LINWOOD
VETERINARY SERVICES

DR. MARTIN MISENER DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR
DR. ANDREW MACLEOD DR. JODI KENDREW DR. JOHN TOKARZ
DR. CHRIS DITTENHOFFER DR. ROXANE PARDIAC
DR. CHRISTINA MOHOS

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

March 2008 Newsletter

LINWOOD AGRICULTURE DAY

We want to thank everyone who attended the Linwood Agriculture Day. Ag Day has evolved from a customer appreciation day to an opportunity to provide information and exchange ideas as well as we show our appreciation. We hope everyone found the talks informative and useful. We are always open to suggestions for next year and we would appreciate your input.

CLINIC NEWS

We will be closed on Friday, March 21, 2008 for Good Friday. Please try to monitor your supplies and order ahead so this does not inconvenience you during this holiday.

DAIRY

During our recent client day in early February, Dr. Randy Graham gave an interesting presentation regarding the economics of reproduction and what we can gain in our dairy operations if we focus on getting cows pregnant. Many of you were in attendance, but for those of you who weren't here is a review:

- As a goal, we should aim to have 50% of cows pregnant within 3 cycles of the voluntary waiting period and 75% of cows pregnant by 6 cycles. Less than 20% of cows should still be open by 10 cycles after the voluntary waiting period.
- Pregnancy rate (measured on a 21-day cycle) is the best metric for monitoring reproductive performance as it provides the most immediate feedback and is least susceptible to external influences which may skew the data. Pregnancy rate is generated in DairyComp305 and is therefore available from DHI or from your herd veterinarian.
- Only 35% of eligible cows are bred in any heat cycle. Since cows that are not bred cannot become pregnant there is lots of opportunity to achieve more pregnant cows within our herds by breeding more cows. Programs like OvSynch and other synchronized breeding programs can help us achieve these goals.
- Average pregnancy rate in Ontario is just over 12%. Farmers should strive to achieve approximately 20% to ensure a sufficient supply of fresh heifers and milk production year-round.
- Methods to increase AI submission rates include better heat detection, timed AI for first service, increased frequency of "open" cow checks and resynchronization of open cows.
- On average, a pregnant cow is worth $300-400 more than a similar open cow. This change in value is because of the increased likelihood of keeping pregnant cows and the production that undoubtedly follows.

- After controlling time to first insemination, the next hurdle may be controlling time to re-insemination of open cows. If cows are synchronized for first AI, cows that are non-pregnant *should* at least be synchronized. When using an OvSynch program, 88% of open cows are usually re-bred following open check.

- According to a recent field trial designed to increased pregnancy rates, improved PR was directly related to increased submission (insemination) rate and more regular open cow diagnosis (in the form of bi-weekly herd checks).