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APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Thank you for your co-operation respecting Saturday morning “emergency only” pharmacy orders. Keeping our drivers hours out of overtime reduces delivery costs and prices. We continue to look at ways to improve efficiency as expenses rise, so that we can maintain our high level of service for pharmacy delivery.

Protect your family and visitors to your farm with up to date dog vaccinations. One of our delivery staff was badly bitten recently by a dog without a vaccination record. Linwood is **not** licensed to give dog vaccines except rabies. Please let us know ahead of a vet visit if you need a rabies vaccination.

Announcements

5th Annual Waterloo Wellington Beef Tour -Wednesday April 14, 2010 at 11:00 am
FREE LUNCH at 12:00 noon. Elora Beef Research Station #6258, 2nd Line

Guided tours in the afternoon. Everybody Welcome except those who visited countries with Foot and Mouth Ban, including Asia, Africa, South America, Russia and Former Republics of USSR, in the last six weeks. If you have any questions please call:

Mark Martin (519)638-3644, Justin Martin (519)664-3789, David Horst (519)846-2043

Bovine News

Transition cow + ketosis = TROUBLE

The 3 weeks prior to and following calving present the greatest challenges to the dairy cow and producer. The cow's requirements for calcium and energy change drastically. Her ability to adapt to these changes has to be enhanced with an effective management protocol. If the management system fails to provide the energy required by the cow. Then, she will be forced to mobilize fat and protein stores to produce the glucose energy for the growing fetus and more importantly for the production of milk. This process creates Non Esterified Fatty Acids (NEFAs), ketones and other by-products which are stored in the liver to create varying degrees of a Fatty Liver. This increasing liver fat content reduces the livers' ability to provide energy regulation as well as to perform other functions to further compromise the health of the cow. **The focus in the transition stage has to be to *minimize* the mobilization of the fat for energy.** Next, are some Preventive Strategies:

- **Transition Ration** must provide adequate energy by maximizing DMI and provide proper feed energy density since Dry Matter Intake (DMI) can decline by 30% in the weeks prior to calving. Introduce ration changes gradually. Watch to avoid high butyric acid silage.
- **Rumensin (Monensin)** modifies the rumen microbes to increase production of propionate which is more energy efficient and has been shown to reduce subclinical ketosis during early lactation by 50%. The feed additive and/or the bolus can be used. Monensin has also shown some protective effects vs. Johnes disease.
- **Minimize Transition Group Changes** since re-ordering of the social structure of the group has a negative impact on DMI especially on the individual cow and not so much on the pen.

- **Bunk Space** is a primary driver of DMI. Recommendations start at 36 inches per cow.
- **Avoid Over-Crowding** since this impacts DMI via competition between cows for both feed and bedding space.
- **Avoid Over-Conditioning** of cows though the dry period.
- **Niacin** can be fed in the transition ration at 6-12 g/day to help reduce blood ketone levels.
- **Subclinical ketosis Monitoring Programs** evaluate your transition program. This identifies animals for treatment prior to clinical ketosis. Cows should be assessed a week to 10 days prior to due date and then on a regular bases in the first 3 weeks of lactation with cow side tests using either urine or milk. A positive test indicates a review of what is happening to the transition group and a need for individual treatment as well as rule out any concurrent disease.
- **Propylene Glycol** is a high maintenance treatment and as such much ketosis treatment fails because of poor producer compliance. This must be given as a bolus treatment to high risk animal and cows which test positive on a cow side ketosis test.
- **Other Factors** can include any agent or situation which decreases the DMI of the transition cow. These can be easily identified or require further investigation.

Watch out for:

- **Shifts in Behaviour** especially decreases in DMI or off feeds.
- **Minimize Change** since cows are creatures of habit, keeping the environment and animal's consistent smoothes the transition period.
- **Ration Quality** must be a priority and a close relationship with a nutritionist is a MUST.

Set goals for metabolic disorders:

✓ Displaced Abomasum	2%	✓ Calving Problems	10%
✓ RP/Metritis	5%	✓ Ketosis	2.5
✓ Milk Fever(>2 nd Lact)	2%		

Swine News

This month I want to take the opportunity to announce some changes to our business that will occur over the next few months. Like the Ontario Swine Industry I am committed to a family business model. As most of you know, my Mom, Sylvia Misener has been the Linwood Vet office manager for 15 years. My brother Brian is my right hand man and all the staff have been our family. Mom is a young 73 and is determined to work for another twenty years but the scope of a multi-species clinic is too stressful. We are therefore moving to a building in St. Clements and focusing only on the Swine producer client base. We are working with four other swine practices to put together a business model that can help the industry recover from the last three years of red ink.

Please call me personally if you have any questions or concerns. I am very excited to be able to make client communication Mom's top priority and although biased, I do think she is the greatest asset any business could ask for. We will let you know about procedural changes as we figure them out.

Vet Tech Notes

Our Veterinary Technicians would like to remind you that if you are running out of time to get your calves vaccinated or dehorned, they are here to help! We dehorn small calves using a lidocaine block and small burners. Avoid gouges later and call us now. Your technician will work with you, to arrange a phone check in at regular intervals for your vaccination and dehorning needs. Your technician will maintain accurate records of the vaccinations for you.



*Join us as we celebrate our 10th Annual
General Meeting
on Tuesday, April 13, 2010
at the Arden Park Hotel, Stratford
from 4:00pm -10:00pm*

*Registration 4:00
\$40 for Non-Members
Business Meeting 4:30
7, 2010*

*Dinner 6:30
Announcements and Guest Speaker 7:30
donnakaz@swineservices.ca
Cash Bar from 4:00-7:30*

Cost- \$20 for OPIC Members or

Registration is required by April

*To register: Contact Donna
519-272-1532 or*

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*Speakers: John F.T. Scott, President & CEO of
The Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers &
Anita Ivanauskas, Pork Marketing Canada/Ontario Pork*

About our Speaker: John F.T. Scott

The Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers (CFIG) is a non-profit trade association representing over 4000 grocery retailers from every part of Canada, **CFIG** provides services and a strong and united voice for independent grocers. CFIG represents its retail members to industry, government, and the consumer. As President and CEO of CFIG for 19 years, Mr. Scott has a great deal of experience in economics and policy analysis with a direct focus on the retail food industry. In this capacity, John continues to be involved in a wide variety of industry initiatives and has been recognized for his efforts. John frequently speaks on Canada's retail food industry to public and private companies, trade associations, universities and processing groups.

John will present "Consumers Drive Opportunities at Retail" with a follow-up from Anita Ivanauskas Pork Marketing Canada/OP on how these principles apply to our industry. Our agenda also includes OPIC and OSHAB project announcements and for the first time, we have included dinner with our AGM and so really appreciate your pre-registration. Thanks, hope to see you there!

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