario)	Research
Nicole Sillett (BC)	Dairy
Dave Taylor (BC)	Dairy
Henry Van Huigenbos (Alberta)	Calf production
Larry Witzel (Ontario)	Auction
Rick Wright (Manitoba)	Auction
Bob Wynands (Quebec)	Veal
Dave Zeust (BC)	Federal regulatory
Ed Friesen (Manitoba)*	Dairy
Marie-Eve Paradis (Quebec)*	Veterinarian
Devon Wilson (BC)	Research

6



Expert Consultation Meeting, Vancouver, April 30-May 1, 2019

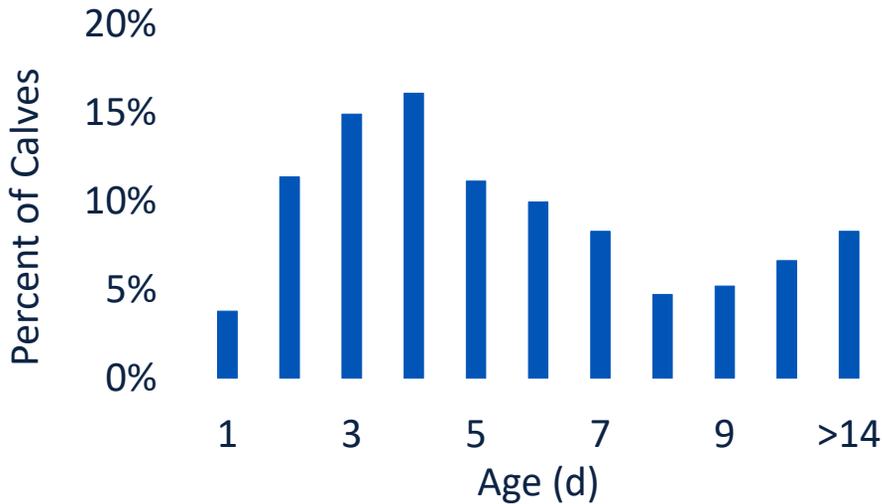
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1. Marketing practices vary widely:

- age shipped: 1 day to much older
- sold direct, via auction, or via assembly yards
- transport: short to >24 h
- many current practices do not conform to new Transport of Animals Regulations

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Age of calves shipped from BC farms



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Urgent action in the sector to:

- clarify the marketing processes across Canada
- identify how the new regulations may affect the health and welfare of the calves and the sector in general.

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2. Variability in practices on dairy farms

- large variation in rearing practices
- highly variable condition of calves when sold
- some farms not designed or staffed to keep calves beyond a few days
- “bench-marking” of outcomes can motivate improvement

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That veterinary and dairy producer organizations:

- use knowledge transfer to improve calf care
- explore bench-marking to motivate improvement

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3. Education and innovation

- emerging market for pre-conditioned calves (vaccinated, weaned)
- beef semen may improve calf price and justify better facilities and management
- some calf growers assess colostrum management and provide feedback to dairy farmers

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That the dairy and calf sectors:

- foster awareness of the health of calves leaving dairy farms and the possible length of journey
- promote broader awareness and adoption of promising practices

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4. Assessing fitness for transport

- Age is sometimes used as a simple proxy for fitness for transport (4 days in New Zealand, 14 days in EU)
- Calf health can decline on dairy farms if housing and management are poor
- Hence, age is no guarantee of fitness to travel

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That the dairy and calf sectors:

- support research to identify simple but accurate methods of scoring fitness for transport in young calves

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5. Biosecurity

Calf buyers/truckers can pose a biosecurity risk:

- Some farms have a pick-up location away from the herd
- Most do not limit the truck's entry into the farm.
- Trucks with different classes of animals may pose a particular risk.

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That the proAction program:

- recognize and minimize the biosecurity risk from trucks collecting calves

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6. Antimicrobial use

- stress during marketing may influence later calf health
- some growers make significant use of antimicrobials
- need to reduce antimicrobial use, especially Category I
- complete elimination of Category I could create animal health and welfare problems for calves

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That the calf grower sector

- promote good management practices to reduce use of antimicrobials
- eliminate Category I antimicrobials as much as possible

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7. Marketing regulations

- Ontario requires provincial inspection of auctions
- Inspectors or veterinarians can designate compromised animals for treatment, euthanasia or prompt local slaughter
- the provincial dairy association works with producers if poor animals are shipped
- the regulations have reduced compromised animals at auction, but some may go into unregulated sales channels

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That all provinces:

- consider a regulatory system for auctions, assembly yards and other forms of livestock sales

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8. Euthanasia

- Some calves of no commercial value are taken to auctions
- Some farmers may not be willing, trained or equipped for euthanasia
- Steps are being made toward appropriate use of euthanasia

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That the dairy sector:

- continue to promote effective euthanasia
- support research to overcome barriers to euthanasia

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9. The need for appropriate phase-in of the new Transport of Animals Regulations

- the new regulations will require major changes to current marketing
- no use of auctions for calves aged <9 days
- all calves too young to be fed exclusively on hay or grain would be limited to 12 hours total journey from dairy to destination

25

9. The need for appropriate phase-in of the new Transport of Animals Regulations

- the new regulations will require major changes to current marketing
- no use of auctions for calves aged <9 days
- all calves too young to be fed exclusively on hay or grain would be limited to 12 hours total journey from dairy to destination

Without changes in infrastructure and skills we might see:

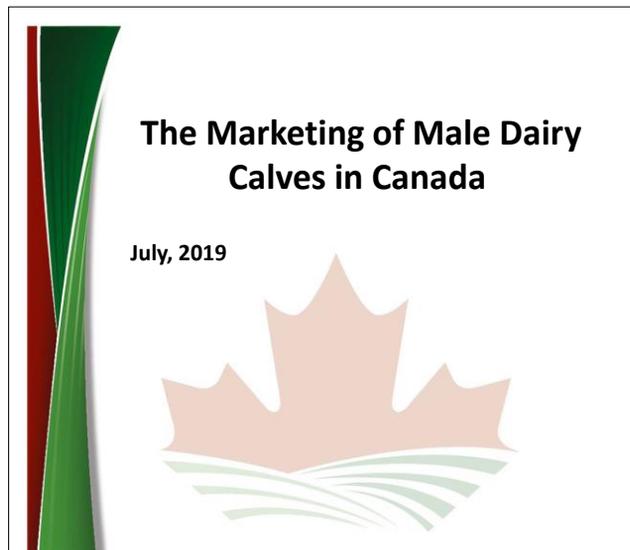
- more on-farm killing of healthy calves
- calves kept to 9 days on farms with poor facilities and skills
- marketing shifted to less-regulated sales avenues

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That all relevant sectors:

- work with the CFIA to develop an implementation plan that includes changes to procedures and infrastructure needed to protect calf health and welfare under the new regulations

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