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24 Hour Emergency Service

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Clinic News

The official provincial regulatory tests for sulfa and tetracycline compounds has changed in April to a much more sensitive test far below the current Minimum Residual Levels (MRL). Milk samples following treatment must be evaluated using tests that detect antibiotic levels as close as possible to this new aMRL (allowable level). **Both clinics are now providing Charm milk inhibitor testing, providing you with the most up to date testing available.**

Canadian Quality Milk

Soon, milk producers will receive notification from Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) of when they are scheduled to be validated for the Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) program. CQM is a Hazard Analysis and Control Points based quality assurance program developed by the Dairy Farmers of Canada. All Canadian dairy farms will use this program to reduce risks in the production and marketing of dairy products and to assure that these products are of the safest and highest quality. Producers will follow Best Management Practices, apply farm procedures consistently and keep records for management decisions and proof of due diligence. Events such as treating cows and regularly maintaining equipment and water testing must be recorded. The first round of producers will receive their CQM Manuals this November and be validated starting in July 2011. These producers are required to begin keeping records by March 2011 in order to have the minimum 3 months worth of records for the DFO Field Services Representative to review during the first validation. Dairy Farmers of Ontario is offering a maximum of \$300 per producer to cover the Advisor fees.

The **veterinarians at Linwood Veterinary Services are all CQM Advisors** trained by DFO and ready to play a role in your CQM training. We will be including a topic or two in each month's newsletter to aid producers to prepare for the CQM program.

CQM Topic #1: Advisors Role in Your CQM Validation

The CQM program has three paths for a milk producer to become validated:

- Advisors can organize group classroom sessions to overview and clarify the CQM Program requirements with or without a follow-up farm visit by the Advisor.
- Schedule a farm visit with an Advisor to cover the CQM material and perform the no farm at the same time.
- Producers can opt to cover CQM materials and get their farm ready for Validation on their own.

There will be CQM forms which must be completed by producers and submitted online. On behalf 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. According to CQM requirements the cow's ID must be attached to her, such as by an ear tag or collar, and so a stall card is not enough on its own.

As a first step in preparing for CQM, we encourage you to ensure all cows in your herd are identified and that no two cows have the same ID.

Be proactive. By beginning preparations early 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.

Quality Milk and Dairy Producers

The components of producing good quality milk involve many aspects of the farm operation:

- Genetics
- Nutrition

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- Housing, cow comfort, welfare and handling (for calves, heifers, dry cows, and milking cows)
- Teat health
- Milking machine maintenance and performance
- Milking procedures
- Overall farm cleanliness
- Management

Work to develop a results-oriented program. Steps in the program development include:

1. Establishing milk quality goals — Somatic Cell Count is a direct indicator of the prevalence of infection in the individual cow and at the herd level. Bactoscan indicates effectiveness of equipment sanitization.
2. Examine current residue build-up on equipment —this assessment determines if sanitization is working properly. Proper equipment cleaning involves a warm water rinse until water runs clear, followed by detergent rinse, acid wash and sanitizer. Proper water temperatures are crucial for cleaning effectiveness and decrease the amount of cleaning products needed in the process. Evaluate water hardness and quality so that proper amounts of cleaning products are used.
3. Evaluate housing/environment — provide a clean, dry, comfortable and fly-free environment for calves, heifers and cows. Bedding additives can assist with sanitation by absorbing ammonia and moisture, drying the bedding and eliminating bacteria growth.
4. Analyze milking machine performance — Ensure that the vacuum pumps and regulator are working properly. Ensure that automatic takeoffs are set for proper milk-out. Preventative maintenance should be performed every 1,000 to 1,200 hours.
5. Perform a milking audit — Proper milking procedures increase the amount and quality of milk produced. The farm should establish and supervise milker training according to the following standard procedures:
 - Clip udders for cleanliness.
 - Remove excess soils from teats.
 - Fore-strip - check milk and udder for mastitis.
 - Pre-dip teats with an effective product or use a sanitizing wipe.
 - Wipe and stimulate teat with a circular downward motion. Be sure to clean and sanitize teat ends
 - Provide good massage to increase milk production.
 - Attach milker unit when letdown occurs and adjust for proper alignment. Milk only dry teats.
 - Prevent liner slips.
 - Do not over milk.
 - Shut off vacuum before removing milking unit.
 - Dip teats IMMEDIATELY after unit is removed. Use an effective product that has high levels of skin conditioners.
 - Maintain clean teat dip cups.

When focusing on quality milk there is a financial benefit when the production is increased through better milking techniques. Cows are healthier when we pay attention to the best practices. And in the end, our consumers deserve the very best milk our cows, people and systems can produce.

Cow Calf

Don't feed these open cows and late pregnant cows for nothing. Feed is expensive and cull cow prices are good. Get them preg checked and identified now. Endectocide prices are at an all time low so deworm and delice the cows at the same time. Put the money you've saved by not feeding the open cows into mineral and trace mineral supplementation for the rest of the cow herd. It will translate into a healthier calf crop next year.

Stockers

Calves look good this fall, lots of moisture has kept pastures in good shape. Heavier, fleshier calves mean a bigger investment on placement. The changeable weather is upon us and pneumonia calves will need to be treated aggressively. Remember, Draxxin and Zactran are closely related drugs and if a calf relapses from treatment with one of these the other will not likely work either. Use A180 or Nuflor as a 2nd line treatment when required for these calves.

Feedlots

Implants pay ❖ Opta Flex pays ❖ Footbaths pay (when needed)