

LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

DR. MARTIN MISENER DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. NANCY CHARLTON
DR. ANDREW MACLEOD DR. JODI KENDREW DR. JOHN TOKARZ

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

JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER

CLINIC NEWS

We will be open until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, July 1, 2005 for Canada Day, please try to monitor your supplies and order ahead so this does not inconvenience you during the holiday weekend.

BEEF INFORMATION MEETING

There is a Beef Information Meeting at OLEX (Ontario Livestock Exchange) in Waterloo on Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. in the Stocker Ring after the Stocker sale. The agenda will include:

- A speaker from CFIA and topics will include non-ambulatory transportation of downer cattle
- changes in enforcement of tagging
- Dave Stewart – Executive Director of Cattleman's Association will discuss current legal battles for live export to the U.S.
- There will be burgers and cold drinks to follow meeting.

SWINE

At the end of May I had the opportunity to present the Pulmotil and serum vaccination program we developed to a group of Quebec Veterinarians. Quebec has had a longer harder struggle with PRRS virus than we have had in Southwestern Ontario. The message from Quebec is the same as we have been presenting the last few months.

Gilt introduction methods are the most important part of within herd PRRS control.

Exposure of Gilts to farm field strains is required to achieve reproductive stability to PRRS.

PRRS can be eliminated from sow herds.

Transmission of the virus causing rebreake or new outbreaks in negative herds is our largest hurdle to jump over.

Where do we go from here?

Continue to develop effective gilt introduction programs on a farm by farm basis.

Try and evaluate the ability to induce immunity in positive replacement gilts. In Quebec and the U.S. negative replacement gilts are recommended by most Veterinarians. You must however have a proper offsite gilt isolation barn because often the negative animals get sick when exposed to field strain PRRS. The benefit of negative animals is, it is easy to measure responses to exposure. The downside is that they can get very sick and they stay viremic longer than positive gilts do when exposed to field strain. Most of our clients bring in a positive replacement gilt. Therefore we will focus on trying to expose these animals and achieve immunity to farm strains.

Critically evaluate where commercial vaccination is effective and where it is not. We are getting frustrated with the "it seems to help" statement!

Be very proactive and involved in getting commercial AI services available from blood PCR test negative boars. In my opinion the only effective protocol to reduce the risk of PRRS virus in semen sold for AI is to blood test each boar at the time of collection to ensure he has no virus exposure. This method has been shown to be very effective in the U.S. It will increase the cost of AI services but it is a price that must be paid to increase the safety of this major farm input. Keep in mind that semen as a risk factor is much lower on the list than pigs and transport but by adopting this testing program we can take it to the bottom of the list.

The other hot topic in Quebec and here is Cirovirus. In the last six months this disease has changed its presentation.

We have not seen such an increase in new presentations since PRRS hit in the early 90's. One producer asked if he was the only one seeing this problem and the answer was a loud **NO!** We discussed some of the clinical signs of Cirovirus last month. What can we do if you have this problem?

Consult us regarding feed medication options (and their limitations).

Pull sick pigs out of general population A.S.A.P.

Do not spend too much time on treatment the outcome doesn't seem to justify it.

There was information presented from Brazil on Pulmotil usage in the feed **BEFORE** clinical signs show up. We are trying some in a few herds and we will keep you posted on the results.

G:\Linwood Veterinary Services\Web Information\Newsletters\june2005news.doc

BEEF

The benefits of Modified Live vaccination of cows in the open period has proven itself again this year. Conception rates on first cycle were better in herds using Modified Live vaccination. We have seen no BVD cases in this years calves in herds that used the Modified Live vaccination. It is very important to decide if you are in cow calf farming to achieve the best possible production and least possible health problems or if they are expensive pets. With the continued BSE issues and marginal performances and or management make even less sense. If you haven't switched your vaccination program to Modified Live consider it this year

Is it worth vaccinating calves at turn out? **YES!**

Recommendation

Vaccinate all calves at foot with a modified live BVD, IBR, PI3 and BRSV vaccine.

Vaccinate all calves with a Clostridial vaccine

Check calves at this time to ensure bulls have been dealt with i.e. Elastics put on at birth were effectively applied and dehorned. Do them young it is easier on them.

Call our clinic if you want some processing help with young calves.

BEEF PASTURE CATTLE

Many pasture cattle have already been placed. For those of you purchasing cattle that need to be elastrated, ensure that they are vaccinated for tetanus. You have two choices:

Tasvax 7 – 4ml under the skin

OR

Vision CD-T and Vision 7, 2ml of each product under the skin.

The product of choice depends on disease issues on your pasture/farm. Tasvax 7 is the traditional tetanus vaccine of choice. If you have not experienced any problems then continue on as before. If you have issues with sudden death on pasture then we suggest that you switch to Vision CD-T and Vision 7. Should you have any questions please call and speak to a veterinarian.

EQUINE

Colic

As more horses are going out on grass we are frequently treating horses with gas colic. The term “Colic” simply describes pain, and the causes of pain can be numerous but generally originate in the gastrointestinal tract (GIT)

Risk factors include sudden changes in feed volume or type (i.e. going from dry hay only to 24 hours/day lush grass) water restriction or cribbing. It is best to gradually expose horses to lush grass to give their GIT a chance to get used to the change. Symptoms of colic can include sweating, pawing the ground, rolling, looking at flank and more. Milder symptoms can include not eating and wanting to lie down. Other sources of pain such as laminitis and acute rhabdomyolysis (a.k.a. azoturia or tying up) can also cause a horse to appear colicky, but the horse is generally reluctant to move. If your horse appears to have colic try to take him or her for a walk while waiting for the vet to arrive. If the horse is reluctant to move, then do not attempt to move it! Treatments for colic vary with the diagnosis but generally include a painkiller and possible mineral oil administered via nasogastric tube. If you are unsure as to whether your horse has colic or not, and are unsure as to whether you need a farm visit, please call the office for assistance.

DAIRY

It would appear that summer is here and hot weather may be the norm this year. Extreme heat can have dramatic effects on milk production and other health problems. Many have done an excellent job in improving ventilation and providing pasture shade. We try and provide useful recommendations but it is also important to recognize positive changes. Good work to all those producers targeting the importance of adequate air movement and cow and calf comfort. We usually see an increase in the incidence of acute mastitis during the warm moist months. Last month we mentioned the importance of Orbeseal usage and again we stress the importance of “closing” that teat end. Immunity against the bacterial toxins that cause acute mastitis is another important way to reduce your losses. Enviracor and J-Vac are two products available that have good clinical results supported by scientific studies. We have used seasonal vaccination effectively and vaccination in the dry period. Call and speak to our Dairy practitioners for a program that best suits your farm.