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FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

LINWOOD AGRICULTURE INFORMATION DAY– Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Once again we are happy to be continuing our annual agriculture and information day along with Jones Feed Mill on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 from 9-4 at the new Linwood Community Centre. If you need to arrange transportation, please contact Jones Feed Mill at 698-2082 to make arrangements.

SPEAKER PROGRAM:

- 10:00a.m. Dr. Roxane Pardiac – “Equine Dentistry”
10:30a.m. Dr. Simon Timmermans- Horizon Beef, Iowa, U.S.A.
11:00a.m. Dr. Martin Misener – “Swine Disease Update – Solution and Frustrations”
- 1:00p.m. Craig Connell – “Free Choice Acidified Milk Feeding”
1:45p.m. Dr. Andrew MacLeod – “Embryo Transplant in the Dairy Herd”
2:15p.m. Bob Kerr – Owner Kerr Farms, Chatham, Ontario
Stefan Oellinger – General Manager Kerr Farms
“Consumer Trends/Value Chains/Local Food”

Calf Management

Linwood’s Annual Ag Day February 13th presents: “Acidified Milk Feeding” – A success story from Craig Connell, owner operator of a large dairy farm near London. Come listen to a farmers perspective on how he took this idea and made it work on his farm. The presentation will take place at 1:00 pm for approximately 45 minutes. We look forward to discussion with the audience. Many farmers have taken the idea and made it work on their farm. There have been modifications to the program as well, which can be shared through Nancy as the moderator of the talk. We look forward to seeing you there whether you have a small, medium, large dairy farm or feed veal calves!

DAIRY

Elevated somatic cell counts continue to be a challenge for many farmers. Lately many producers have pointed out that their bulk tank levels are above what they would like them to be. Remember that mastitis is one of the most costly diseases (behind reproduction and lameness) we have on dairy farms. Mastitis robs profits in a number of ways:

1. Lost production due to mastitis. Cows with high SCC above a linear score of 4 have lower production than cows with linear scores below 4.
2. Lost production due to antibiotic treatments and withdrawal times.
3. Increased labour associated with treating cows and milking treated cows separately.
4. Antibiotic costs and treatment costs.

5. Early culling costs due to mastitis of high SCC.

Because of these costs and because we want to produce the best food products possible, it is important to keep SCC as low as possible. There are a number of ways to do this:

1. Practice good milking habits. Strip quarters pre-milking and use good udder prep habits. Review these with your veterinarian.
2. Maintain milking equipment regularly. Even small fluctuations in things such as vacuum levels can have large impacts later on.
3. Dry treat all cows to eliminate existing infections and prevent new infections at freshening. Mastitis cases in the first 100 days of milk can be the result of infections arising from the dry period. Dry care therapy will reduce these. Orbeseal teat sealant is another option to help reduce dry cow infections and should be used in conjunction with dry cow treatment, not in place of it.
4. Culture cows with high SCC to determine the cause of the mastitis. This will allow you to isolate Staph aureus cows or develop other treatment protocols to minimize the effects of high SCC.
5. Maintain a clean and dry cow environment at all stages of lactation. This will help reduce the chance for environmental mastitis cases.
6. Review your mastitis situation with your veterinarian. We can help you reduce mastitis cases and ultimately lower your bulk tank SCC. This will help improve your profit.

EQUINE

Annual Dental Health Care

The winter months are generally the time of year when annual health examinations are performed. It is also an ideal time to have your horse's teeth checked. An adult horse has a total of 12 incisors, 12 premolars and 12 molars. Males and some females will have an additional 4 canines. Generally, the adult dentition will be erupting from 2 ½ years until 6 years of age. Young horses will often have wolf teeth, which are found directly in front of the 2nd pre-molar. These should be removed prior to the horse being ridden or driven.

Horses were designed to live off pasture, while spending the majority of their time grazing. Their premolars and molars form a large grinding surface. The lower jaw is significantly smaller in size than the upper jaw. This design causes the most common dental abnormality. Sharp enamel points develop on the outer edges of the upper teeth and the inner edges of the lower teeth. These points, if not filed down will traumatize the tender cheeks and tongue. Sharp hooks can also develop on the upper 2nd premolar and lower 3rd molar. These hooks are extremely painful.

Consequently, regular dental care is very important to your horse's overall health. Adult horses (7-20 years) should have their teeth checked annually. Younger horses, once they have started to be worked, should be checked every 6 months. Elderly horses should also have their teeth checked every 6 months. Having a dental examination included in your annual examination will help to keep your horse as healthy as possible.

