

LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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MAY 2006 NEWSLETTER

CLINIC NEWS

We will only be open until 12:00p.m. on Victoria Day Monday, May 22, 2006 so please think ahead when planning your pharmaceutical needs.

We are no longer able to order maternal York or Landrace semen from the OSI – Tavistock AI Unit. However, you can order York or Landrace semen directly from the OSI Innerkip Unit and the phone number is 519-469-3010. You will need to make delivery arrangements with OSI Innerkip. Sorry for the inconvenience.

DAIRY

The nice weather is finally here, and farmers are hard at work planting another year's crop. Despite the busy season we would like to outline a few important items that dairy farmers should be reminded to address:

1. Last summer was extraordinarily hot with reproduction, milk production, fresh cow performance and elevated butterfat levels paying the price. The success stories of last year were the farmers who had lots of fans in their barns to keep air moving. Now is the time to get extra fans installed and ensure existing fans are working.
2. While on the topic of butterfat, any farmers who have been fined for a high SNF ratio are reminded that you still have until July 31, 2006 to be rebated for this money *if* you can lower your SNF ratio (increase butterfat) before that date. Talk to your nutritionist or veterinarian about strategies to allow for these changes. Be sure to discuss your farm's butterfat strategy (both short-term and long-term) to remain DFO-compliant.
3. Before the hot weather arrives in earnest farmers should make a valiant effort to get open cows bred back. Reproduction is sure to suffer in the coming months so all cows bred in the next month or so will pay huge dividends in the coming months should pregnancies become more challenging.
4. Hot, humid weather is prime watery mastitis weather. Now is the time to get an environmental mastitis vaccination program in place (or booster cows if you already have a program). Mastitis vaccines such as J-Vac are the cornerstone of a mastitis control plan. Get ahead of mastitis now, before it gets ahead of you!
5. The DFO has put a hold on the livestock medicines course for now. Certainly proper antibiotic use and medical records remain as important as ever, but for now the course is suspended. Watch for further developments in the near future regarding this program, perhaps in a new form.

Other Services Also Available:

1. Embryo transfer/flush and freezing service. Please call for details.
2. The family cow program for dairy farms with 1 or 2 cows in the herd is still going strong. Call for information on this as well.

SWINE

Many producers are doing full or partial depop-repops this year. These interventions are very costly due to interruption of cash flow and the capital cost of new stock but are also very effective if done correctly. We have discussed depop-repops in other newsletters but we have not emphasized biosecurity following the depop-repop.

Swine herd biosecurity can seem very complicated and producers can become frustrated easily. There are a few points that may help make it easier:

1. Know your health status.
2. The entrance to your barn is like the goal crease in a hockey game.
 - Having barn boots and coveralls that stay in the barn is the same as having a great goaltender.
3. Down time is highly overrated.
 - For high health farms: overnight away from pigs and 1st call of the day is adequate.
4. Keep a clean house: sanitation is a big part of biosecurity both inside and around your barn.
5. Control rodents and other pests.
6. Finally pigs are always the biggest risk so know your suppliers health status and limit animal entry to one source if possible. Gilt isolation/acclimatization is a key feature to successful biosecurity.

Circovirus vaccine update

As of May 1 availability of the Merial Perfarlow vaccine is sporadic. There are some problems with supply from the company. The weaner pig vaccines have not been released yet. We are hoping for some product within the next two months.

BEEF

We have had some questions regarding CCIA tags recently. You can use up your inventory of the original CCIA dangle tags and then new tag purchases are R-fid (Radio) tags. We only have the R-fid (Radio) tags in stock.

Pasture turnout is just around the corner. We strongly recommend cattle be vaccinated for clostridium prior to turn out. Locally blackleg has not been a big problem but in recent years more clostridium cases have occurred. Vaccination is very effective in preventing these losses.

If you haven't switched your beef cow herd to a Modified Live vaccination program then you should this year. Vaccinating cows in the open period for BVD, IBR, BRSV and PI₃ is the best investment to herd health you can make. The best approach is to do cow and calf at turn out and include a clostridial vaccine as well. If you need help for processing give us a call and we will set up an appointment.

EQUINE

Tendon laxity in foals

Tendon laxity is a very common finding in newborn foals. It can be very distressing to find a foal for whom you had been anxiously waiting walking on its fetlocks (ankles) with its toes pointing in the air. This is caused by excessive looseness (laxity) of the flexor tendons, and can be a normal finding on a newborn foal. Severity can range from mild (fetlock dropped but entire hoof on ground), to severe (weight bearing on fetlock, pastern and heel bulbs with toe pointing upward). As the limb has had no weight bearing movement prior to birth, the tendons will frequently be too loose at birth. The flexor tendons will usually tighten spontaneously during the first few days of life, after light exercise. Some foals require protective bandages on their fetlock and pastern to prevent injury. Corrective trimming may be required if the case is severe or if no improvement is noted in seven to ten days. Most foals do not require corrective trimming as their laxity improves significantly during the first week of life. Provide the foal light exercise, for example turnout in a large stall or small paddock or hand walking the mare allowing the foal to follow. In the event the foal also appears to have "crooked" legs, cannot stand, or is very severely affected, please call the clinic for an evaluation of the foal.