

# LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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## JULY 2006 NEWSLETTER

### CLINIC NEWS

The clinic will be open until 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2006 for the Civic Holiday, please try to monitor your supplies and order ahead so this does not inconvenience you during the holiday weekend.

### SWINE

We have already had some very hot weather this year and we are likely to have more. Things to remember to reduce the impact of heat stress.

1. Water can be used to cool sows. Drip cooling works very well or a light spray. (Avoid very cold water)
2. Ensure lots of air movement. In some cases circulation fans as well as wall fans are needed.
3. Feed lactating sows early in the a.m. and later in the p.m. to increase intakes.
4. Ensure lots of water!!
5. Don't overcrowd including numbers loaded on trucks.
6. Be prepared to use more AI if boars are sluggish to ensure good conception rates.

We have seen an increase in *H. parasuis* cases in weaned pigs over the last few months. *H. parasuis* is the bacteria that causes Glassers disease. This disease presents as pneumonia, sudden death, cough and sneeze and swollen joints. It is treatable with antibiotics but treatment must be swift and sometimes aggressive. Nuflor at 15mg/kg (2.25cc/100lbs) is often a very effective injectable treatment. We have had very good success with prefarrow vaccination as a way to prevent Glassers. It is however absolutely imperative that the strain causing the problem is in the vaccine. As a generalization we have moved almost entirely to Autogenous vaccine (vaccine made from the strain on your farm) to prevent Glassers.

Water medication and feed medication are also used to control this problem and farms must be evaluated on a case by case basis to provide the best recommendations.

### EQUINE DENTISTRY

Horses have teeth that erupt throughout their lives. If left unchecked, abnormal wear leads to the development of waves, points and hooks. These sharp edges can lead to the formation of ulcers on both the cheeks and tongue and may even lead to cuts and tears in the horse's mouth. As you can imagine, a horse's mouth is quite sensitive and many behavioural problems may develop from an unmaintained mouth.

If a horse starts to avoid the bit, tosses its head or is reluctant to have its nose band tightened, the owner should think about calling the vet to have its teeth checked. Other common signs involve difficulty chewing food, dropping food while eating or even refusing to eat grain. Additionally the owner can attempt to move the horse's jaw in a figure-8 motion. Place 1 hand on the nose (upper jaw) and one hand on the lower jaw and attempt to move the mouth down and to the left followed by down and to the right. Ideally, loud grinding noises and good jaw movement should occur on both sides. If there is some catching or inability to move please call the clinic to schedule a dentistry for your horse.

To help start your horse on a good dentistry program, it is a good idea to have an evaluation performed on your horse's mouth. Young horses until approximately 6 years of age should be checked every 6 months. Often they will need very little work but it's a good idea to start early because we can fix issues before they become large problems. Adults can usually go 1-2 years between treatment. Horses older than 15 years

should be checked every 6 months. Through the proper maintenance of your horse's mouth you will help prevent many behavioural problems as well as various health issues from developing.

## **CALF MANAGEMENT**

For those of you feeding acidified milk, Dr. Neil Anderson from OMAF would like the opportunity to have his summer student visit your farm. The visit would take very little time and involve taking a milk sample from the feeding tube plus answering a short survey on the subject of feeding acidified milk. Please call the clinic and ask for Nancy if you are interested in participating in this small study.

If you have tried the acidified milk feeding program and are frustrated with any aspect please give the clinic a call and ask to speak to Nancy. Many farmers have come up with "farmer friendly" ways of dealing with various hurdles. The health benefits from "free-access" feeding are tremendous and include less risk of stomach ulcers (those calves found dead or refuse to drink), multiple meals a day help keep the stomach at a healthier pH. Calves will scour but we do not have "empty gut" syndrome or "slug feeding" syndrome which can make the scour situation worse. Also, feeding waste milk is safer since the formic acid kills bacteria and preserves the milk. Recently I visited a veal farm and the calves on free-access were going to be weaned 7 to 10 days ahead of their barnmates who arrived on the same truck. A dairy farmer commented that getting calves to eat pelleted calf starter was not a problem even though they drank more milk. The calves were eating pelleted calf starter starting at three weeks of age.

No matter how you raise or feed your calves, please ensure free choice water in this hot weather. Keep the air going through the hutches and try to place in the shade. Keep the air moving in the calf barns and watch carefully for summer time pneumonia.

## **COW CALF**

With spring calving over with, now is a pleasant time to drive around and watch the calves on pasture. But as you are baling up those round bales, now may be the time to start thinking of the direction of your herd. Depending on who you talk to and when you talk, cull cow prices haven't been that bad and calf prices are good. So, is this the fall to get mean and lean, to do that culling that you put off because the cows were worth nothing in the past? As the fall sales start to advertise, is this the time to consider purchasing pregnant heifers from genetics that can boost your herd? Just remember, buyer beware if your herd is not vaccinated or the herd you buy from is not vaccinated. If you have questions regarding the purchase of animals and health status, please call the clinic. The bottom line is, it is now time to cull those BSE heifers and cows that shouldn't be in your herd and aren't making you money.

## **DAIRY**

A new service being offered by Linwood Veterinary Services is embryo transfer. Embryo transfer is an excellent way to propagate or introduce new genetics into your herd. Flushing top cows and transferring the embryos into heifers or cows allows a valuable cow to have multiple offspring in a single lactation. In this way you will have more high-quality replacement heifers and cows of poor or lower genetic potential will be more useful as recipients carrying these embryos.

A donor cow is synchronized and treated to super-ovulate and release multiple eggs. The cow is inseminated and seven days later the embryos are removed and transferred to the recipients. Any additional eggs which cannot be transferred directly are frozen and can be implanted into recipients at a later date.

A donor cow will give an average of 8 or 9 embryos per cow (though the range is from 0 to upwards of 20!). Having a good response such as this makes embryo transfer a very reasonable and economical way to multiply exceptional animals within your herd. Incorporating embryo transfer into your herd is a very progressive way to improve your herd. Call Dr. Andrew MacLeod at Linwood Veterinary Services for more details.