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NEWS RELEASE

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Alberta Veterinarian Honoured for Dedicating Career to Canadian Beef Cattle Health

OTTAWA, Ont. – Dr. Claire Windeyer was awarded the 2021 Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) *Merck Veterinary Award* for her work in food animal clinical research that is judged to have contributed significantly to the advancement of food animal medicine.

“Dr. Windeyer’s research provides veterinarians and producers with practical and applied methods to improve the health and welfare of beef cattle,” says Dr. Jennifer Pearson, Assistant Professor and former graduate student at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). “She has been an excellent advisor and mentor and is very deserving of the CVMA Merck Veterinary Award based on her contributions to the knowledge and teachings of beef cattle health and welfare, as well as for her dedication to training graduate students in the area of veterinary epidemiology.”

Dr. Windeyer attended the University of Guelph where she completed a BSc in Animal Biology followed by a DVM degree at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC). After graduation, she went into rural mixed practice in southern Alberta before returning to OVC to complete a Doctor of Veterinary Science in Ruminant Health Management, where she examined bovine respiratory disease in dairy heifer calves.

She joined the UCVM’s Department of Production Animal Health in 2011. Dr. Windeyer’s research focuses on cow-calf health management, including perinatal care of newborn calves, pre-weaning management practices, epidemiology of infectious diseases of pre-weaned calves, and pain and animal welfare.

“Dr. Windeyer is an incredibly dedicated researcher focusing on management factors that will improve animal welfare and health outcomes in beef production,” raves Dr. Craig Dorin, veterinarian and managing partner at Veterinary Agri-Health Services. “Much of her research focuses on understanding the important factors in the management of newborn calves’ neonatal health. The areas Dr. Windeyer and her students have studied, and their research projects, are very practical and allow veterinarians and producers to apply proven science to how they manage newborns. These disease prevention strategies are also effective in reducing the need for antimicrobials used by farmers or veterinarians.”

Dr. Windeyer teaches epidemiology, health management, outbreak investigation, and production animal medicine at the UCVM, as well as advanced beef health management in the graduate program.

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“In addition to her research projects, Dr. Windeyer strives to mentor and develop her graduate students’ research skills in the areas of beef cattle health and welfare,” highlights Dr. Pearson. “She spends countless hours every week helping and advising her graduate students and is actively involved in sample collection and data analysis with each project. She encourages students to attend producer directed conferences to interact with stakeholders in the beef industry and discuss important welfare concerns for beef cattle.”

Dr. Windeyer lives on a small acreage near Dogpound, Alta. with her husband Bruce, their five horses, eight chickens, two dogs, and (in her opinion) too many cats.

The Merck Veterinary Award, sponsored by Merck Animal Health, is presented to a veterinarian whose work in large animal practice, clinical research, or basic sciences is judged to have contributed significantly to the advancement of large animal medicine and surgery, including herd health management.

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The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national and international voice for Canada’s veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. Each year, the CVMA proudly recognizes individuals and groups for their outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine. Visit canadianveterinarians.net to learn more about the CVMA.

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