



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

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

DECEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Swine Meeting

When: On Tuesday, December 12, 2006

Where: Mount Forest Legion

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

About: The Three B's of Swine Production

Agenda:

- **Barnyard Bucks** – a review of basic swine economics and where to find opportunity income
- **Barnyard Breeding** – so you have closed your herd, now what? How to keep F1's alive and well in your herd
- **Barnyard Basics** – managing the herd for disease control along with an update on Circovirus Vaccine and Draxxin for treating sick animals

Register: Call the clinic by December 5th to register

There will be a hot lunch provided

SWINE

Circovirus

It looks like vaccine supply will finally be sorted out in December. We want to thank all the producers for their patience and tolerance regarding the lack of consistent supply during the summer and fall months. The weaner pig vaccines have been a wonderful success story. Currently the two dose Intervet vaccine and the single dose Boehringer vaccine are available. We still have a lot to learn about this disease but safe effective vaccine options will give us the time to better understand circovirus without the continued high losses. The sow vaccine still has some real question marks as per its effectiveness. It seems clear from European and Canadian experience that use of the sow vaccine will reduce the losses from PCV₂ but it is not as protective as the weaner pig vaccines. Currently we are not recommending the sow vaccine in high risk situations.

Thoughts on disease management

Over the last two years we have radically changed our approach to control and elimination of PRRS virus. Some of the interventions used for PRRS also control or eliminate other pathogens as well. There are two general key components to disease control.

1. Sow herd immunity
2. Pig flow changes to minimize challenge of the disease.

The second component is the hardest one. Herds that are having high losses to disease challenges must focus on pig flow changes. These changes can be expensive and difficult but for some farms there are only two outcomes.

1. Continue as you are and live with your losses
OR
2. Change your pig flow.

We will continue to provide advise on these key components and celebrate successes and try harder after failures.

BEEF

Update on Draxxin

Most of you are aware of the new long acting antibiotic called Draxxin. Dose 1.1cc/100lbs subQ (under the skin). One dose treats for 7-14 days. 44 day meat withdrawal in cattle. We have been very impressed with the results to date using Draxxin. Like all drugs it does not work in every case or every situation but so far response to treatment and prevention of BRD in groups of cattle has been excellent. We do encourage evaluation of response. No matter what drug you use if cattle do not show improvement within 24-48 hours of treatment then treatments should be re-evaluated. As we move into December risk rates for Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) increase considerably. Weather pressures and stale cattle result in higher treatment rates with poorer response. We advise using Draxxin as an incoming (on arrival) treatment for high risk calves in December. The investment up front will save you money in these groups of calves. Cost of Pour On endectocides has never been lower. In a competitive industry input costs matter so this is at least some good news for Producers.

CALVES

It is hard to believe in August and September that we can be heading into the rainy, dull days of autumn. Vaccination programs need to be put in place prior to the challenging weather in order to help reduce the impact of pneumonia on your calves. It all starts with a vaccinated dam and vaccinating in the open period is best for managing the cow, if we need to improve colostral antibodies for pneumonia we may need to place the vaccine 3 to 5 weeks pre-calving. Call for more details. Ensure that newborn calves receive 3.5 to 4.0 L of colostrum within 6 hours of life. If left alone the calf never suckles enough colostrum. Next ensure the calves are in a draft-free, dry environment with adequate air exchange. If you are questioning air quality you can utilize a "smoke pencil" to watch how quickly or slowly the air leaves the calf barn. With the changeable weather the air exchanges tend to be too slow. This allows a build up of ammonia and other pneumonia pathogens such as viruses and bacteria. The challenge overwhelms the calf's immune system or the environment immunosuppresses the calf and the end result is a sick calf. Vaccination prior to disease challenge is import, along with feed medications and grouping animals and minimizing introductions. Injectable antibiotics and anti-inflammatories help reduce the effect of bacteria but if you have a poor response then we must look at "timing" and environmental factors. Draxxin at 1.1ml/100lbs under the skin is very effective when administered early in the disease state.

EQUINE

Colic Season

The beginning of fall frequently coincides with an increase in colic episodes that require veterinary attention. During fall, we often experience rapidly changing temperature as well as an increase in rainfall. Consequently, it is extremely important that the horses that are housed outdoors have access to shelter from the elements. Additionally, it is vital that the water source never becomes frozen. Many horses will refuse to drink cold water. A Heater in the water source may be necessary to encourage the horse to drink. A salt or mineral block should also be made available to help stimulate water intake.

Colic may have many different presenting signs, so a watchful eye is necessary. If you notice a decreased interest in food or water, please keep a close eye on the horse. Sweating, rolling, pawing, pacing as well as turning to look at their sides are all signs that may suggest a horse is colicking. The first step that should be taken is to walk the horse for about an hour. If the horse is constantly trying to lay down while being walked, then it is time to call the veterinarian. If after an hour or walking, the horse is calm and settled, then place the horse back on their stall. If the horse shows signs of colic again, please contact the clinic. However, if the horse is calm and settled, offer some water, a bit of hay and avoid feeding carbohydrates for a few days. Please make sure to keep a close watch and if signs of colic reappear, then contact the clinic.

At this time of year, we most commonly encounter impaction types of colics. The feed generally accumulates at an intestinal junction and becomes quite dry. Once the moisture is removed, the intestinal tract has difficulty passing the ingesta. As time passes, the intestinal tract distends and makes the horse very uncomfortable. Fluid therapy is essential and multiple treatments may be required to fully clear the impaction. Colics should always be taken seriously and proper treatment and care should be administered promptly.

Attention Horse Exporters

As of December 8, 2006 horses can not cross into to U.S.A. on multi-level trailers. Horses on such trailers will be turned back.

DAIRY

Many of you will notice that Special Formula now has new, stylized packaging. Special Formula also has a labelled meat withdrawal of 24 days; previously there was no label meat withdrawal. While this is a significant difference, the initial meat withdrawal of zero days was most certainly low. Special Formula still remains an excellent (and one of the more effective) mastitis treatment. This new label withdrawal is more accurate and adds improved safety to this product.

In addition, we have seen a few dairy herds with IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis) this fall. IBR is a virus spread amongst cattle through the air that causes respiratory disease, high fever (>105°F), coughing, watery eyes and possibly abortions. Many cattle infected with IBR also develop a secondary bacterial pneumonia which often is more serious and life-threatening than the initial viral infection. IBR can present in closed herds, although herds bringing in animals are at greater risk.

Vaccination is an effective tool against IBR. Vaccines such as Bovishield Gold or CattleMaster Gold are very effective against IBR. The initial cost of vaccination can pale in comparison next to the costs associated with treatment, death loss or abortions. Discuss vaccination protocols with your veterinarian to keep this serious disease at bay.