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## March 2009 Newsletter

We hope everyone enjoyed the Linwood Ag Day and we thank all the producers who took the time to attend. Any feedback would be appreciated so we can continue to make this a date to look forward to next year.

### SWINE

Even though we still have some winter months ahead of us, now is the time to start thinking about spring and warm weather options for disease control. If you are battling with severe disease challenges depop-repop is the most effective way to eliminate them. It looks like prices are going to continue to be sluggish in 2009 but we hope this is the last tough year before the markets turn. It is possible the last chance to minimize the economic impact of Depop-repop.

The impact of our Draxxin program on light weight pigs has been very positive. In most cases producers have seen visible improvements in nursery flows. We have also seen some price decreases in the freeze dried 100 dose size of Enterisol and with the success of oral dosing it looks like this product will provide an even greater cost benefit.

### DAIRY

#### Managing fresh cow mastitis

##### Pre-fresh

Utilizing an effective dry cow protocol will clean-up existing levels of udder infection and prevent new cases of mastitis. This includes a dry cow treatment plus a teat sealant such as *Orbeseal* at dry off. The use of vaccination is available. These vaccines only reduce the impact of the environmental types of mastitis. For example, *J-Vac* can be given 1 month prior to freshening and boosted 2 weeks after the initial dose. This gives the maximum level of protection from the vaccination during the period of highest risk of mastitis in the cow. As always, a properly timed and formulated transition ration is a must since nutrition impacts all aspect of a dairy operation. And, do not forget Vitamin E and Selenium role in a healthy immune system.

##### Freshening

Provide a clean dry environment throughout the dry period but especially at calving. Monitor suspect milk with the California Mastitis Test (CMT). Testing will give an early indication that mastitis is developing. If you are not familiar with this test, please ask a veterinarian for a demonstration. A positive test at freshening requires the infection to be classified as a chronic or an acute infection. Therefore, if a quarter is recorded as CMT positive at dry off as well as at freshening then it is a chronic mastitis and is more than likely incurable. This information is useful to monitor the effectiveness of the dry cow program at clearing up existing mastitis during the dry period. The acute infections, i.e. first time CMT positive quarter, should be sampled and identified via a bacterial culture to classify if it is environmental or contagious in nature. Identification also gives a prognosis for treatment success. Do not wait for lab results since new infections treated immediately yield the best cure rates.

## **Treatment**

The longer an infection is allowed to implant itself into the udder the harder it will be to cure the mastitis. If an intramammary treatment is used then always treat with an intramuscular antibiotic at the same time for a minimum of 3 days. This approach extends the milk withdrawal by only 2 days yet improves cure rates as well as decreases mastitis relapse rates. Watch for toxic signs such as failing appetite, cool extremities, diarrhoea and weakness. If any of these are seen, a veterinarian can provide a more aggressive IV acute mastitis treatment before it destroys the animal.

## **Equine**

It's a new year and a new start for the Equine practice. Dr. Martin Misener is the new manager of this division. We have changed our prices, as of March, and are pleased to offer you more specialized care in addition to our usual services. We now offer chiropractic care, which can be invaluable for both the performance and working horse. Dr. Roxane Pardiac is now a licensed Chiropractor and has been having great success with the horses she has been treating. Dr. Jennifer Brown is here to help you with your herd health needs and enjoys dentistry. Also, with the breeding season close upon us, we would like to remind you that Dr. Christina Mohos is an excellent resource for all your reproductive needs. She focuses on broodmare management, and breeding problem mares. She has had great success in past seasons.

It's that time of year again! Spring is (hopefully) around the corner and foals will be on the ground. You need to make sure you're ready.

In previous years, our clinic has seen many late-term abortions due to Equine Herpesvirus (EHV). This virus causes abortion storms in late pregnancy. Many mares are at risk of this virus, as it is easily spread between farms with mingling horses. Many of our clients are vaccinating their mares for this devastating virus. The vaccine must be given at **5, 7 and 9 months of gestation**. Of course it is important to vaccinate the rest of your herd, pregnant or not, if you haven't done so already.

Another important set of vaccines are the pre-foaling vaccines. Mares, unlike other species, offer almost no protection to their foal while it is in the womb. Thus, the foal relies ENTIRELY on colostrum (the milk produced immediately after birth). By vaccinating the mare **4-6 weeks before foaling** you can ensure the foal gets the antibodies it needs to get a good healthy start in life. The mare's Caslick's can be removed at this time as well.

Please also remember to deworm your mares 30 days prior to foaling, as foals are especially susceptible to roundworms, which can cause colic.

## **When is the baby coming????**

- Mares will bag up 2-4 weeks prior to foaling (filling in udder)
- Wax appears on teats 24-48 hours prior to foaling
- Vulva appears loose and muscles around tail will relax

Remember; if your mare has been in active labor for more than 30 minutes with no progression, it's time to call the vet! Also, if a 'red bag' appears (premature separation of the placenta), call the vet immediately. Keep walking your mare, until a vet arrives.

Next month we will discuss management of the newborn foal, and what you can do to ensure you have a healthy foal.

## **March is "Deworm your Mare month"**

**Save 15% off Panacur Paste from March 10-April 10**  
**Watch next month's newsletter for our April promotion.**