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JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Please call in delivery orders as soon as possible – if your order is received **by 9:30 am** we will have time to pick, pack and send it out that day. For winter delivery, please keep your laneway clear for vet and staff access to your farm. Thank You!

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 review topics from prior month's newsletters to aid producers to prepare for the CQM program roll out. In this month's news letter, we summarize the requirements for **Inventory and Treatment Records**.

First, a review of topics from your December newsletter:

Review: CQM Topic #3: Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

These have SEVEN different records and are as follows:

1. SOP for **Pre-milking**.
2. SOP for **Milking**.
3. SOP for **Milking Cattle with Abnormal or Treated Milk**.
4. SOP for **Post-Milking Cleaning**.
5. SOP for **Treating Cattle**.
6. SOP for **Shipping Cattle**.
7. SOP for **Feeding Medicated Feed**.

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 forms are available through advisors.

Review: 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

CQM Topic #5: Inventory

The purpose of the inventory is to keep a list of all chemical or medical products that a cow may be exposed to, to ensure they are approved for use in dairy cattle, that they are stored properly and that their product label or instructions for use are easily found. The amount of a product on farm does not need to be tracked. Examples of products which must be recorded include drugs, vaccines, pesticides, ointments and medicated feeds.

The inventory record may be kept in a table such as Record 9 in the CQM Workbook.

Eg: Record 9

| Product Name | Approved for Dairy | Product Label or Instructions Kept | Stored According to Label |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| CEF A-LAK | YES | YES | YES |

CQM Topic #6: Treatment Record

The Treatment Record includes information to ensure that a treated animal and person treating it are identified, the product's expiry date is checked, the correct withdrawal periods are observed, and any broken needles are recorded. Treatments must be recorded for all cattle when the product has a milk or meat withdrawal or is being used differently than the label instructions and for all pesticide/chemical treatments.

An example of a Treatment Record is given in Record 10 of the CQM Workbook.

Eg: Record 10 Columns

- Animal ID
- Expiry Date Valid
- Treatment Administered (Name, Dosage, Route)
- Withdrawal Time
 - Milk and Meat
- Date of Treatment
 - AM or PM
- Withdrawal Completed (Date)
 - AM or PM
- Residue Test? (Positive or Negative)
- Broken Needle (Yes or No)
- Signature/Initial of Person who Treated Animal

Pour On Applicators: Note that applicators are still available free from suppliers with certain purchases: Dectomax 2.5L 5L and 20L and Eprinex and Ivomec 2.5L 5L and 20L. Ivermectin applicators will be \$30.00

TWINS

It is very common as veterinarians to look at fresh cows who have calved carrying twins. Often these cows are at a higher risk for abortion. If the cow manages to carry her calves to full term, difficult calvings are often more likely and as a result: retained placentas. As a result these cows are also at an increased risk of metritis, ketosis and displaced abomasum. In addition, twin calves tend to have a higher incidence of stillbirth, neonatal calf mortality, and reduced birth weight as compared to singleton births. Therefore, identification of cows carrying twins is an important management function.

The rate of twinning in lactating cattle has been shown to increase over time, from approximately 4.5% in 1959 to an average of almost 7% in 1997. Routinely we see dairy herds with twinning rates close to, or even above 10%. The rate of twinning also increased as lactation of the cow increased, from 1.0% for cows in their first lactation to greater than 4.1% for cows in their fifth or higher lactation. Twinning rates in beef herds are considerably lower, often in the range of 1% for Herefords to approximately 4% for Angus herds. While the occurrence of twins is linked to many factors, this increase in the rate for dairy herds over time has led many researchers to suggest that increased milk production may be the single most important factor affecting twinning rates. The results of one recent study are shown in the chart below:

Correlation of Milk Production and Twins in One Herd

| Year | Milk Production | % Twins |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 2005 | 33.2 | 3.7 |
| 2006 | 35.2 | 5.6 |
| 2007 | 39.9 | 8.5 |
| 2008 | 42.4 | 10.6 |

There are 3 main ways pregnancies are currently detected: palpation, ultrasound and BioPryn (blood) test. An experienced veterinarian utilizing ultrasound can definitely diagnose twin pregnancies and may be able to identify twins by palpation. The blood test is not capable of detecting twin pregnancies. Once pregnant, twin pregnancies are more likely to be lost. If the calves are in opposite uterine horns the risk of pregnancy loss between 36 and 90 days in calf is 8 %; calves in the same uterine horn increase this risk to 32% during the same period. Approximately 6.2% of the time one of the twins can be lost with the other calf surviving. In many instances this will explain the presence of a freemartin calf not born with a male partner.

Given the increasing rate of twins in our dairy herds and the known problems identified here, once a cow is identified with twins, management changes can be made to monitor her both during the pregnancy, at the time of calving and immediately after. Generally it is not recommended to intentionally abort animals carrying twins due to the difficulty in getting dairy cows pregnant. In addition, since high-producing cows are likely to become pregnant with twins, it is possible these animals risk conceiving twins again.

Cows with twins should occasionally be re-checked at subsequent herd health visits to ensure the pregnancy remains. In addition, cows with twins should be dried off 10-14 days early since many of these cows will also calve early. One study showed that on average these animals deliver 5 days early. Remember to factor this into administration of CRC boluses, transfer into transition areas or initiating a close-up dairy ration. In addition, early calving dates should be monitored to ensure compliance with dry cow therapy withdrawal times.