



Young Animal Development Centre Opens Doors



Woodstock, ON - Crops won't be the only thing growing at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show this year. Several crops of calves will be sprouting over the summer at the Grober Young Animal Development Centre (GYADC) at the Show's Woodstock location.

Grober Nutrition opened the doors to the GYADC last month with approximately 80 calves. Research is being conducted 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. In combination with the latest computer technology and Internet training opportunities, it will help to establish our automated calf feeders more and more in the Canadian market and to show end customers best-practice layouts and benefits for every-day farm business."

Grober is experimenting with product from Italy called SOP-Calf that is distributed in Canada by GenerVations. SOP-Calf is a dry powder bedding application that helps to reduce ammonia, pathogenic bacteria and flies. "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."

Where there's research, there are usually students and the GYADC is no exception. Currently, there are two students from the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph who provide 'round the clock' care for the calves in the Centre. "We want to see the GYADC utilized as a training facility; a practical viewing area for ways to think differently about calf-raising that blends the art and science of young livestock rearing," says Copland. "Over the next five years - our term for GYADC to be hosted at the Farm Show site - Grober will have a unique opportunity to teach, train, learn and show," adds Copland, "and we invite nutrition companies, agri-businesses and veterinary clinics involved in the dairy industry to inquire about specific producer-focused activities."

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 programs and the SOP-Calf product.

Visit www.OutdoorFarmShow.com to view a video on the new Grober Young Animal Development Centre and to learn more about the many new developments being showcased at the 2009 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show - September 15, 16 & 17 at Canada's Outdoor Park in Woodstock, ON.

On June 25th, Grober will host an invitation only open house for their industry partners. This will be a chance for people to see the centre in action and will give Grober the opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to make this dream a reality.



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