

# LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

DR. MARTIN MISENER DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. NANCY CHARLTON  
DR. ANDREW MACLEOD DR. JODI KENDREW DR. JOHN TOKARZ DR. CHRIS DITTENHOFFER

3860 Manser Road, Linwood, Ontario N0B 2A0 (519) 698-2610 1-800-663-2941 Fax (519) 698-2081

## APRIL 2006 NEWSLETTER

**NOTE: THE CLINIC WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY ON FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2006.**

(Please try to think ahead about ordering your pharmaceutical needs)

### DAIRY

#### In Support of Modified-Live Vaccinations

Many dairy farmers have already incorporated modified live vaccination (MLV) protocols into their herd, but some of you are not yet doing it. It is an easy management practice and one that should be performed in all dairy herds. Once again, a quick review of the concept and protocol:

1. MLV are different from killed vaccines (example: Triangle-4 or Triangle-9) in that they give a small dose of the disease (too small to create disease) in order to train the immune system to recognize these cells should the actual virus present in the cow. By contrast, killed vaccines are produced by viral cells who have been modified by chemical process to appear similar enough to recognize but not able to be infective. While both will produce immunity MLV will produce a stronger and more reliable barrier against disease protection.
2. MLV is not safe for pregnant animals (killed vaccines are) and one notable exception: some vaccine companies have changed their label to allow MLV usage on pregnant animals ONLY if that animal has been vaccinated in the last 12 months with the same product. If this is not the case (or you are unsure) live vaccines should only be used on open animals (and remember: animals that are short-bred should be included as pregnant).
3. Calves as young as 5 weeks of age can be vaccinated with MLV. This should be boosted (repeated) 2 to 4 weeks later. This is also true with any new arrival. They should be vaccinated and boosted initially to produce a sufficient level of protection. Once calves and new arrivals have been vaccinated breeding age heifers should be done prior to breeding and adult cows done in the fresh period (20-50 DIM). By following this protocol all animals will be vaccinated once yearly and protection will be maintained.
4. MLV has some advantages over killed vaccines. Firstly, MLV tend to be cheaper than killed vaccines, and also are more reliable in terms of protection. Also, by vaccinating open animals on a monthly basis (perhaps in conjunction with herd health visits) you will not see a milk depression as some farmers report with whole-herd killed vaccinations. Additionally, MLV is available in 5, 10 or 25 dose vials which makes it very convenient for our herds.
5. The use of Lepto vaccine (a component of some vaccines, live or killed) should be restricted to adult animals of breeding age. All vaccines are available with or without the lepto portion (referred to as L5).

Vaccination remains the cornerstone of a good disease prevention protocol on your operation. Its implementation should not be taken lightly and should be done in consultation with your veterinarian. We can guide you in making the right vaccine decisions.

### COW/CALF

The calves are hitting the ground and in general things are going well. As usual some farms are facing scour challenges. If you can, vaccinate the cows twice pre-calving with a good commercial vaccine such as Scourguard or Ecostar. There are a few new ones if these are not working well for you. Definitely use lots of straw, it should not be in shortage at any farm calving out in the spring. We need to keep these babies clean and dry. Lastly, we do have some supplements such as Colimune and First Defence. Some farms have great success, others do not so please call if you are having challenges. In the past few years we have used "Autogenous Vaccines" in the swine world if you are struggling with scours in the first week of life and have tried a commercial vaccine this may be something to investigate on your farm. Please call for more details. Autogenous vaccines are vaccines made using the Ecoli bugs found on your farm from manure samples of untreated scouring calves.

## **CALF MANAGEMENT**

Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest in feeding acidified milk. We have a handful of farmers who are trying the program and I look forward to informing you of the challenges and successes. For those of you purchasing calves, please call me before you implement the program. Calves that are already scouring upon arrival to the farm need to be treated. Please call for the protocol. Early results show that calves on the program do grow better and put on more weight. Do not forget that pneumonia can still be an issue.

The one area that we are working on is keeping the milk at 20 to 25°C in cold weather environment. Many farmers are choosing to try the program in the warmer months. This program can be tried on a small number of calves for a low cost. Do not purchase any fancy equipment until we have the protocol worked out on your farm. As with all new approaches there are little quirks to work out. The number one criteria is a desire to make it work.

## **SWINE**

The industry continues to battle with PRRS, H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> influenza and Porcine Circovirus Type II. (PCV<sub>2</sub>) Two commercial vaccines for PCV<sub>2</sub> are soon available for use.

The first one is given to sows pre-farrow and has been used in France for over 12 months. Results have been mixed that the majority of users do see improvement using this product. It is however very expensive.

To use the pre-farrow product we need to get lab confirmation of PCV<sub>2</sub> in your pig flow and apply for release of product for your farm.

The second vaccine is targeted at weaner pigs (2 doses first at 3 weeks of age and 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 weeks). There is no clinical trial information on this vaccine.

We are hoping to evaluate these products on farm. The best way to do this is by setting up split barn trials. We will keep you informed of outcomes.

## **EQUINE**

### Hoof abscess

Few events are more alarming than entering the barn to see a horse non weight bearing lame. The most common cause of such an event is a hoof abscess (aka subsolar abscess), resulting in moderate to severe lameness, heat in the hoof and bounding digital pulses to the foot. Frequently the horse is overtly painful and may show reluctance to eat or move.

Hoof abscesses can be caused by the following:

1. Penetrating wound of the foot.
2. Bruising of the sole. Thin soles, or hooves housed in damp, muddy conditions for a long period of time may bruise due to hard, frozen or uneven ground. Thin-soled horses often benefit from pads if a bruise has been detected, however bruises may develop quickly into an abscess, necessitating the removal of the pad.
3. Close nail – a horse shoe nail which puts pressure on sensitive structures without piercing them. May cause immediate pain or may go for several days before pain is evident.
4. Hot nail – a horse shoe nail which is driven into sensitive structures. Usually pain is shown immediately, but can be difficult to differentiate from fractious behaviour.
5. Untrimmed hoof/white line disease. Areas of separation in the hoof which are dark and moist create favorable conditions for bacteria and fungal growth.

A thorough exam which may include desensitizing the nerves to the foot is always warranted when a horse is found non weight bearing lame. Horses not current in their tetanus vaccination should be boosted, and frequently anti-inflammatories are administered. The hoof is pared down to attempt to relieve the pressure from the abscess, then wrapped in a poultice pad or protective wrap. Warm epsom salt soaks 20 minutes daily for 5 to 7 days help to draw out infection. After the abscess resolves the hoof is generally very soft and iodine can be applied to the bottom of the hoof to toughen it up prior to application of a shoe.