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FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

LINWOOD AGRICULTURE INFORMATION DAY– Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Once again we are happy to be continuing our annual agriculture and information day along with Jones Feed Mill on Tuesday, February 23, 2009 from 8:30 - 4:30 at the Linwood Community Centre.

Speakers

11:00 am: Ralf Dietert – L.V. Lomas “Innovations in feeding young livestock”

11:30am: Dr. Andrew MacLeod – Linwood Vet Clinic “Dairy Health Topics”

12:30am: Curtis Harms – “Mistakes I have made making a TMR”

1:15 pm: Kevin Simpson – Royal Band of Canada “The basics of forward pricing and hedging”

2:00 pm: Dr. Martin Misener / Dr. Kevin Vilaca – Linwood Vet Clinic
“Swine Health Topics”

SHEEP

EAZI-Breed CIDR Sheep Insert

On November 16 the US Food and Drug Administration announced the approval of the sheep CIDR in the USA. (<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/CVMUpdates/ucm190789.htm>) This progesterone Controlled Intravaginal Drug Release (CIDR) can be used to synchronize the induction of estrus for both in season and out-of-season breeding. Out-of-season ewes are separated from rams and are given a CIDR, which remains in place for 14 days. After 14 days the CIDR is pulled and ewes are given 2.5ml Folligon IM. Rams are then introduced 24 hours later at a ratio of 1:5-7 ewes. In season, the CIDR is left in for 14 days and the ram placed with the ewes 24 hours later at a 1:10 ratio. Gestation length in Sheep varies due to breed but expects lambing approximately 142 days after and lambing can be induced with dexamethazone at that time or after the first lamb is on the ground as a management tool.

This product can be used in goats as well using a 17 day interval instead with all other instructions as with the sheep.

Pregnancy Toxemia in Sheep and Goats

This is a metabolic disease of late pregnancy. Any conditions which decrease energy intake and increase energy usage by the ewe or doe will result in some degree of energy deficit. Examples of decreases in energy intake are poor quality roughage, insufficient feed concentrates and elevated competition at the feed bunk due to not enough bunk space or presence of aggressive dominant animals.

Increase energy usage can range from carrying multiple foetuses, to parasitism and even adverse weather conditions especially the cold.

Clinical signs are basically depression and reluctance to move close to birthing. Confirmation can be via a urine stick test for ketones. Treatment consists of 120ml 20% Dextrose subcutaneous, 50ml 23%Calcium SQ and once a day Banamine at 1ml/50lbs IM for up to 3 days. The addition of the Banamine greatly improved ewe survival as well as lamb survival rates.

BEEF

Cow Calf

It's that time of year again when we have to start thinking about the calving season. If you have had problems with calf scours in the past then now is a good time to take precautions to protect this years calf crop. Vaccination of your cowherd prior to the onset of calving season will reduce the amount of scours in your newborn calves. Scours cost money in terms of treatment costs, death loss and the time you are taking to treat your calves. Vaccines such as Scourguard 4 KC and Jencine ERC are available to prevent your losses due to scours. The best approach is to vaccinate healthy cows and heifers 6 and 3 weeks before the expected calving season begins and in problem herds to revaccinate every 6 weeks any cows or heifers that have not calved. After calving products such as First Defense boluses and Colimune are also available but must be used in the first hours after birth. All these products will aid in the prevention of calf scours but a clean, dry draft free calving area is also important. If you have any questions feel free to contact the clinic and talk to one of the veterinarians about the best approach for you.

DAIRY

Mastitis Prevention

Mastitis especially in early lactation costs money in terms of treatment and subsequent milk loss over the rest of lactation. This early lactation mastitis is usually a result of infection during the dry period. Use of Orbeseal and a dry cow antibiotic therapy such as Novodry or Spectramast DC can reduce the incidence by 25-35% verses non treated herds. Remember that the dry period lasts 60 days and the average kill of the antibiotic last approximately 2 to 3 weeks. With Orbeseal and dry cow therapy we are able to clear the udder and also to prevent new infections from gaining entrance into the udder. Clean dry cow areas are also important to reduce the incidence of mastitis in your herd. If you are having problems or just to keep mastitis in check talk to your vet about a dry cow program that fits your operation.

DHI does offer a Staph mastitis test that is very good and reliable. If you have cows that have chronically high SCC values then it would be a good test for these animals. If they are positive it should put them high on your cull list. Remember to milk all mastitic cows last and to sample any new cases prior to treatment and freeze them so that we can send them in for culture to get a better idea as to the types of bugs we are dealing with in your herds.

Pnuemonia

We are seeing a bit more pneumonia in dairy cows right now. These cows are breathing at fast rate and some have high temperatures. Quick treatment with Excenel can be effective. If Excenel does not work switch to LS100 (5cc/100lb) and Penicillin(3cc/100lb) for 4-5 days. Remember to have the milk tested before you put the cow back into the tank. The early you see and treat these cows the better her response will be.