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SEPTEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Thank you for your prompt payments- they help keep prices down!

Linwood provides 30 days from your invoices, dated the end of the billing month, to pay your bills. Please remember finance charges of 2.5% will be due on amounts over 30 days from invoice date, as of October 1, 2010.

Reminder

Remember to sign up for the Pfizer Loyalty Program. 5X the points on specific products purchased between August 1 and December 31, 2010. See the insert that came with the August newsletter for details.

From Your Vets

Take a Second to Review your Fresh Cow Routine

It's automatic on some farms to give a fresh cow a bottle of calcium just after calving. This is considered cheap insurance to prevent clinical hypocalcemia (or milk fever). On other operations, calcium is rarely administered unless there is a clinical milk fever. What is the best approach? It depends on the recent history of fresh cow disorders. If there has been a problem with milk fever, and there are some management and nutritional issues that are difficult to address, this preventative bottle of calcium may be a good idea. In other situations, it may be a band-aid that covers underlying nutritional issues.

Cow health consequences

Low calcium has many effects beyond the clinical event of the fresh cow being weak or down. Calcium plays a role in muscle function and proper immune function. That bottle of calcium may get the cow through the initial period right after calving, but what about the prolonged effect of subclinical milk fever on metritis, mastitis and other diseases? You can implement other procedures to examine the fresh cow for problems without having to give a bottle. Routinely taking the temperature of fresh cows, could be a way to stop, look and listen to cows in need of something as simple as a bottle of calcium or the early identification of severe health problems.

Procedural stagnation

Procedures are often implemented and left in place for a long time after the reason they were put in place are gone. Adding a new vaccination for an outbreak of a disease, routine use of preventative antibiotics in calves, and feed additives are some of the most common areas. The bottle of calcium may be the same. Take the time to review your standard operating procedures, treatment protocols and vaccination program to see if there are things that can be updated. The thought of eliminating a procedure may scare you, but ask if you still need these things for a problem you were dealing with years ago under a different management situation.

Obviously, *discuss these modifications with your herd veterinarian*, nutritionist and other advisors. This may be a good opportunity to trim down both unnecessary tasks and expenses.

Tips to follow

If you continue to give that calcium bottle, keep these tips in mind:

- First-lactation animals rarely experience milk fever; spare them the bottle.
- Target 3 plus lactation cows as the high risk for milk fever animal.
- Review proper administration technique to prevent harm. Keep equipment as clean as possible.

- Keep the dextrose on the shelf. Most fresh cows have high blood glucose, and dextrose may cause the cow to excrete more phosphorous, leading to low blood phosphorous and a down cow.
- Regular forage analyses and rebalancing of the ration are essential.

FURTHER DISCUSSION – CHANGES IN MILK TESTING

- Last month in the newsletter we discussed recent changes with respect to milk sampling for drug residues. Specifically the problem has been that tests at the processing plants are of greater sensitivity and can detect drugs at a lower level than can tests like the Delvo or SNAP tests which are commonly in use within the industry. Remember that this problem specifically applies when drugs are used in off-label manners and not following recommended or intended ways.
- In order to increase the sensitivity of our test here at Linwood Veterinary Services we have decided to test all samples by 2 different methods. We will be testing samples with the Delvo-SP test to detect penicillin and sulfa and also will be detecting tetracyclines with the SNAP tetracycline test. We expect this test to begin in the next few weeks. In the meantime we remind you to observe all label doses and recommendations and to follow appropriate and sufficient withdrawal times. If you require clarification on milk testing methods or on determining withdrawal times please contact the office.

BEEF FEED LOT NEWS

As most of you are aware, Thur has taken on COC and are taking orders for fall calves and contracts for fat cattle to the U.S. We support this move and recognize the importance of continued cattle movement to the cattle industry.

On Arrival Protocols

Calves are starting to move and we need to prepare for fall arrivals. What type of calves are you buying this fall?

HIGH RISK	Lightweight calves 550 lbs or lighter Long Haul Calves Westerns or Easterns
MEDIUM RISK	600 to 700 lb local calves Double vaccinated calves with modified live vaccine
LOW RISK	Home grown replacements, Double vaccinated, weaned and started

The type of calves you buy will impact your on arrival protocol. High risk calves need Draxxin on arrival, electrolytes in the water, and their vaccine should include protection against histophilus (I.T.E.M.E.).

This is over and above the standard endectocide treatment and processing for horns and bulls.

Medium risk calves should be treated as high risk but use of Micotil® rather than Draxxin™ or use of ZacTran™ depending on availability and price. Low risk calves replace the Micotil® with a long acting tetracycline.

Pfizer Fall BRD Guarantee

Pfizer guarantees no more than 5% pulls in the first 30 days if you use a Pfizer 4-way viral vaccine and a Pfizer I.T.E.M.E. vaccine as well as Draxxin on arrival following label directions. If you use these and experience over 5% pulls, overseen by a vet, Pfizer will provide you with \$20 per calf in free Pfizer product towards treatment costs on these pulled calves over the 5% rate.

ZacTran™

ZacTran™ is a newly approved product available through Merial. ZacTran™ is designed to provide long lasting protection against bovine respiratory disease during high risk periods for stocker calves.

This product begins work in the lungs within 30 minutes and persists in the lungs for at least 15 days.

Dosage is 2ml per 100 lbs and the product comes in 100ml or 250ml bottles. This drug is very similar in use to Draxxin as it has a long duration of activity and is likely best used as an on arrival treatment.

Optaflexx®

Optaflexx® is a feed ingredient developed by Elanco. It is fed to cattle during the final stage of the finishing period to increase live weight gain, improve feed efficiency, and increase red meat yield. There is no withdrawal period before marketing.

It increases the pounds of closely trimmed, boneless, and retail cuts while maintaining food quality. Optaflexx® is available in 25 kg bags and is approved for feeding during the last 28 to 42 days prior to slaughter. Follow label instructions closely, mix feed well. Optaflexx® can be fed with Rumensin and Tylan without adverse affects. Call the clinic for further details and availability. This product has been used by many producers since it became available and it is a proven cost benefit to cattlemen.