



DR. MARTIN MISENER DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR  
DR. ANDREW MACLEOD DR. JOHN TOKARZ  
DR. CHRIS DITTENHOFFER DR. ROXANE PARDIAC  
DR. CHRISTINA MOHOS DR. JENNIFER BROWN

3860 Manser Road, Linwood, Ontario N0B 2A0 (519) 698-2610  
1-800-663-2941 Fax (519) 698-2081  
[linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca](mailto:linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca)

## JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

### NOTE

The Waterloo Cattlemen's Association bus trip to Norfolk County is on Tuesday, July 8, 2008. Cost is \$25.00 per person which includes transportation and roast beef dinner. Call to reserve by July 3, 2008 to Steve Foster 519-746-0258 or Stewart Cressman 519-696-3119.

### SWINE

Feed cost continues to go up and recent bad weather in the mid west U.S. make harvest forecasts poor. We need to maximize feed conversion.

Things to keep in mind

1. Good feeder adjustment, aim for ½ the pan showing. You can't waste feed.
2. Don't overcrowd pens. 8 sq. ft on slots, 9-10 sq. ft on solid floors.
3. Avoid mixing pigs as much as possible.
4. Use sprinkler cooling and ensure maximum ventilation option in hot weather.
5. Disease control and prevention. Circovirus vaccination, Mycoplasma vaccination and Illeitis vaccination/control will pay back more than ever before!

There are many options for vaccination. There are Mycoplasma and Circovirus vaccines that can be mixed and given as a single dose. Illeitis is prevented with the oral Enterisol vaccine. We have a freeze dried form of Enterisol that comes in a 50 dose size and we have had good success dosing piglets orally at 3 weeks of age. Call the clinic for more information.

### DAIRY

So far 2008 has proven to be a challenging year for making forages. While we have had an ample supply of moisture, sunny days for working and drying have been in short supply. Yield has been high but much of the feed has gone in wet. Wet feeds provide a few key challenges which we will discuss here.

The production of high quality silage begins with harvesting at the proper stage of maturity to maximize nutrient yield. After this, the following management practices are essential for successfully fermenting and preserving the forage:

1. Harvest at the proper moisture (DM) content.
2. Chop at the correct particle length.
3. Fill rapidly to avoid excessive respiration and minimize exposure to oxygen.
4. Distribute evenly and pack firmly to exclude oxygen.
5. Seal to prevent exposure to oxygen

With the lack of drying days this year, goal #1 of harvesting at the proper dry matter content has been difficult. The goal of a good fermentation is to maximize the production of lactic acid. Lactic acid is the strongest fermentation acid and most effective in lowering pH. Rapidly dropping pH helps reduce protein breakdown, increases the acid hydrolysis of hemicellulose and slows down unwanted microbial activity. High lactic acid and lactic/acetic ratios indicate that a good fermentation has taken place. Failure to follow the five basic silage practices listed above will result in low lactic acid values.

High moisture contents at harvest and/or lack of adequate sugars may result in a clostridial fermentation and the production of butyric acid. Field observations suggest that excessive soil contamination may also be a predisposing factor. High DM losses occur in clostridial silages because clostridia bacteria convert sugars, organic acids and proteins into butyric acid, carbon dioxide, hydrogen gas, acetic acid, ammonia and amines. High butyric acid silage is often low in feed

value and may have a negative impact on animal performance and health. Ketosis is commonplace. Total removal or dilution of the poor silage may be advised.

Excess butyric acid can lead to a high number of ketotic cow which are often difficult to treat successfully. Monitor your forage for evidence of butyric acid fermentation and take steps to avoid it. Additionally you should talk to your feed representative about the use of mold and mycotoxin inhibitors such as Integral.

## **BEEF**

Trying to predict the future is dangerous at best but the beef industry in Canada is facing continued financial hurdles and uncertainty so we might as well make some predictions.

2008 is the year to expand the cow herd. Marginal land in Ontario and many areas of Western Canada are ideal for cow-calf operations. It takes two years to turn weanling heifers into 1<sup>st</sup> calf productive additions. With projected market correction over feed cost in two years cow-calf should be profitable.

If you are a risk taker then expansion makes sense but make sure your health programs are a main priority. Ensure proper vaccination with a Modified live program and ensure every animal is productive. Preg checking and ruthless culling are paramount to success.

Also consider good feed conversion breeds to reduce winter feed cost. We are committed to the Canadian beef industry and will design herd health programs that will enhance your long term viability.

## **EQUINE**

### **Emergency Medicine Reminders**

With summer on its way, it is always a good idea to review a few common practices regarding emergency care. It is also a good idea to take stock of the items in your first aid kit and to discard items that may have expired. If you don't have a first aid kit now would be the time to put one together. If you need some advice regarding the contents of a first aid kit, please contact the clinic and we can assist you in preparing your kit.

One of the most frequently encountered emergencies is a traumatic injury. Once a horse is injured, it is important to avoid moving the animal until the injury can be assessed. If there is a foreign body involved in the injury, do not remove it. Contact your veterinarian immediately. If the horse is comfortable, calm and in the shade, you should remain where you are until help arrives and the situation can be assessed further. If you suspect that there is a fracture, you need to avoid moving the horse until help arrives. If the bone is exposed, you should cover the bone with sterile gauze and a light bandage to prevent further contamination. Offer the horse water and try to keep it as calm as possible because shock will quickly set in. If the injury is bleeding profusely and there is a pumping flow of blood, this would indicate that there is an artery that has been severed. It is very important to stop the flow of blood. Apply sterile gauze over the wound and wrap the limb tightly with bandage material. Do not remove the bandage to assess the wound because this will often dislodge the clot and the bleeding will resume. Leave the bandage on until your veterinarian can arrive. If the wound is small and the bleeding quickly stops, you can clean out the wound very gently and apply a bandage to help keep it clean.

Another common emergency that often occurs is heat stroke. Keep in mind that smog advisories also affect your horses. Do not work them too hard if they are not in proper condition and try to avoid working them during the peak heat hours. If your horse does develop heat stroke, they will often be staggering, disoriented, sweating profusely and appear to be in great distress. You need to call your veterinarian immediately and quickly begin cooling the horse. Put the horse in the shade and use a water hose to cool them down. Apply cool towels to the chest and between the hind legs because this will help bring their temperature down quickly. Air movement is critical to help the horse cool down so if a fan is available use it while you are hosing the horse down. Also remember to offer water, but avoid letting the horse drink too much at once.

While waiting for help to arrive, it is important that you try to remain calm and initiate first aid to the horse to the best of your abilities. A clear head will allow you to make good decisions and may save your horse's life.