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## May 2008 Newsletter

### SWINE

As we approach the warmer months of the year plan for pig flow changes that can dramatically improve the health of your herd. We have used these "partial depopulation" programs very effectively and it is always easier to do them in the summer months. If we expect the industry to turn for the better by early 2009 then improving your health status is a positive step you should take this summer.

Sow Vac Complete E in the 25 dose size is back in stock. This is a killed vaccine for Lepto, Parvo and Erysip. It is a 4ml dose IM.

We have seen a trend back toward full dose circovirus vaccination. In challenged pig flows, I recommend full dose instead of part dose. The B.I. circoflex is a 1cc single dose product and works very well but we have seen more issues with this product given at partial doses. Vaccine control of PCV<sub>2</sub> is very impressive. The cost: benefit of vaccination is huge so be sure your pigs are vaccinated correctly. In my opinion, if I was going to fractionate dose I would use the two dose Intervet product 1cc at weaning and 1cc; 3 weeks later. However in most pig flows it pays to full dose and in that case there is no difference between the two vaccines.

Enterisol illeitis vaccine is available in frozen or freeze dried forms. This product is used to orally vaccinate pigs against illeitis. The cost of Enterisol has decreased and will provide a cost:benefit on most farms.

### Small Ruminant

Several dairy goat producers have been wondering about a suitable replacement for the vermix sponge to induce estrus in does. An alternative approach is to use the MGA feeding program previously used to synchronize estrus in sheep. MGA medicated feed is provided to does for 14 consecutive days, with two feedings given 12 hours apart each day. For out of season breeding, a shot of 500 IU PMSG is given approximately 5-8 hours after the last MGA feeding. Introduce the buck 24-48 hours after the last feeding. Most does should cycle within 48-60 hours. Keep in mind that MGA medicated feed should not be given to early pregnant does, or does being milked for human consumption. If you are interested in this program, contact our clinic as a veterinary prescription will be required by your Feed Mill.

### EQUINE

#### Importance of properly fitting equipment

There are various conditions that can cause a horse to be uncomfortable with his tack or harness. Often, poor fitting equipment can lead to medical issues and performance can be negatively affected. It is very important to recognize a problem early and then to take the necessary steps to rectify the issue.

The most common poorly fitting equipment problems that we often encounter are related to the horse's bit. It is often too small or too large for the horse's mouth and generally results in ulcers and inflammation. The initial injury can often progress to severe ulceration on the lips, gums and bars of the horse's mouth. Often this will lead to the horse developing behavioral issues as well as a negative/sour attitude towards their work. The wear pattern on the teeth will often change and may require an increase in the frequency of dental exams required. It is very important that the bit be sized to the horse's mouth and that it is used responsibly to avoid damaging the sensitive tissues of the horse's mouth.

A poor fitting saddle can also lead to many problems that at initial inspection seem to be unrelated medical issues. It is not uncommon for a horse to become lame due to a poor fitting saddle. A thorough lameness exam will often indicate that the problem is due to the saddle once other causes are ruled out. The horse's back will be very painful even under light palpation. They may also develop pressure sores over the areas of the saddle that are not fitting properly. To check if your saddle is fitting properly, you can place the saddle on the back of the horse without a saddle pad and have a feel to see if there are any areas that feel tight or if there are areas on the horse's back where the saddle doesn't even touch the horse. These areas will result in increased pressure points rather than distributing the weight evenly. The saddle shouldn't come into contact with the spine of the horse. It is also important that the saddle not extend too far on the horse's back. If you suspect that your saddle doesn't fit properly, it is advisable to have a knowledgeable and certified saddle fitter to examine and recommend a proper saddle for you and your horse.

If you suspect that your equipment may not be fitting properly, try to address the problem as soon as possible. With timely attention the problem can often be corrected easily and without too many secondary complications.

## **DAIRY**

A new intramammary infusion product is available from Pfizer. Spectramast contains Ceftiofur, the active ingredient is Excenel. Field trials have shown very positive results to most environmental pathogens such as E. Coli, Klebsiella and the environmental strep bugs like Strep. dysgalactiae. Withdrawal times have remained low at 96 hours for milk and 0 hours for meat.

## **UPCOMING BEEF MEETING SPONSORED BY SCHERING-PLOUGH AND INTERVET**

### **Improve Your Pen Checking Skills**

*Protect your investment through Bovine Respiratory Disease detection*

#### **Tim O'Byrne**

Calico Beef Consulting

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Vista – Elevating Expectations**

Dr. Bill Sanders

Technical Services Veterinarian

Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Lung Protection Therapy**

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Pen Checking Skills**

Tim O'Byrne

Calico Beef Consulting

#### **June 3rd, 2008**

Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre, Kirkton, Ontario

#### **June 4th, 2008**

Elmwood Community Centre, Elmwood, Ontario

**Space is limited. RSVP by May 28th, 2008**

**with Paulene Tiemens-Weber (519-495-2822) or Derek Stanley (519-372-4841)**