

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

May 2005 Newsletter

SWINE

We have the data summarized from our intervention program used to reduce reproductive losses in an acute outbreak of PRRS virus. The results are very exciting. In the 385 sows with no intervention we had an 11% mortality rate and a 33% abortion rate. In the 883 sows we put on Pulmotil and used serum vaccination as timed exposure we had a 1% mortality and a 5% abortion rate. The results support the program and we are optimistic that future PRRS outbreak losses can be reduced. When battling a disease as devastating as PRRS it is encouraging to have some success. We think this program may be one of the key developments in fighting this virus.

There is an Ontario PRRS surveillance project being developed. This project is hoping to better define the Ontario PRRS situation. PRRS is the most significant disease of swine. The losses due to PRRS and the difficulty in controlling it are worse in pig dense areas. Since Southwestern Ontario is a very pig dense area it is important that all segments of our industry support any initiatives that help us fight this horrible disease.

Over the last 5 months we have seen an increase number of farms losing pigs during the first 5 weeks in the Grow-finish barn. The clinical presentation is wasting, mild pneumonia and a runny scour. Losses can be very severe. The germ we are identifying is Circo virus. Circo virus has been around for a long time. It has been identified as the cause of Post weaning Multi systemic wasting syndrome (PMWS) and Porcine Dermatological and Nephropathy syndrome (PDNS). At the present time getting the sick pigs into a separate hospital pen or room is the most important intervention. We have had limited success in treating this condition. Neomix in the water seems to help some farms and we have had some luck with BMD in the feed. There is no specific treatment and we are approaching this disease farm by farm.

COW-CALF

Spring is here and many calves are on the ground. For the purebred breeders, cows are already starting to be bred back. For the commercial breeders you will be starting to move on bull purchases this month. Although used bulls from a friend or neighbour may be a nice option, for management of reproductive disease it is not a good idea. A closed herd in the beef industry rarely exists unless AI is used exclusively or used to raise your own bulls and then this requires careful management to ensure that we don't start breeding to half sisters. So, most people buy bulls. Our recommendation is to buy young virgin bulls in order to manage the risk of reproductive disease hurting your bottom-line. Remember a young bull should only be asked to look after 20 females. Also, he is not used to working hard and may have been on an energy dense ration all winter and now you are asking him to go out onto pasture, work and walk around to get his groceries. If he loses too much weight too fast, this may impair his reproductive ability. Make sure you know the background of the bull, what kind of feed has he been on and what is the family history of feet and legs, longevity and birth size. Good breeders have this information; no-names do not. Next year's calf crop is your livelihood so go find good genetics from good breeders with known herd health programs. If you want to know for sure that their herd health program matches your program then give us a call. We can always chat with their veterinarian to find out about BVD, IBR or Ureaplasma in the herd. Transparency is important and so is the health of your herd.

CALF MANAGEMENT (DAIRY, BEEF AND VEAL)

For those of you purchasing modified live vaccines made by Pfizer you may be a little confused on the new labels so here is a quick summary. For those of you vaccinating just the calf such as the young dairy calf, beef calf at turn out or beef calves coming into your feed lot you will ask for Bovi-**Shield** Gold 5 and it is available in the 5 dose, 10 dose and 50 dose. For Dairy and Beef producers vaccinating cows on pasture you will ask for Bovi-**Shield** Gold FP5+L5. For dairy producers not concerned about leptospirosis in their herd you will ask for Bovi-**Shield** Gold FP 5 in the 5 or 10 dose.

There are many modified live vaccines and depending on the timing and issues in your operation you may choose a different one from your neighbour. Call for details if you have any questions. Recently some producers have reported reactions when using a bacterin for *Pasteurella hemolytica* in their calves. If this happens more than you like talk to one of the vets about your program and re-designing it to suit your needs and reduce the risk of these reactions. It is always a good idea to have a bottle of epinephrine and steroid on hand when vaccinating. Yes, the chance of the bottle of epinephrine expiring is high, because the chance of a reaction is low, but it is cheap in comparison to losing an animal with good genetics. No matter what the economic climate, no body likes to lose a healthy young animal.

EQUINE

As spring rolls along, many people are getting out to ride and mess with their horses in general. Please remember that foals do not handle being ill very well, so please call us if your foal is off feed or acting depressed. Foal heat diarrhea is a normal occurrence five to ten days after birth. As long as the foal is still bright, alert and drinking well, there is no need for concern. Foal heat diarrhea is generally self-limiting and disappears after the mare is through her heat. If the baby appears depressed or won't nurse then a veterinary visit is in order.

BEEF

A new antibiotic is now available to the beef producer in the treatment of pneumonia. A180 from Pfizer has recently been released into the market. A180 is an enrofloxacin, part of the same drug family as Baytril. The advantages to A180 is a lower dose than Baytril (1.5ml/100lbs) and shorter withdrawal time. (7 days vs. 21 days) Both of these points will make A180 more cost-effective than Baytril.

As a reminder to producers A180 (and Baytril) are not licensed for use in dairy cattle or veal calves. Use of these drugs in species other than beef cattle is prohibited. Furthermore, enrofloxins should be used as a second line treatment; this is designed to prevent antibiotic resistance in this important class of drugs.

DAIRY

Dairy producers should be reminded that drugs such as Nuflor or Micotil are not labelled for use in dairy cattle. Several producers have recently called questioning the appropriate withdrawal times for these drugs in lactating cattle; since no label claim exists no appropriate withdrawal exists. The use of non-labelled drugs in dairy cattle is a dangerous practice which should be avoided!!

Case rates of mastitis and somatic cell counts can increase this time of year as cows herd to pasture and wet weather abounds. Many producers have found the use of Orbeseal to be a very helpful tool in reducing mastitis in fresh cows. Orbeseal is a paste-like product which is inserted in the teat canal at dry-off to prevent bacterial invasion during the dry period. It does not replace dry cow therapy; rather it is used as a supplement to therapy.

Research from the University of Guelph has shown that almost ¼ of teat ends do not close during the dry period making an excellent opportunity for bacteria to enter the udder. This number increases to almost 50% if cows are making over 20L per day at dry-off. New mastitis infections during the first 100 days of lactation can be traced back to infections in the dry phase. Orbeseal in conjunction with dry cow treatment will greatly reduce dry cow infections, resulting in less fresh cow infections and lower somatic cell counts as well.

