

LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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JANUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER

CLINIC NEWS

On February 15, 2005 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.

BEEF

We are looking forward to 2005 for some BSE relief. The recent announcement of a March opening of the border to some live cattle export is welcome news. We still have a long way to go before things return to normal but it is a small step in the right direction. Animal health is obviously our primary concern but since BSE economics has weighed heavily on all decisions. We want to remind you of some important points that may have been neglected.

1. Booster vaccination for IBR is well worth it. It can show up in heavier cattle and is very costly when it does.
2. Do not hesitate to make a hospital pen for tough treaters. These animals need a less competitive environment.
3. Age restriction make implanting even more attractive to enhance weight gain and reduce days on feed.
4. Ensure Rumensin levels are correct for cocci control and improved feed efficiency.

This fall was a late season and we saw some bad respiratory disease challenges in December. Started calves and pre-vaccinated, as a generality, did well. We can safely say it pays.

SWINE

We have to focus on PRRS yet again. The fall of 2004 has humbled our understanding of this disease. For the last 5 years we felt confident that three things were required for reproductive PRRS control.

1. Proper replacement gilt introduction.
2. Good vaccination program that controls for subpopulations.
3. Biosecurity protocols.

Unfortunately if field strains that are significantly different from your farm strain and the vaccine strains get into your farm you can still have a significant reproductive PRRS outbreak. This fall in Southwestern Ontario a large number of herds that had excellent PRRS control have broken with reproductive PRRS.

Why?

We believe that some PRRS strains that were not circulating in Southwestern Ontario have emerged this fall. We have the lab technology to genetically sequence the PRRS virus and the outbreaks have been caused by PRRS strains that are not even close to the vaccine strains.

If you go through an outbreak we recommend you introduce 3 months worth of gilts while the outbreak is happening. Harvest lungs from badly viremic piglets and feed back to the gilts. Close the herd for 3 months. There are also specific interventions we recommend on a herd by herd basis.

Vaccine use is always a question with producers and the swine industry in general. In my opinion vaccinating the sow herd for PRRS gives you about 50% coverage. In other words if your herd is vaccinated and your neighbour's is not and the same strain of PRRS hits both herds your outbreak will be half as bad as your neighbour's. We want much better from a vaccine but it is as good as we have!

We have used PRRS vaccine to help control respiratory PRRS and it can be very effective. But!! You need to be outside of maternal immunity and have 4 weeks from vaccination until the pigs are challenged. The narrow window of effectiveness makes proper diagnosis of what the virus is doing in your barn very important.

In pig dense areas we are stuck with PRRS for the foreseeable future. New approaches for control are being evaluated e.g. serum vaccination pulmotil usage, etc. We will continue to devote all our efforts to help fight this devastating pathogen.

COW/CALF

Even though the thermometer is bouncing all over the place, it is best to be prepared for a calving in the worst weather. The cow/calf business is all about producing a live, healthy calf, now is the time to re-focus our efforts on ensuring that this happens. Be prepared to deal with a difficult calving because they do happen. First things first, have at least one calving pen. Always keep it well-bedded and designed for easy restraint, especially if you are by yourself. Some producers have more than one, up to 3 or 4 so that the cow and calf can be monitored closely for the first 24 hours. Try if you can to have a pre-calving group and a post-calving group. This way we can be sure cows are not being suckled pre-calving. Also, our checks can be more focused. Obviously the pre-calving group focuses on "new calvings" and the post-calving group focuses on "calf health".

Get your calving supplies in order. This includes soap/lube, chains and a calving jack or substitute. Review the protocols and facilities for monitoring, catching and checking cows. Do not let cows/heifers linger too long after you think that they should be calving. Heifers – intervene after one hour, cows – intervene after two hours. If it is late evening, check sooner to help reduce extra work in the middle of the night or a dead calf in the early morning. Be prepared – these calves are worth something.

