

LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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FEBRUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER

LINWOOD AGRICULTURE INFORMATION DAY– Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Once again we are happy to be continuing our annual agriculture and information day along with Jones Feed Mill on Tuesday, February 15, 2005 from 9-5 at the new Linwood Community Centre. If you need to arrange transportation, please contact Jones Feed Mill at 698-2082 to make arrangements.

We are going to have speakers At Ag Day this year:

1. From 10:00 am – 10:30 am Andrew Barrie – Nutrition Management Specialist (OMAF)
Dave Bray – Ag Enforcement Officer (MOE)
These fellows will bring us an update on Nutrient Management
2. 11:00am – 11:30am – Dr. Martin Misener – PRRS
3. 1:00pm – 1:30pm – Dr. Jodi Kendrew – Mare and Foal Management
4. 2:00pm – 2:30pm – Brian Jones – National Feed Program Specialist (CFIA)
Brian's topic, On-farm Mixing Regulations Update
5. 3:00pm – 3:30pm – Dr. Andrew MacLeod – Ketosis and Fresh Cow Management

We are confident that you will get some good information and look forward to some input from you for next year's plans.

DAIRY

Dairy Farmers of Ontario will begin penalizing producers for over-quota production beginning in February. In order to avoid these levies farmers will have to be aware of their bulk tank fat test at all times as a change of only a few percentage points can drastically affect quota utilization. Refer to the table below:

Table 1: Milk Required to Fill 1kg of Quota at various Bulk Tank Fat Levels

BF	Litres Req'd
3.0	33.3
3.25	30.8
3.5	28.6
3.75	26.7
4.0	25.0
4.25	23.5
4.5	22.2
5	20.0

ButterFat can be influenced by a series of factors. Factors such as breed and diet are well established; in addition, stage of lactation can affect fat test. Fat will rise significantly in late lactation and be reduced in the Fresh period. This effect will be minimized when calvings are spread throughout the year, and most noticeable when large groups of cows calve together (i.e. fat test will drop). Also remember that fat test is higher in the autumn months when many farmers group calvings to optimize fall incentives.

In order to consistently attempt to maintain butterfat farmers should try to evenly space calvings all year long. A good rule of thumb is 10% of the cow herd calving per month, not counting heifers. For example, a 40-cow herd should strive to have 4 fresh cows every month. Additional heifers calving every month will

allow for culls or other losses. With a conception rate of 50% two services will be required per pregnancy needed.

The OV-synch program is an excellent way to get cows bred. A simple schedule of needling cows will allow timed AI without heat detection. Conception rates are the same as with observed estrus breeding but allows a greater number of services, leading to more pregnancies and more consistent calvings. This means more predictable bulk tank butterfat levels, which in turn can help minimize over-production levies.

COW/CALF

The extreme cold has been a little tough in some new born calves. Be prepared to put newly born wet calves under a heat lamp. The back room/kitchen on some farms has been another place to put calves until they are dry. Remember chilling is a huge stress on animals, particularly a calf going from 39°C to -20°C, that's a 60° difference within minutes! There is a new Headstart – Green Label that allows one bag to provide a complete colostrum replacement. So, on one of those cold nights you can haul the calf in, mix up a bag of colostrum replacement, tube it and go back to bed. On your next calving check you can take the calf back out and put it with the dam and let it suckle when it is hungry. If help is needed, hopefully it is at a warmer time of day. Colostrum and managing chilling are far more important than many vitamin injections. Vit E/Selenium is still recommended at 2cc/calf under the skin in the neck. Do not forget to bed daily to keep the scour bugs as far away from the calf as possible.

STALOSAN F (Calves and Pigs)

The clinic is now handling a “drying” product called Stalosan F. For those of you who have typically used lime this may be a product for you to try. Stalosan F is a product from Denmark and has been used in Europe for 30 years. It is primarily phosphorus, with a little copper, iron, clay and a chlorine-like ingredient. It is used at 50gm/m² or 50gm/free-stall or 30gm/sow crate. It can be applied by hand or with a hand-held grass-seeder. When first applied, apply daily for 3 days and then once a week. Where scouring occurs you can apply to the pen daily the first few days of scouring whether it is pigs or calves. Lime has a high pH which bacteria like, lime has a very short-acting effect and after a few hours has been known to worsen situations. Lime dries out skin and the high pH can encourage bacterial growth. Stalosan F does not dry out skin and reduces the environment's pH to help reduce bacterial growth. This is not a magic bullet. We still promote good hygiene, pressure washing when possible, and not over stocking. Nutritional needs must be met and ventilation needs to remove excess moisture from the air. Chilled animals will be so immuno-suppressed nothing will stop the on-going battle with scours. But if you are doing all that you can and want to replace the lime or add a product to your hygiene protocol then give Stalosan F a try.

