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Manser Rd. Clinic Hours 7am to 5pm Mon-Fri and 7am-12pm Saturday
Hwy 89 Clinic Hours 7am to 1pm Mon-Sat
24 Hour Emergency Service



DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Delivery Update: **Please call in your orders by 9:30 am** to ensure same day delivery. Orders placed the day before are appreciated, too! Please review the holiday hours for planning your needs over the holidays. The Linwood clinic will close at 2:00 PM on Friday Dec 24th and 12:00 PM Friday December 31. Both Clinics will be **closed** Christmas Day, New Years Day, and **Monday December 27th**.

Announcements

Waterloo Cattleman's Annual Meeting: Wed. Jan. 12, 2011 at the Linwood Community Centre 10am to 3pm. Hot lunch provided. \$10 to register in advance, \$15 at the door. Call Jones Feed Mill to register 519-698-2082 and for the Agenda

Canadian Quality Milk

Linwood Veterinary Services Veterinarians are all CQM Advisors trained by DFO and ready to play a role in your CQM training. We will be including topics in each month's newsletter to aid producers to prepare for the CQM program roll out.

In review:

CQM Topic #1: Advisors Role in Your CQM Validation

The CQM program has three paths for a milk producer to become validated with or without the help of an advisor. Forms must be completed by producers and submitted online or in the case of producers who do not have internet access, we will offer the service of entering hand-written information online for them.

CQM Topic #2: Cow Identification

In order for on-farm records to be reliable and easily used, all cows must be uniquely identified. We would encourage you to ensure all cows in your herd are identified and that no two cows have the same ID.

This newsletter will focus on two more topics:

CQM Topic #3: Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

These have SEVEN different records and are as follows:

1. SOP for **Pre-milking**. These instructions would allow a relief milker to setup the milking system which would ensure the safety of the milk.
2. SOP for **Milking**. With these instructions a relief milker could milk cows in a manner which would ensure the safety of the milk.
3. SOP for **Milking Cattle with Abnormal or Treated Milk**. The information must direct a relief milker to properly identify and milk cows with abnormal milk or treated cows and keep that unsafe milk from entering the bulk tank.
4. SOP for **Post-Milking Cleaning**. Here there are directions to set up the cleaning system to properly cool the milk and clean the equipment.
5. SOP for **Treating Cattle**. This would contain sufficient instructions to prevent chemical/drug residues and create a milk or meat hazard by anyone treating animals with medications.

6. SOP for **Shipping Cattle**. These instructions would prevent someone from shipping animals which have not met the proper drug/chemical withdrawal times nor have a broken needle present.
7. SOP for **Feeding Medicated Feed**. These directions must contain enough information to ensure that anyone feeding animals would not cause a milk or meat residue hazard.

NOTE: Use the DFO SOP Wizard, which can be found at www.milk.org . Click on Farmers then CQM Program to get you to the SOP page. For those without internet access there will be forms provided by Advisors and we can provide the service of entering the information online.

CQM Topic #4: Critical Control Points (CCP) and Corrective Action Plans (CAP).

Neglect or error at any of these 3 points can lead to permanent problems with the end food product. The CQM program has **THREE** CCP:

1. Milking treated animals
2. The cooling and storage of milk
3. Animal shipping

CAP would outline the instructions to correct a problem occurring at one of the above times and provide contact numbers.

Next month: we will cover medications as they relate to a drug inventory, establishing proper treatment recording practices and having prescriptions or veterinary treatment protocols.

Be proactive and making use of resources such as your veterinarian and DFO field staff, we believe it can be an easy, smooth process to become validated in the CQM program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Linwood Veterinary Services or speak to your vet at your next herd health visit.

Managing Your Lambing Flock

Nutrition

Both the birth weight of lambs as well as colostrum production are influenced by the nutrition of the pregnant ewe. It is essential to correctly manage the body conditions of your flock throughout the breeding season. Ovulation rates can be reduced in ewes that are too thin or too fat during breeding. Thin ewes in late gestation are at risk for developing metabolic diseases such as pregnancy toxemia and giving birth to weak, low birth weight lambs. Fatter ewes often experience dystocia (problems lambing).

Managing Lambing

- Ensure all lambs receive colostrum or a colostrum substitute preferably within the 1st hour of life. Healthy lambs are born with limited energy reserves. About 1 liter of colostrum is needed by a 5kg lamb!
- Dip all lambs' navels at birth with a strong iodine solution
- Try to keep the lambing period short. Otherwise, there is a greater potential for disease build up in the environment
- Housed ewes should not be stocked greater than 1 ewe/1.1 m²

Abortions

Sheep producers should be aiming to keep their abortion rate at <2%. In Canada, the most important causes of infectious abortions include: Chlamydia, Campylobacter, Toxoplasma, Coxiella (Q Fever) and Salmonella.

Some general steps to managing abortions:

- 1) **ISOLATE** the aborting ewe from the rest of the pregnant animals
- 2) Dispose of any abortion products
- 3) Pay close attention to personal hygiene as some of these diseases can be passed to humans!
- 4) Reduce the stocking density of your pregnant ewes if possible
- 5) Investigate the abortion by submitting samples

NOTE: The Animal Health Lab in Guelph is continuing to run its study on Chlamydia and Coxiella as causes of abortion. If you submit the **placenta** (+/- aborted fetus), you can take advantage of some free abortion testing! Contact your flock veterinarian for further details.

Merry Christmas!



from your clinic vets and staff