



## **Trials Underway at the Grober Young Animal Development Centre**

Crops haven't been the only thing growing in Woodstock, Ontario this summer. Several crops of calves have been sprouting at the Grober Young Animal Development Centre (GYADC), housed at the site of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show.

Grober Nutrition opened the doors to the GYADC this past April with approximately 80 calves. Research continues throughout the summer on nutrition programs, housing systems, bedding and calf-rearing technologies.

"The Grober Young Animal Development Centre stemmed from our company's commitment to the industry," says Heather Copland, Marketing and Communications Manager with Grober Nutrition. "We know that calves are the foundation of a strong dairy network and want to highlight to the industry the opportunities in calf development."

Grober is the only milk replacer company with its own research centre and the only facility to feature both individual and group housed calves. The individual penning is supplied by Agri-Plastics and Grober staff is finding the equipment labour-saving in many ways: easy to put together; easy to keep clean; and perfectly designed for covered areas. Faromor Inc. supplied and installed a fully automated natural ventilation system for the facility to help update the Cover-All Building to house young livestock.

Grober is also working with Förster-Technik, the leading manufacturer of automatic calf feeding systems. Two models are currently on display and feeding calves; one for milk replacer and the other a new automatic concentrate/grain feeder both utilizing RFID identification. "Förster-Technik as world leader in automatic calf feeding has a well established co-operation with Grober Nutrition in the Canadian and North American market," says Thomas Förster, President of Förster Technik. "We are happy that Grober has invited us to provide our state-of-the-art calf feeding equipment for their exciting new trial barn."

"The Centre is a research opportunity for other industry partners," says Copland. "As long as there is a goal to be met that will benefit agri-business, we have the facility that can help generate the statistically relevant data."

At Canada's Outdoor Farm Show this September, Grober will be showcasing their facility to producers, including calves housed in both individual and group housing systems. At the Show, there will be an interactive area for farmers to get their hands on the management systems in use; manipulate the computer application systems including the feeding programs, and review calf feeding schedules. In addition, Grober will display the results from the summer's validation trials, including studies on feeding and housing programs.

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show being held September 15, 16 & 17 at Canada's Outdoor Park in Woodstock, ON.

