

**Subject:** Delphi Survey for Dairy Calf Bovine Respiratory Disease Diagnosis Research Project

Dear European College of Bovine Health Management (ECBHM) members,

We kindly ask for your participation in a two-round Delphi survey as part of an ongoing research project. This project aims to develop a gold-standard case definition for diagnosing bovine respiratory disease (BRD), specifically that which requires antimicrobial treatment (i.e., pneumonia), in pre-weaned dairy calves. It is led by Katheryn Churchill ([kchurchi@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kchurchi@uoguelph.ca)), a PhD candidate at the University of Guelph, under the supervision of Drs. David Renaud (University of Guelph, [renaudd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:renaudd@uoguelph.ca)), Charlotte Winder (University of Guelph), and Bart Pardon (Ghent University).

This gold standard case definition can be established by leveraging the validated process of developing a core outcome set (COS; i.e., establishing key diagnostic outcomes). Briefly, the development of a COS includes four steps.

1. Collating a list of diagnostic outcomes (e.g., presence of lung consolidation) relevant for BRD diagnosis (informed by a now-published [scoping review](#) and interviews with global experts in dairy calf BRD research) - completed
2. Conduct a two-round Delphi survey involving the global veterinary and research community with expertise in dairy calf BRD, to prioritize outcomes for inclusion in the COS – in progress
3. A consensus meeting with the global research experts will be held to finalize the COS
4. A clinical trial will be conducted to validate the COS

They are currently in Step 2 of the COS development process. Your participation in the survey would be instrumental in gathering perspectives from veterinarians, which are crucial for moving forward with this important work.

Here's what we're asking for:

- **Survey details:** The survey is available here: [https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8ICqxIMj1CAv80e](https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8ICqxIMj1CAv80e). It should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Participants will be asked to complete it twice: once immediately upon distribution and a second time later this year.
- **Deadline:** Please complete the survey by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

For more detailed information the project, you can view the full protocol online [here](#).

We truly appreciate your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to reach out to me directly. Thank you for your support in helping us advance this important research.

Best regards,

Katheryn Churchill, MSc

PhD Candidate