



LINWOOD
VETERINARY SERVICES

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FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

LINWOOD AGRICULTURE INFORMATION DAY– Tuesday, February 12, 2008

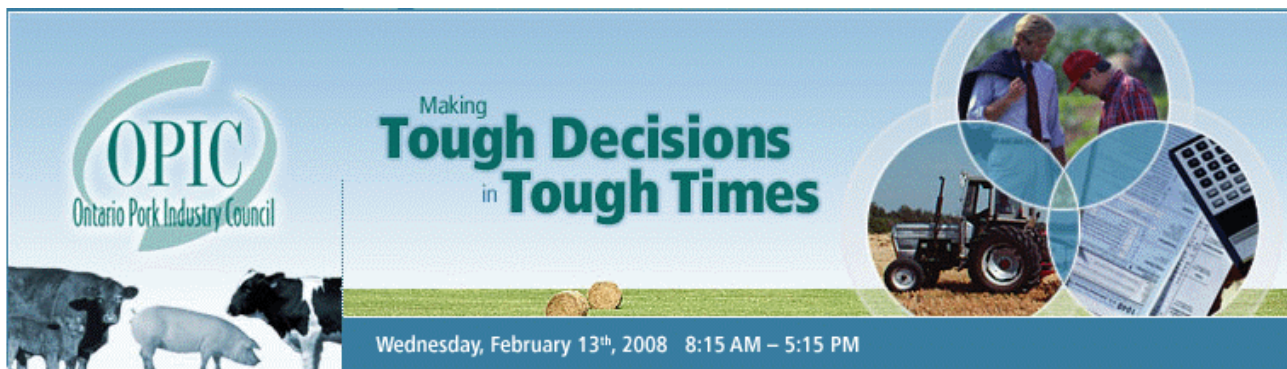
Once again we are happy to be continuing our annual agriculture and information day along with Jones Feed Mill on Tuesday, February 12, 2007 from 9-4 at the new Linwood Community Centre. If you need to arrange transportation, please contact Jones Feed Mill at 698-2082 to make arrangements.

SPEAKER PROGRAM:

- 10:00a.m. Dr. Roxane Pardiac – “Equine Chiropractic – What is it? What can it do for you?”
- 10:30a.m. Don Mills – Market Development Local Food Plus
“Marketing Products Through the Local Food Plus Program”
- 11:15a.m. Dr. Randy Graham - “Reproduction Program”
- Lunch
- 1:30p.m. Vance Peterson – Scotia Bank Director of Agriculture for Ontario
“Economic and Political Factors that Affect Agricultural Markets”
- 2::30p.m. Dr. Martin Misener – Industry Update – “2008 The Year of Feed Conversion”

CLINIC NOTES:

We wish to thank all of our customers for their patience and understanding with the delays experienced because of bad weather conditions. Our commitment to the safety of our staff has caused clinic closures and late or postponed delivery of medication. Please be assured that your orders will be filled as promptly as possible.



Need help to analyze your business in this new reality?

Aimed at the pork, beef and veal sectors, this conference is intended to provide real time information to help producers and agribusiness make sound business decisions in this changed business environment.

Topics will include: effects of the dollar, competitiveness, things to consider when transitioning your business, risk management, among others.

Pre-register by February 8th and Save!

Payment and registration information must be received by February 8th to receive reduced rates.

If you are a registered producer with OCA, Ontario Veal, Ontario Pork or are an OPIC member you can preregister for \$30.

If you are not a producer or OPIC member, you can preregister for \$40.

Registrations will be accepted at the door at a cost of \$50 for the day.

Register now at: www.toughdecisions.ca

See website for details on topics and speaker bios.

Speakers include:

David Irvine	Irvine and Associates	Maurizio (Moe) Agostino	Farms.com
Dr. Vincent Amanor-Boadu	Kansas State Univeristy	Steven Meyer	Paragon Economics
Dr. Gary Smith	Colorado State University	Kevin Grier	George Morris Centre

Venue:

LONDON CONVENTION CENTRE
300 York Street, London ON, Canada

EQUINE

Equine Choke

The term choke in equine medicine does not refer to a blocked airway but rather a blockage of the esophagus. The esophagus is approximately 4 feet in length and it connects the throat to the stomach. It is a very muscular structure and these muscular contractions allow the feedstuff to travel into the stomach. A blockage generally occurs when a foreign body is swallowed or if a wad of food is not chewed properly and an inadequate amount of saliva is present.

The majority of equine chokes are mild, unnoticed and are resolved spontaneously once enough saliva has travelled down into the esophagus. However, there are some incidences that require medical intervention to help clear the blockage or remove the foreign body. Equine choke is rarely a life threatening issue but if the blockage is significantly large, it can cause long term damage to the esophageal tissues leading to chronic issues.

Even though the majority of equine chokes do resolve on their own without complications, there are certain factors that help indicate if this case requires emergency care. If the horse is stressed and appears to be agitated, or if there is saliva or feedstuff coming out of one or both nostrils, emergency veterinary assistance is required and you should contact your veterinarian immediately. While awaiting the veterinarian's arrival, please remove all feed and water from the horse's stall and try to keep them as calm as possible.

Certain types of feed are known to cause an increase chance of your horse developing choke. Dried, pelleted beet pulp is more likely to cause choke because once the dried beet pulp comes into contact with saliva, it can expand to 4 times its original size. In order to avoid a case of choke, the pelleted beet pulp should be soaked and allowed to expand prior to being fed. Pellet size has also been showed to potentially cause an episode of choke. Smaller pellets are often inadequately chewed and not enough saliva gets added to the feedstuff making it more difficult to swallow. If your horse tends to bolt his small pellets, you may want to attempt to slow him down by adding large rocks to his feed tub thereby making him push them around in order to attain his feed.

Prevention is always the best medicine. Avoid feeding dried pelleted beet pulp and ensure your horse does not rapidly consume his small pelleted feed. If carrots and apples are fed, make sure to offer them in small bit size pieces. If you are at all concerned that your horse is suffering from a case of equine choke and appears to be agitated or saliva/feedstuff is present in his nostrils, please contact your veterinarian immediately.