BEEF

We are waiting to see what March brings for the Canadian cattle industry. There are a few issues affecting fat cattle shipments now and these issues will intensify once the border opens. The most important questions are regarding age determination. Currently the industry is basing age determination on the examination of teeth. Cattle lose their front baby teeth at different ages. CFIA has established a standard age determination. Our understanding is that only the first two teeth can be permanent. If the third baby tooth is lost the animal will be aged as over 30 months. This is not an accurate measure of age and will err to the young side. In other words, there are many cattle that are younger than 30 months but have lost the third baby tooth. This inaccuracy is very frustrating and costly but we are stuck with it. You must consider your target market and feed appropriately.

The potential opening of the U.S. border also requires us to consider any other issues that may affect our beef industry. We cannot assume that something is O.K. simply because it has been used for many years. The use of Dipyrone in cattle is such an issue. This drug has been used in Canada for many years under veterinary prescription. It was used to reduce fevers. This drug is banned in the U.S. and we do not want its use to potentially affect our beef market. Over the last two years we have been recommending Banmine or ASA boluses as a substitute for Dipyrone use. Some producers have switched to these options but some Dipyrone is still used in cattle. As of March we will not sell Dipyrone for use in cattle. This may seem drastic but our battered beef industry does not need another hit. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support of this decision.

SWINE

The battle against PRRS continues. We have tried some interventions that are new to the North American industry and they are looking promising. Once we have analyzed our results we will pass on our experiences. Aside from these new approaches there are still some points that continue to prove very important.

1. Gilt introduction is the main issue to stabilizing and maintaining herd PRRS stability. In farrow-finish systems “weaner” gilt introduction is an excellent method. I prefer introduction of 55lb animals to weanlings and each system can set up its best case flow patterns. **Can’t** needs to be taken out of our vocabulary.
2. Maternal colostral immunity management and elimination of high risk, low viability pigs speeds up herd stability. Our basic program is no cross-fostering until at least 24 hours after farrowing and day 3 processing and culling. ie: teeth, tails, castrate and antibiotic all on day #3 as well as humane euthanasia of low viability piglets.

Other diseases are causing some problems this winter. We have seen 3 cases of acute Glasser outbreaks. These can be very severe and require immediate intervention. NuFlor has been an excellent drug in treating these outbreaks. The dose is 15mg/kg or approximately 2.5cc/100lbs I.M. Repeat in 48 hours with a 14 day slaughter withdrawal.

Rota Virus has shown up in a few sow herds. It causes a scour in piglets resulting in high morbidity but low mortality. Feed back is the best and cheapest fix but we also have a pre-farrow vaccine that is very effective for this problem.

Finally, it is the season for TGE. As you are well aware we don’t want to see TGE. In fact, we don’t want to even hear about TGE. We ask you to call for a phone consult if you suspect TGE and we thank you in advance for your co-operation. This germ causes sows to go off feed and vomit and scour. It can cause scours and vomiting in weaner and grow finishers and it kills baby piglets. It is very transmissible. If you suspect it has affected your farm it is important to notify us and other suppliers so we do not spread this germ.

SWINE A.I.

We have had excellent results with the swine A.I. from our rent-a-pen boars. We have 10 Duroc boars, all the same blood line in the OSI boar stud. We own another 15 so semen availability can be increased. On farm conception rates have been very good and more and more producers are using this service. We are adding another price category. If you buy 1 – 5 services at one time the cost is \$13.00/service. If you buy 6 – 10 services at one time cost is \$11.50. If you buy greater than 10 services at one time the cost is \$10.00.

EQUINE

Mares: Many mares in the country are approaching foaling. If you are moving your brood mare prior to foaling, try to do so 4 to 6 weeks before her due date. This allows her to adjust to her new environment as well as to develop immunity to the local micro organisms. Ensure that the area is clean and well bedded with straw (not shavings). Pre-foaling vaccinations can be done 2 to 8 weeks prior to foaling and should include a tetanus toxoid to protect the mare during foaling. Other vaccines can be given to boost colostrum antibody levels to protect the foal. West Nile Virus vaccine is commonly given as foals are more susceptible to the virus than adult horses and vaccination of the foal is expensive as it requires multiple doses. Other examples of pre-foaling vaccinations are flu/rhino, strangles and sleeping sickness. Once the foal is born, the most important consideration is colostrum ingestion. Colostrum is the mare’s milk that is produced in the first 24 hours post foaling. It is high in antibodies which the foal absorbs through its intestine after ingestion. Foals who do not drink or ingest adequate levels of colostrum within 24 hours (ideally 6 to 8 hours) are at a massive disadvantage as their immune system cannot respond to bacteria or viruses. These foals are termed “Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT). This is the primary underlying cause of infection in new born foals. This is tested for with a blood sample and can be treated with a plasma transfer.

Give new foals a foal kit which includes Vitamin E/selenium (to prevent white muscle disease), tetanus antitoxin (to protect foal from lockjaw – this is not the same as tetanus vaccination) and an antibiotic injection (Tribrissen) which is given in case the foal is exposed to bacteria during the birthing process. Keep your foal kits on hand prior to foaling and in the refrigerator.

Umbilical cord treatment involves using a disinfectant such as iodine or chlorhexadine to prevent infection of the cord. The umbilical cord is a major source of infection in the foal. Try to make sure your hands are very clean when handling the navel, or put disinfectant in a spray bottle and do not touch the cord at all.

