MOOS NEWS

November 2026

Milverton-Wellesley Veterinary Services is a member of ProVet Alliance. Going forward, each Moos News will have a monthly article featured from one of the ProVet Alliance Clinics.

Ever Seen An X-ray Of A Cow's Udder?





We recently had the opportunity to work alongside the **University of Guelph** taking radiographs of multiple cow udders and teats as part of a research project.

It's not every day we get to see the udder from a whole new perspective!

We're proud to be involved in opportunities that support students and contribute to the continued advancement of veterinary and dairy research.

Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health

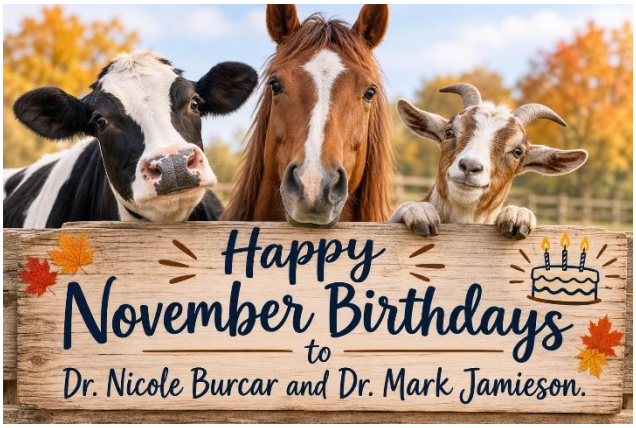
The Do More Agriculture Foundation is hosting a free Talk Ask Listen workshop made for the agricultural community on Saturday Nov 28th , at Cowbell Brewing Co.

Farm life comes with its share of challenges, and checking in on a fellow farmer can make a difference. This meeting will explore practical ways to start conversations, recognize when someone might need support, and be there for the people you work alongside with.

Bring a farming friend, loved one, or coworker and learn together!

https://www.gatewayruralhealth.ca/





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ProVet Alliance is a group of independent, locally owned veterinary practices across Ontario. Our members believe that collaboration strengthens us all, resulting in a diverse cross-section of opinions and greater depth of knowledge. The benefits extend to practice management, recruitment, and mentorship of new veterinarians and staff, improved partnerships with our pharmaceutical suppliers, and an enhanced level of service and continuing education for our clients.

Breeding Heifers on Time

By Dr. Mike Scolaro, Upper Grand Veterinary Services

Raising replacements is one of the biggest costs of operating a dairy farm. One subtle change in management can save you a boatload: **Age at first calving.**

Heifer calves reach sexual maturity, and can be bred at 55% of mature body weight. If we grow heifers well, they can hit that size at an earlier age without impacting production in the first lactation. Even better yet, small decreases in age at first calving significantly decrease the number of heifers that you need to keep, which is even more important when space is tight!

So, the first thing to do is going to be to take stock of your current plan. Are you using an age in calendar months to start a heifer on your reproductive plan? Here's how you go about using size as your guide, even without a scale.

1. Collect the weights of healthy mature cows, 3rd lactation and up, and use this information to determine your average. This can be done using a weigh tape.
2. Multiply your average mature weight by 0.55. This will be your target breeding weight.
3. Collect weights of your heifers around breeding age using a weigh tape. Simultaneously, collect a height that is easy to measure (I recommend hip height).
4. Find the heifers whose weights are about that 55% of mature body weight and note their hip heights.
5. Use this height as criteria for age at first service. Making a mark on a wall that animals walk by can be a quick reference for this eligibility.

Do you have opportunities to optimize your replacement breeding program? Chat with one of your ProVet veterinarians to see if a change is right for you!

Continuing Education

ProVet Alliance will be hosting a series of continuing education workshops at locations across Ontario.

This meeting is a great opportunity to connect with fellow beef producers, exchange ideas, and gain valuable insights to support the success of your operation.

Beef Producer Meeting

Monday November 23, 2026
10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Haysville Community Centre
3433 Huron Road, Wilmot

RSVP: manager@mwvets.com

