



**LINWOOD**  
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## JANUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

### AGRICULTURE DAY

On February 13, 2007 we will again be participating in the Linwood Agricultural day at the new Linwood Community Centre. The goals of this day are to show customer appreciation, provide information and take an opportunity to meet with clients in an exchange of ideas and information. We hope to see a good turn out. This year we are excited to have some interesting people speak; you will see more details in our February newsletter.

### Calf Management

Linwood's Annual Ag Day February 13<sup>th</sup> 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!

### EQUINE

#### Vaccination Program

The winter months are a suitable time of year to provide the maintenance care that your horse requires. The vast majority of necessary vaccines can be administered at this time of year. In order to design an appropriate vaccination program, you will need to discuss various aspects of your horse's environment and lifestyle with your veterinarian. The following is meant to provide basic information about the most commonly used vaccines in our practice area:

#### Tetanus Toxoid

Horses should receive a booster annually. A booster should be administered if there is a penetrating injury or at surgery if the last dose was not administered within 3 months.

#### Rabies

It is generally transmitted by bats, skunks, raccoons and foxes. However, any mammal can transmit rabies and any mammal is susceptible to rabies. A booster should be administered annually.

#### Influenza/Rhinopneumonitis (Herpes Virus)

Generally is of concern when a group of horses are housed in the same air space. Should administer a booster yearly or when a period of exposure is expected. Performance horses that are travelling to shows likely need to receive a booster 2-3 times a year depending on the length of the show season.

#### Strangles

Young horses and foals are the most susceptible. Horses that are considered to be at risk should receive a booster annually or semi-annually.

#### Botulism

Toxin is found in contaminated or spoiled feed. Horses at risk should receive a booster annually.

#### Encephalomyelitis (EEE, WEE)

Transmitted by insects. In our climate, it is advisable to booster annually in the springtime.

#### West Nile Virus

In our climate, it is advisable to booster annually in the springtime. Summer/Fall 2006 there were reported cases in our practice area.

#### Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV-1)

Pregnant mares receive vaccine at 5, 7 & 9 months gestation to prevent contagious abortion.

Please keep in mind that if the horse has never received a vaccine or has an unknown history, the vaccines will need to be boosted, usually one month after the initial vaccination.

### Contagious abortion in mares

Numerous mares in our practice area have recently aborted their foals. Vaccination with Pneumabort K can prevent abortion caused by Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV-1). Due to a short duration of immunity, the recommended schedule of vaccine administration is at 5, 7 & 9 months gestation. Please take care to minimize pregnant mare exposure to sick horses!

## **DAIRY**

Strawberry foot, or digital dermatitis, has become fairly widespread in this area and on many farms. Easily recognized as a reddened patch just above the cleft of the hoof, the disease causes a protrusion that looks like a strawberry. The lesion will progress until it has raised, conical projections with black papillae (hair-like objects) extending 10 to 15 centimetres from the surface (hairy wart stage). It's very painful for the cow. Treatment is a long and consistent process. While footbaths help, sprays and wrapping with tetracycline are the most popular treatments.

Spraying the infected foot daily for seven or eight days or wrapping the affected foot will usually start healing the hoof. Before spraying or wrapping with tetracycline, rinse or clean the manure and dirt away from the infection. This will allow better product contact with the skin.

One key to preventing infectious hoof diseases is proper hoof maintenance. The hoof tends to grow about five millimetres per month. Depending on the walking surface, the hoof will wear at varying rates. The toe tends to wear more slowly because it's harder and the heel wears faster since the horn is softer.

The objective of hoof trimming is to distribute the weight evenly between the two claws of the foot, leaving sufficient horn to protect the corium or inner hoof, and to trim the claws to their normal size and shape. Thus the cow's weight should be evenly distributed over all four feet.

Trimming heifers' hooves about two months before calving helps set up the first lactation by shaping the claws. After this, most cows tend to need trimming twice a year. Logically, the cow should be trimmed at dry-off. Check at mid-lactation as well to see whether an extra trim is necessary. Problem cows will probably need to be trimmed even more than that.

Selecting genetically for sound-footed cows will reduce the number of cows prone to hoof problems.

## **SWINE**

We seem to focus on the terrible two pathogens PRRS and Circovirus however many other swine pathogens cause losses in our pig farms.

A few years ago Enterisol (the oral ileitis vaccine) hit the market and producers initially applauded the introduction of an oral vaccine. Since this time we have struggled with this product. Administration is more difficult than first thought and cost was a big issue. Initially best pricing was over \$2.00/pig. As we move into 2007 input costs are a focus for many producers.

Enterisol is worth another look. The 500 dose size is currently priced at \$1.50/pig. At this price the cost benefit in comparison to in feed meds is much better. As we improve pig flow and get more all in all out production acute ileitis can become a more common clinical occurrence. It presents a sudden death from a very acute bloody scour. This syndrome often hits at the end of finishing. Enterisol is a good choice to prevent this syndrome.

### **Beef Information Meeting**

On Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 11:45 a.m. at the Linwood Community Centre. Call Steve Foster 519-698-2351 or Stewart Cressman 519-696-3119 by Monday, January 15 to reserve a meal. Sponsored by Waterloo Cattlemen's Association. Topics: New Carcass weight and grade discounts for 2007, Cash advance(interest rebates) of \$100,000. Through feeder finance clubs and CAIS, Ethanol byproduct feeding economics with high grain prices, Biogas and alternative energy production presentation by Don Hillborn OMAFRA.