

LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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AUGUST 2006 NEWSLETTER

CLINIC NEWS

The clinic will be open until 12:00 p.m. on Monday, September 4, 2006 for the Labour Day Holiday, please try to monitor your supplies and order ahead so this does not inconvenience you during the holiday weekend.

EQUINE

Wound Care/First Aid

At some point in their lives, horses tend to injure themselves. An owner can minimize the damage and may be able to reduce the recovery time by providing first aid immediately. The goal of providing first aid is to stabilize the animal until help can arrive.

Often times, the animal has entangled itself on a piece of equipment or in a fence. If the horse can be removed from the situation without injuring itself or the handler, then it should be done carefully. A quick examination as to the extent of the injury should be performed. The majority of injuries on the lower limbs, abdomen or chest should be examined by a veterinarian. There are many vital structures and organs in these areas and the extent of the damage needs to be assessed. If an object is impaled in the animal, please do not attempt to remove it.

While you are waiting for the veterinarian to arrive, please keep the animal in the shade and administer first aid to the patient. Ideally, a non-stick bandage should cover the wound to keep it as clean as possible. A bandage should then be wrapped around the wound to apply pressure. If the wound is on the body, you can cover the wound with towels and apply direct pressure to stop the bleeding. It is best to avoid covering the wound with ointments or wound dressings because these will have to be removed in order for the veterinarian to truly assess the damage.

When dealing with wounds, it is always best to contact the veterinarian as soon as possible. There is a narrow space of time within which a wound can be sutured closed. With proper initial care, you can minimize the scar and help reduce the length of the recovery period.

Recommended first aid kit

- Non-stick bandages (various sizes) (Telfa pads or baby diapers)
- Gauze squares
- Kling (gauze rolls)
- Roll of cotton
- Vet wrap
- Standing wrap
- No-bow bandages
- Dermagel

- Towels
- Scissors
- Tape
- Blue spray/wound dressings for superficial/minor wounds

SWINE

It looks like the commercial circovirus vaccines are providing good results in preventing PMWS. Early results in Ontario and Quebec have been very encouraging. Information presented in Denmark at the IPVS (international pig veterinary society) conference in showing a better than ½ reduction in PMWS cases in herds using the prefarrow sow vaccine. Vaccination of weaner pigs has so far been very effective. Some farms have seen a drop from greater than 10% losses to under 2%. However vaccine supply is still an issue. We hope by early fall we will have a full supply of vaccine but for now it is very hit and miss. We will keep you informed about results and supply of vaccine.

Neonatal scours in piglets is a common problem that can come and go on many farms. We tend to make presumptive diagnosis based on the age of onset of scour. Scours under 7 days of age tend to be E coli. Scours between 3 and 10 days of age tend to be viral and over 10 days of age tend to be coccidiosis. However there are always exceptions e.g. K88 Ecoli after 14 days of age, clostridium scours and TGE. Even though it can be frustrating definitive diagnosis is very important.

We now have Gentasul pig mix back again. This product is Gentamycin injectable diluted to provide a 1cc IM dose. It is very effective for Ecoli scours in piglets under 7 days of age. There is a 42 day meat withdrawal.

BEEF

For those producers who place stockers early in the season keep in mind the affect of the heat. Ideally coordinate transport for early a.m. or late p.m. Make sure you have lots of water access. Add water tubs and use Electrolytes for the 1st 24-48 hours after arrival. Do not process during the hottest time of the day.

It's time to critically evaluate pasture cattle performance. Mid season deworming is indicating if cattle are not gaining or individuals are losing weight. If you're using "old" pasture that is grass fields that see cattle every year the risk for parasite challenge is much higher. Call the clinic regarding the cost and use of Dectomax for mid summer deworming.

BEEF AND SHEEP FEEDLOT

The extreme heat and humidity is an ideal climate for clostridial diseases. One of the classical situations is "sudden death" of a good looking animal, which immediately bloats up from head to tail. However, in this weather, any dead animal will blow up after it dies due to the heat so caution must be used when determining whether clostridium is at fault. Should you be experiencing too many sudden deaths – try to have a "fresh" dead animal post-mortemed. If you have an animal down and near death, this may be a better specimen to euthanize and post-mortem. You can call and speak to a veterinarian if you are unsure of what to do.

A few recommendations:

1. Do not overcrowd and in this heat/humidity reduce your stocking density. Increased humidity increases the bacterial challenge, which increases the disease challenge to the group.
2. If you are feeding a "hot" ration, consider a little extra fibre. Please discuss with your nutritionist.
3. Feed/water medications are available depending on your system and if you are shipping finishing animals on a regular basis. Please call to discuss.
4. Particularly for sheep – vaccinating with clostridium vaccine such as Tasvax 8 is a wise idea for summer time feedlots. This is recommended for pasture beef cattle and can help reduce the risk for sudden death due to clostridium in the feedlot.

DAIRY

Recently our clinic did a survey of pregnancy rates for 36 dairy herds using regular herd health visits with our dairy veterinarians and also enrolled on DHI. Many herds allow access of DHI records to their herd veterinarian. In this survey we compared average pregnancy rates, conception rates and heat detection rates with Ontario averages as given by Canwest DHI. Results are listed below:

	Pregnancy Rate	Conception Rate	Heat Detection Rate
Linwood Average	14.4%	42.2%	37%
Ont. DHI Average	12.7%	38.6%	33.2%

Obviously we are proud that in this survey our herds show a difference over the Ontario averages. The reasons for these differences can be explained:

- 1) Our survey represents a small number (36) of herds and 1230 cows where the Ontario DHI sample represents thousands of herds and many more cattle.
- 2) Our survey represents herds using DHI and a herd health program.

Herds which use DHI and a herd health program are taking a positive step toward improving the profitability of their operation. A regular herd health program allows you to identify open cows sooner and start on the road to getting these cows in calf. Dairy farms with lots of fresh cows have higher average production as a result of more cows in early lactation where peak milk production is achieved. As well, these herds will have more heifers allowing for replacement of older animals with younger animals of improved genetics.

If you are not using a regularly scheduled herd health program please consider implementing one. It represents a great opportunity to improve reproduction on your farm as well as to have a regular veterinary visit to discuss other challenges on your operation which occur occasionally, such as elevated somatic cell counts or nutritional concerns.