



DR. MARTIN MISENER DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR
DR. ANDREW MACLEOD DR. JOHN TOKARZ
DR. ROXANE PARDIAC DR. CHRISTINA MOHOS DR. JENNIFER BROWN

3860 Manser Road, Linwood, Ontario N0B 2A0 (519) 698-2610
1-800-663-2941 Fax (519) 698-2081
linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca

JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

LINWOOD AGRICULTURE INFORMATION DAY– Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Once again we are happy to be continuing our annual agriculture and information day along with Jones Feed Mills Ltd. on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 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.

Upcoming meetings:

Waterloo Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 – At the Linwood Community Centre

Agenda

- 10:00 am – Dr. Andrew MacLeod, Linwood Veterinary Services
Improving Profitability in the Cattle Business
- 11:00 am – John Gillespie, Chairman, Beef Information Centre
Update on COOL and BIC
- 11:30 am – Stephen Foster, President Waterloo Cattlemen's Assoc.
Update on county activities and resolutions
- 12:00 pm – Roast Beef Dinner
- 1:00 pm – Mike Warsco, Akey Nutrition
Know your costs: calculation feed value, feed cost and cost of production
(speaker supplied by Jones Feed Mills Ltd.)
- 2:00 pm – John Bancroft, OMAFRA, Cattle Marketing 101
Let's discuss the current cattle markets and what the CME live futures
Have to offer

Cost: \$10.00

To register please call by Saturday January 10th, 2009
Steve Foster: 519-746-0258
Stewart Cressman: 519-696-3119

Upcoming workshop:

There will be another Ontario Corn Fed Workshop in Linwood on January 27, 2009 at 1:30 pm. It is strongly recommended anyone who hasn't completed their Corn Fed requirements to attend this workshop. There is very little added cost and probably very little change to your feeding program. There are premiums available for Corn Fed Beef. Call to register. Steve Foster 519-746-0258 or Dave Murray 519-878-7026.

SWINE

One area that is often neglected on many of our farms is Gilt Pool management. Significant long term gains in production and profitability can be realized by focusing on incoming gilts.

The following are some good general guidelines:

Record incoming dates and ages for new groups of gilts.

- Target 160 – 180 days of age for induction of puberty with daily boar exposure +/- PG600.
- Record heat dates and tag gilts found in heat.
- Target first breeding after 210 days of age.
- Boar exposure: do not house gilts in direct contact with the boars.
 - Boar exposure is aimed at 10 minutes/day of direct contact.
 - Missing even 2 – 3 days significantly reduces the effectiveness of boar exposure.
 - Continual exposure also reduces the effectiveness.
 - Expect 70 – 80% of gilts to exhibit estrus within first 28 days of exposure.
 - PG600 results in a tighter synchronization (heats occurring 5 – 10 days post injection).
 - Once gilts are tagged than 21 day heats are projected and majority would be bred on their third heat.
 - Once batch of gilts has reached 210 days and you are left with individuals that are not tagged, re-mix them and give PG600 with continued boar exposure.

Time Lines:

- Initiate boar exposure between 160 – 180 days of age.
- Breed at >210 days of age.
- Re-mix all not bred animals at 235 days ie: 25 days later.
- Intensively heat detect and breed for another 25 days.
- Ship any open animals left ie: 260 days of age.

EQUINE

Winter Medical Concerns

As the winter progresses, our horses are spending more and more time indoors. With this confinement, we often see an increase in certain medical conditions. Prevention is vital and may help avoid an illness, prolonged treatment program and associated costs.

You need to ensure that you are monitoring the air flow pattern in your stable. It is important that your horses' have fresh air but that they are not exposed to drafts. Watch the dust content of your horses' bedding. Often in the winter, it is advisable to turn your horses out while you bed down their stalls. This will help reduce the amount of dust particles your horses will be exposed to. If you find that your bedding is still dusty, then you should water the bedding down. Another key issue to consider is the dust level in your hay or concentrates. You can water down your hay as well as your concentrates. If your horse develops a dry, non-productive cough at feeding time, then you should consider soaking the hay for four to eight hours. Ideally, you should get a large wheelbarrow or feed tub, without holes, and place the next meal in to soak when you do your initial feeding. This will ensure that the hay has been thoroughly soaked.

Keep in mind that because of the increased confinement, you often get crowding and more illness. It is a good idea to isolate any horses that have a nasal discharge or a cough to prevent the illness from spreading through the barn. A visit from your veterinarian is generally indicated if your horse has a nasal discharge or a productive cough. It is still not too late to immunize your horses if you haven't already done so.

Another important aspect of general care to consider is your water supply. You should check on a daily basis that your water hasn't become frozen. If you are using water buckets and the water has the tendency to freeze, you should likely consider investing in a water heater. They can be purchased at your local tack store. Many horses are known to colic each year due to freezing water supply. It is a fairly easy task to avoid and unfortunately with colic, you never know how severely your horse can be affected.

An ounce of prevention can go a very long way. Plan on spending a little more time inspecting your stable and you may save yourself a lot of time, money and heartache. If you are concerned regarding your horse's health, it is always better to act quickly rather than the wait and see approach. This is especially true when you're dealing with colic. Enjoy the season and plan on spending an uneventful winter.