LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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JUNE NEWSLETTER

CLINIC NEWS

We will be open until 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 3, 2006 for Canada Day, please try to monitor your supplies and order ahead so this does not inconvenience you during the holiday weekend.

The staff of Linwood Veterinary Services would like to welcome Dr. Roxane Pardiac to our clinic. Dr. Pardiac is our ninth vet on staff and is concentrating on our equine services, including reproductive ultrasound, artificial insemination, lameness work ups, dentistry, herd health and pre purchase examinations. Training and showing hunter/jumpers throughout eastern Canada has given Dr. Pardiac a strong background in the horse industry. She and her husband have taken up residence in Listowel.

BEEF PRODUCER'S BUS TRIP

Sponsored by The Waterloo Cattlemen's Assoc. is going to Lambton County on Tuesday, July 11, 2006. It will be coach transportation and the cost is $30.00/person. They will be touring the new "Suncor" Ethanol Plant in Sarnia, 2-3 feed-lots, a Greenhouse tour and a catered hot Beef dinner. Bus pick-up locations are: 6:45 a.m. at Linwood Community Centre and 7:30 a.m. at Blue Moon in Petersburg. If interested you must register by July 4, 2006 by calling Steve Foster at 698-2351 or Stewart Cressman at 696-3119.

DAIRY

Heat takes its toll on dairy cows this time of year, but there is still time for you to act to decrease the severity hot, humid weather will have on your herd.

The ideal temperature for a dairy cows is between 41^{o} F and 77 ^{o}F (5^{o} C and 25^{o}C). Above this and cows must use energy to cool themselves through heat loss. High producing animals are the cows most sensitive. Dry matter intake can drop approximately 10% and milk production by as much as 30%.

In order to combat heat stress there are a few things you can do:

1) Because cows in hot weather will eat less (and less often) this increases the risk of rumen acidosis and laminitis. You should include sodium bicarbonate and yeast in the ration to help counter these problems. In addition the use of bicarbonate will decrease acid swings in the rumen which may drop butterfat leading to a high SNF ratio. Sometimes supplemental fat is added to the ration to fortify energy demands in hot weather when intakes fall. Certain minerals such as potassium and sodium should be increased in the ration as these are excreted in greater amounts during hot weather.

2) Cows must always have access to water. Besides its massive role in affecting milk production water is critical to cool the cows. Water intake may increase as much as 50% in hot weather. While water should always be available to cows it is very important that it be offered after milking

when a large percentage of a cow's intake will be met. Water supplies should be capable of 3-5 gallons per minute.

3) While many farmers keep cows in during the day (or all summer long) cows on pasture must have access to shade to avoid the direct heat of the sun.

4) Heat stress will decrease conception rate due to less activity during estrus, reduced follicular activity and early embryonic death. Increased use of ovsynch during these periods will ensure cows get bred in a timely manner even when obvious signs of heat are suppressed.

5) Appropriate use of fans has been shown to drop air temperatures approximately 15°F in some studies. This relates to an increased milk production of 7-10 lbs./cow/day. Therefore, add more fans!

6) And at this time of year remember fly control. These nasty little critters spread bacteria, which cause watery mastitis and are generally a nuisance. Clean up spilled feed, manure and other areas of contamination where flies congregate and breed. There are a large number of effective commercial products available which will help reduce fly numbers- be prepared for flies!

SWINE

Porcine Circovirus Disease has certainly not gone away in our Ontario herds. One of the frustrations of this disease is that we don't have a good understanding of timing of infection and the importance of immune response. More vaccine options are becoming available. Circovac is a Merial product to be given to sows prefarrow. Supply of this vaccine has been a big problem. The company is hoping for more doses to release in June or July. Porcine Circovirus II is an Intervet product. This vaccine is for weaned pigs. It is a two dose product given 3 weeks apart. Wyeth is hoping to launch a single dose circovirus vaccine for weaned pigs in June. We hope to have some idea of vaccine effectiveness by July and August. We are going to evaluate immune response and reduction in morbidity and mortality rates. With the help of one of our clients we set up a circovirus serum exposure project. Pregnant sows were given live circovirus prefarrowing. So far there were no ill effects but the sows did not show an immune response to serum vaccination. We tested piglets from these sows and others in the same farrowing week before they suckled colostrum. All piglets had virus in their blood at birth. We will continue monitoring the pigs after weaning. Finally we would like your help to better assess the impact of PRRS and circovirus on the Ontario swine industry. We would like quarterly mortality reports from finishing barns. Any swine farm that could send us this information would be greatly appreciated. It can be in the form of:

- # of pigs placed
- # of pigs inventoried
- # of pigs dead
- # of pigs shipped

in the quarter or as simple as barn size and % mortality for the quarter. If you will send us this info it will be used anonymously and added to an Ontario data set. We hope we can send you back the summary data. Unless we all work together we will not beat these complicated swine diseases. If you want more info regarding this project call and ask for Sylvia. Thank-you in advance.

EQUINE

<u>Heat exhaustion</u>

Late May brought scorching temperatures and relatively high humidity, leading to numerous heat exhaustion cases in working, or performance horses and foals. Treated early, heat exhaustion need not be devastating or fatal. Clinical signs include increased respiratory rate (blowing), weakness, sudden exercise intolerance, sweating, and a rectal temperature over 40°C (104°F). Immediate treatment consisting of cooling the horse is indicated. Repeatedly dump buckets of cold water over the back of the horse, scraping off the excess water in between buckets. Continue until the horse's rectal temperature decreases to 39°C. It is important to check the rectal temperature prior to cooling horses or foals, as there is no advantage to

cooling a horse with a normal temperature. Cooling below normal body temperature can have serious detrimental effects on recovery. Call the office for a vet visit immediately, and cool the horse while you wait. Heat exhaustion may occur in combination with rhabdomyolysis (azoturia or tying up); so do not move the horse beyond what is necessary for treatment (i.e. into a cool barn or shade).

Foals suffer from heat stress when kept in paddocks or pastures without shade. Foal heat diarrhea, which is normally benign, may cause dehydration if a foal is subjected to excessively high temperatures. Monitor small foals for lethargy or lack of appetite and call for an examination if necessary.

BEEF COW/CALF

The calving season is winding down but let's not forget that things can go wrong even with the last few. Always ensure that cattle can be brought up to the barn and placed in a pen. If you can have the pen bedded, a place to restrain the animal and warm water available, it speeds up the vet's ability to examine and deal with any calving issues or prolapses.

Don't forget calves can get coccidiosis throughout the summer. Monitor calves and treat with Trivetrin and calf span boluses. If you are thinking of switching over to a modified-live vaccination program, please call and ask to speak to a vet. One of our processors can help you to run cattle through the chute and vaccinate. Calves can be done any time after 5 weeks of age.

BEEF FEEDLOT

Recently cattle were brought up to a barn from pasture and one yearling fell back. She was bright and alert but lost 100lbs. On physical exam there was nothing wrong with her except weight loss. The farmer commented that she "ate dirt" a lot. I asked him if she drank water out of the trough, he assumed that she did or she would be dead. We went and got a pail of water and she drank it, she drank several more. For whatever reason, all the other cattle drank out of the water trough but not her! Never forget to check water sources for those animals that are bright and alert, losing weight and have "dry manure". For pasture cattle coccidiosis can be a problem. Don't leave scouring cattle too long – get them in and get them treated with sustain boluses, Trivetrin and Newcells.

CALF MANAGEMENT

The acidified milk is now in the practice area and being used with good to very good success. The best results are with on-farm born calves started on the system. Purchased calves direct from farms has been working well for some clients. As usual, poor doing calves on arrival are still a struggle. I recently spent a day with Dr. Neil Anderson and we suggested mixing the milk at 150gm/L. This will increase the amount of milk replacer, so you may wish to wean calves earlier. A complete mixing machine and feeding machine is on its way from Europe. I look forward to seeing it and utilizing it to help improve on farm designs. Already, many farmers have become quite creative and overcome many little challenges. Please call if you need help with any issues. We still need to figure out how to use this system in cold weather. I am looking for a client who has some ideas, which I can share with other producers. I hope to have a winter meeting to share experiences of success.