CALF MANAGEMENT

Do not ease up on the vaccinating. In down times, this is the first thing that some farmers give up on. IBR and BVD are still around. Do not let them come through your barn door and devastate your herd. Keep your herd protected starting with the calves and booster anything that you buy in. Are you tired of hearing how you are supposed to scrub your bottle for the calves? This can be awkward if you do not have the correct brushes – check your local co-op store as I have found them in the Mount Forest Co-op store. Otherwise ask your milk equipment dealers or if you want a full selection go on the internet at www.coburncompany.com, they are out of Colorado and have a whole host of brushes and cleaning equipment. Do not forget to rinse the cold frosty milk pails with luke warm water, scrub with Sunlight soap and bleach, rinse, spray with an acid and air dry!

EQUINE

Strangles and Flu season:

Strangles and flu has hit the community with a vengeance. The following description of the diseases may help to clear up some confusion.

1. STRANGLES (aka DISTEMPER)

Cause

- Bacterial (*Streptococcus equi*)

Symptoms

- Abscess formation under jaw in throat latch area
- Fever in early stages
- +/- thick yellow nasal discharge
- +/- cough

Immunity after illness

- 6 months

Complications

- common particularly in older horses
- purpura hemorrhagica
 - swollen legs and belly
 - skin sloughs
 - death possible
- bastard strangles
 - abscess formation in body in locations other than jaw
 - can form internally
 - death possible

Treatment

- controversial
- antibiotic intervention best used in very initial stages prior to abscess formation (i.e. fever only)
 - use Penicillin G 40cc/1000lbs IM daily x 5 days
 - or TMS syrup 60cc/1000lbs orally daily x 5 days
- once abscesses are formed there is a thought that antibiotic therapy slows down abscess rupture and drainage
 - soak abscesses with epsom salt solution
 - keep ruptured abscesses clean and free of scabs
- consult a veterinarian for your best treatment protocol

Prevention and Control

- separate sick horses if possible
- different part of barn, preferably where there is very little traffic
- feed, handle or treat AFTER healthy horses looked after
- check temperatures of healthy horses that have been exposed to sick horses – start on antibiotics if temp over 103°F (this may prevent abscess formation)

This is very, very contagious! It can be carried easily on your clothes. It is fair to warn your neighbours if you have strangles in your barn.

Vaccine

- Pinnacle IN
- must be given up nose!
- 1 booster given 3-4 weeks after initial vaccine then annual re-vaccination
- can vaccinate in face of exposure with decent results as long as horses are not already sick!
- only a few horse herds in the area are vaccinated as this is a reasonably new vaccine. The old strangles vaccine was not very good and therefore very few horses were done
- safe in pregnant mares

2. FLU/RHINO

Cause

- virus (influenza and herpes – rhinopneumonitis)

Symptoms

- fever, cough, thick yellow nasal discharge
- Rhino can also cause abortions in mares

Immunity after illness

- very short

Complications

- pneumonia, heaves

Treatment

- antibiotics if horse very sick or high fever
 - Penicillin G 40cc/100lbs IM daily x 5 days or TMS syrup 60cc/100lbs orally daily x 5 days
- rest horse – they take longer to heal up if they have to work
- allow as much fresh air as possible

Prevention and Control

- Try to minimize contact between horses as with strangles
- vaccine – vaccinating in the face of an outbreak (i.e. after exposure to sick horses) does not work

Vaccines available are:

- Flu-Rhino
 - Calvenza – 1 year immunity
 - Fluvac EHV 4/1 – 4 month immunity
 - Both must be boosted 3-4 weeks then vaccinate annuals
- Flu only
 - Equeenza T (formerly Nobi Equeenza T)
 - flu only, short duration
 - no rhino component
- Reproductive rhino
 - Pneumabort K at 5, 7 and 9 months gestation

Please call to discuss with a veterinarian if you are concerned about flu/rhino or strangles in your horses.

DAIRY

A reminder that Pfizer purchases made during the month of January 2005 are eligible for a 10% rebate through the Pfizer Dairy Plus program. This program offers a 10% rebate per eligible purchases with a written protocol from your veterinarian. Further information is available at the clinic or by talking to your veterinarian or at the office.

Happy New Years to all our dairy producers. At this time of year cold weather has descended upon us. A major concern for dairy cows this time of year is dry, chapped teats due to cold air and wind damage. Cracks on chapped teats serve as a reservoir for bacteria or manure which can lead to mastitis, especially the much-dreaded staph aureus. Research as shown that teats and teat ends are much improved when using glycerin teat dips.

