



Manage BVD with Bio-security



by Kathryn Ross
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Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) is a serious, production-limiting disease of cattle. Cattle infected with the BVD virus can have decreased growth performance and milk production, as well as reproductive problems and poor health, sometimes to the point of death. Some cattle can carry the virus but show minimal signs of illness. These animals are referred to as persistently infected or PIs, and are generally the “poor performers” in a herd. PIs are the main source of infection in cattle herds because they carry and excrete large quantities of the virus, and provide a constant source of infection.

Implementing bio-security protocols is crucial to preventing the spread of the virus throughout a herd. BVD is commonly introduced onto a farm when replacement animals are added. Therefore, all replacement animals should be tested for the virus and isolated prior to mixing with the home herd. Pregnant animals may test negative for the virus but their calves could still be PIs. It is imperative to test all calves from replacement animals for the



BVD is a serious, production-limiting disease, but it can be managed with bio-security.

virus. As well, show cattle can transport BVD back to their home herds, so it is important to isolate show animals for three to four weeks before reintroducing them into the herd.

Neighbouring herds can be another source of BVD, so it is important to prevent any over-the-fence contact between herds. Manure management is also essential to avoiding infections in a herd. When treating or handling the herd, any animals that are isolated due to potential BVD infection should be dealt with last to help prevent cross-contamination of manure/fluids.

Visitors, equipment and vehicles are also another source of BVD. Restricting entry to your farm will help limit the spread of BVD, as well as other diseases.

Because of the many potential sources, managing a disease such as BVD can be extremely complicated, but it is important to understand that most infections in a herd arise from the introduction of PIs. Isolating and testing all replacement animals will go a long way to preventing BVD infections in your herd.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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LIVESTOCK FEED IN SASKATCHEWAN



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Based on 2009 production numbers, the total value of the crops, forages and co-products is over \$3 billion. This is a significant contribution to Saskatchewan’s agriculture industry.

The value of crops used in Saskatchewan’s feed industry is estimated to be \$2.2 billion or 38.5 per cent of the total value of crops grown. Table one shows the approximate volumes of whole grain and co-products of crop used as livestock feed. The material is fed as whole and processed grain or is blended into pelleted feed products for all classes of livestock.

Hay, silage and greenfeed accounts for 6.7 million acres of production. Using a provincial average forage yield of 2,000 pounds per acre, that equates to the equivalent of 9.57 million round bales of hay (1,400 pounds per bale). Using the long-term hay price of \$60 per tonne (\$42 per bale), the annual provincial value of forage is \$402 million.

By the end of this year, there will be in excess of 3.84 million tonnes of canola crushing capacity in Saskatchewan. That will produce approximately 2.3 million tonnes of canola meal with a market value of \$370 million (\$160 per tonne).

Saskatchewan ethanol plants have the capacity to produce 362,000 tonnes of distillers grains with solubles (DGS) annually. Using a price of \$150 per tonne, the value of DGS is \$54.3 million.

Grain screenings add at least \$20 million of value to the feed industry (\$40 per tonne).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact a Regional Office near you; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

Table 1: Total crop production used as feed (2009)

	Percentage Used as Feed ¹	Crop Production Used as Feed (Tonnes)	2009 Total Crop Production ² (Tonnes)
Canola ³	60%	3,435,960	5,726,600
Peas	15 – 20%	391,905 +	2,612,700
Lentils	10 – 15%	148,010 +	1,480,100
Oats	60%	879,060	1,465,100
Flax	60%	425,220	708,700
Rye	60%	63,420	105,700
Barley	80%	3,264,160	4,080,200
Wheat	20 – 25%	2,561,140 +	12,805,700
Total		11,168,875 +	28,984,800
Screenings 100%		534,478	
(At three per cent dockage of total production less the amount fed directly to livestock)			

¹ V. Racz, Prairie Feed Resource Centre, University of Saskatchewan, Oct. 1999

² Canada Grains Council – 2009 Production of Crops – Saskatchewan

³ Canola Meal

