



Planning for Field Research Trials with Dairy Producers

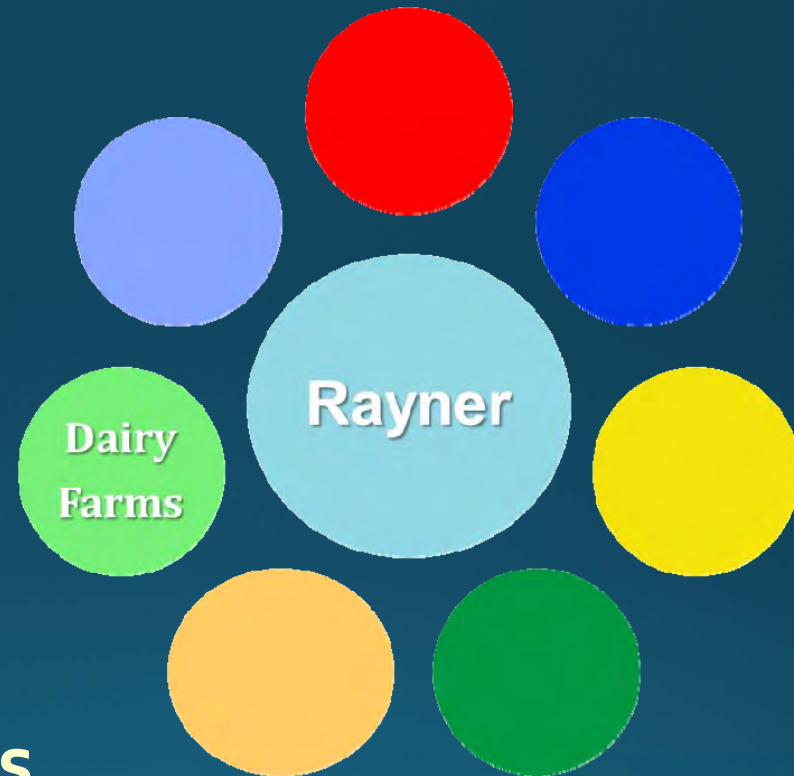
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Field Research and Demonstration: Transferring Research Results into Practice

- The original vision:
A Hub and Spoke
System



- Field research supports
practical validation of research findings on a
working dairy farm

Types of Field Research? Examples

- Feed or feed management evaluation in cows or young stock
- Dairy management
- Herd health
 - Vaccine evaluation
 - Drug or method of drug delivery evaluation
 - Reproduction management
 - Mastitis management
- Genetics
 - Genetic diseases
 - Genetic testing (DNA) for lactation potential or disease resistance
- Manure or environmental management
- Business economics

What is typically required?

- Use of an agreed-to protocol that needs to be adhered to in close consultation with researchers

Access to farm:

- For a student or technician for collection of feed, manure, milk samples, blood samples, or samples such as DNA (hair)
 - Could combine milk sampling with DHI sampling
- Observational data (such as hoof health, warts)
- Ideally, animal weights
- Cow records and production records

Typical Approach and Cost to Producers?

- Experimental design would be treatment change-overs or comparisons of groups of animals with large # of animals, or just simply sample collection from the herd
- Approved Animal Care Protocol and Animal Use Agreement involving the field locations – by U of S
- We would not introduce treatments which would reduce productivity without a means to compensate
- Usually requires extra time for planning and execution
- Research funding would pay for the cost of the research projects, including costs incurred by producers. For example the ADOPT program through the Agriculture Development Fund

Benefits and Assurances for Producers Co-operators

- Complete respect for confidentiality
- Principle: costs to the producer to be reimbursed including producer's time. Minimal risk for financial loss: compensation for production loss if this occurs, additional labour requirement, etc.
- In depth evaluation of practices – access to raw and summarized data collected on **your** farm
- Develop working relationship with researchers and students at the U of S
- Develop early experience with new approaches
- Support innovation to the benefit of your industry

Projects under Consideration

- Testing of biodiesel by-product glycerol as a specialty feed supplement for transition and lactating cows
 - Extensive research completed at Rayner with positive results
 - Results from field research to be used for CFIA licensing of glycerol
- Testing of calf growth and management practices



THANK YOU