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## JULY 2007 NEWSLETTER

### Calf Management

One thing about farming and that is if you are not happy with how things are, then hang on because they are sure to change. Here we sit with many incentive days and now they tell me a whey shortage. This translates into increased milk replacer prices. Although you may be a little disappointed with the increase in price just remember that it is cheaper to feed milk replacer than to feed whole milk that should be going into the bulk tank to fill quota and incentives. You know what your dollar value is for milk. An average calculation for a 20/20/18 milk replacer is approximately 42 cents a litre provided you are feeding 120gm per litre. This is significantly lower than what you would receive for your whole milk in the bulk tank. So, think twice before feeding calves with quota milk. The weather is on our side, now is a good time of year to feed milk replacer if you are going to. I still recommend 6.0 litres per day or acidified free choice milk. I saw a great bunch of jersey and Holstein calves on an acidified milk feeding program and it is quite enjoyable to look through the pens and see shiny, lean and healthy animals. The key is how you wean them. They will drink to meet their needs and in the warm weather require less than in the cold. But take a week to wean off of the acidified milk or you will lose too much. Just remember it is absolutely critical that calves have free choice water in the summer. Give the clinic a call if you are still struggling with calves and make sure vaccinations stay current, particularly as the summer progresses because calves need to be on a program for the fall weather. If you need help getting it done, then we have staff ready to visit your farm on a regular basis or on an as needed basis.

### Dairy

Down Cows and Milk Fevers continue to be a part of dairy farming. Until last week the hot weather was most likely playing a role in increasing the cases. Remember as the pre-fresh cow is approaching her day of calving her dry matter intake is declining and in the hot weather drops even more. Therefore one should be quite aggressive at monitoring the fresh cow before, during and after calving. Milk fever can strike any one of those times. Always check a down cow close to calving to see if she is calving. As far as on farm intervention there are three choices:

1) Traditional calcium borogluconate under the skin or in the vein. Always give a down cow some calcium, keep it on hand at all times. Calcium under the skin is absorbed and all used up after 20 minutes and for many farmers this is how they treat their own milk fevers. It never hurts to give a Calcium bottle under the skin. If you would like to be taught how to give it in the vein, we are more than willing to teach you or the next generation!

2) There are many oral calcium products that many farmers are using and quite happy with. We carry Nutri-cal. Use a proper drenching gun and have a little patience and you can use these products with quite a bit of success. These are great to give if you are wanting to use a product before ending your day or if you will be away during the day. Just go slow so that you don't end up with it in the lungs. Many farmers claim that their oral calcium products will get down cattle up. Call for more information.

3) Theracalcium, 100 ml bottles that are given in the muscle or under the skin to help prevent or treat milk fever. Again, for those not inclined to hit the vein this is an option. However, it requires 2.5 bottles so not as convenient as the first two options.

The bottom line is that you have 3 good options for on farm treatments. You can also order and have Phosphorous enemas in your inventory for treating cows orally with phosphorous if you believe that you have a phosphorous problem. Please do not hesitate to call and discuss if you are experiencing a herd problem, or use your monthly herd health to discuss problems that you are dealing with on your own. We all agree that prevention is the key and utilizing the veterinarian along with the feed nutritionist/rep always makes for a solid team to help solve problems on your farm.

## **EQUINE**

Summertime = Wound Time

During the summer months, we experience a significant increase in cases with severe wounds. The initial care of the wound has a tremendous impact on the healing time. Prompt medical attention is critical to ensure a rapid recovery. Contacting the veterinarians as quickly as possible is very important. The "golden period" for the wound refers to the period of time from the injury until it can no longer be sutured closed. This golden period is generally from 6-8 hours. After the golden period, it is not advisable to suture the wound closed due to excessive inflammation and increased chance of infection. While waiting for further assistance, basic care of the wound can be initiated. If there is a foreign body imbedded into the wound, please do not remove it. Cold water hosing of the wound can begin. This will help prevent excessive swelling as well as keeping the wound clean. If the wound is bleeding profusely, please apply a clean towel or large amount of gauze and then apply a quilt with a stable bandage. Do not remove the bandage to check on the bleeding since removing the bandage will cause the formed clot to dislodge. Wait until medical assistance has arrived to further inspect the bleeding. Please refrain from applying any type of ointment, wound dressing or lime to the wound because this will make it very difficult for your veterinarian to fully assess the extend of the damage. If possible have the horse in a clean stall with deep bedding. Try to keep the animal as calm and comfortable as possible. Often with severe injury, the horse can go into shock. Not all wounds can be prevented but careful examination of the pasture or paddock is highly recommended. If possible, take a walk in the pasture and look for foreign material, loose fencing or sections of destroyed fencing. An ounce of prevention can often save a lot of heartbreak, aftercare and money.

## **SWINE**

Our swine industry is soon to be headed into a very uncertain time period. The cash price on early weans and feeder pigs is very soft and proves to be very frustrating for seller and buyers alike. Many of our clients state: "we can ride out the market highs and lows as long as we have healthy pigs".

The good news is we have much better tools than 2 years ago. The continued success of circovirus vaccines is a very bright spot in our industry. We should have some very good data on the impact of circo vaccination on ADG and FC very soon. We are much better at intervening in an acute outbreak of PRRS in sow herds. The goal is simple get things back on track as fast as possible. Draxxin has been a very good addition to our arsenal of antibiotics. We have had very good results using it for individual pig treatments. We are also using it on the bottom percentage of weanlings (at weaning) with very good results. In a PRRS outbreak we now recommend doing all piglets 48 hours before weaning with Draxxin for s 5 week program. The impact on nursery mortality has been excellent. There are still many farms that struggle with disease issues even with our improved tools. These farms need to think outside of the box and now is the time to do it. Base health status is of primary importance. If there are just too many disease pressures Depop. Pig flow is the fix. We have to achieve all in all out pig flow. We know it works! Each farm that is faced with severe health challenges needs to consider depopulation or they need to fix pig flow. Batch production is the answer.

