

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 DR. CHRIS DITTENHOFFER

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

November 2005 Newsletter

VEAL

It has been an excellent fall for starting calves. However, many experienced calf raisers are taking advantage of some swine management ideas. Barns that are used to all in/all out need a break to break the disease cycle. Astute calf raisers have learned two things; one, it is more difficult to start baby calves in cold weather and two, the continuous flow barns need to be emptied out once a year. So, think about combining this in your operation. Also veal finished veal prices are rarely highly profitable in late spring to early summer.

When weaning calves, if viral pneumonia is a frustration try going back to Micotil. Inject label dose at weaning and use again if the respiratory rate is extremely fast when breaking with a viral pneumonia. There is some evidence that Micotil may help suppress viral pneumonias due to viruses such as BRSV. Good luck and lets hope for more good weather.

SWINE

As we continue to fight with serious disease losses in our Ontario industry it becomes more important than ever to look at the big picture when searching for solutions. We have made many significant breakthroughs in the last year regarding new ways to control PRRS virus. Many farms have benefited from a better understanding of viral exposure and immunity. There is however one main area that needs a lot of work on many farms. This area is pig flow! We do not have a "magic bullet" for viral disease like PRRS, Circovirus and H₃N₂ influenza, we must therefore concentrate on proper age group flow of pigs to control viral circulation. Many farms appear to be trapped in continuous flow pig production and when recommendations are made to change the flow the answer is often we can't. I suggest that if the answer is we can't, then fixing disease problems may be impossible. Producers need to break their operation up into compartments and implement programs in each compartment to address viral disease circulation and immunity.

Compartments:

1. Gilts

It all starts here. We need a way to introduce new gilts, expose them to the diseases on your farm and limit the risk of new disease entry with the gilts. We have a variety of ways these objectives can be achieved so "can't" is not an option. If this compartment is not working, you can do whatever you want later on and it will most likely fail.

2. Farrowing rooms

The Farrowing rooms are the most overlooked compartment on many farms. A simple set of rules, if followed strictly, can be the make or break of disease control.

- Limit cross fostering to a single event and only to correct litter number issues.
- Single day processing
- Euthanize poor pigs as they occur
- No other between litter movement

3. Weaner pigs

All in all out by site is best

All in all out by room is next best

4. Finisher

All in all out by site is best

All in all out by room is next best

As a generalization vaccines like Mycoplasma and PRRS are given to weaner pigs to correct a finishing barn problem not a weaner pig problem. We encourage producers to focus on how they structure pig flow options and opportunities. Although not as easy as medicating or vaccinating structuring pig flow is the most reliable fix to todays disease challenges.

BEEF

Every buyer of stocker calves is well aware of the dollars invested in new inventory. We all hope that the price is a reflection of the North American cattle cycle not just BSE volatility. As with every cattle start, early detection and treatment of Bovine Respiratory disease is your best investment to profit. We have been pleased so far with the feed medication programs and are seeing good results with pulse medicating groups where pull rates start to increase. One strategy to improve early detection is to over pull. If a group is starting to show up with new pneumonia cases pull, the obvious ones plus a selection of the pen cohorts. Take rectal temperatures. If you find too many unexpected fevers, run the group through and temp and treat.

Treatment options:

1. Fevers but no clinical signs:
 - Micotil 1.5cc/100lbs SQ
28 day withdrawal
2. Fevers with clinical signs:
i.e. off feed, cough, puffing
 - Nuflor 3cc/100lbs IM
 - Biomycin 5cc/100lbs SQ
 - Predef 10-15cc IM
48 day withdrawal, repeat in 48 hours
3. Repeat pulls (did not respond to above treatments)
 - A180 1.5cc/100lbs SQ
 - Predef 15cc IM - repeat in 48 hours and follow up with:
 - 3 doses of Biomycin 5cc/100lbs SQ – 48 hours apart to sustain economical antibiotic blood levels
48 day withdrawal

EQUINE

Winter Colic

Once again, colic season is approaching upon us. The cold weather snaps cause horses to decrease their water consumption while increasing their feed intake at the same time. The result is dry, voluminous feces, which predisposes the horse to an impaction colic. Clinical signs of colic range from inappetance and mild discomfort to severe pain, exhibited by rolling and kicking at the belly. Most impaction colics resolve with medical treatment (i.e. stomach tubing, mineral oil and IV painkillers and/or fluids), although complications can include diarrhea, peritonitis, colon rupture and intestinal abscessation. If you notice a horse in your barn showing signs of colic, attempt to walk the animal around. This often alleviates gas pains, which can be very painful. If the horse is rolling and thrashing so violently that you cannot safely approach it, do not attempt to walk the animal and immediately call the clinic. If you are able to walk the horse but it doesn't appear to feel any better, after 20 minutes of walking and 10 minutes of stall rest, the clinic should be contacted.

DAIRY

The fall is often the time when farmers begin to review their vaccination protocols. Many farmers use an annual whole-herd killed vaccine approach. While effective, this approach is more expensive and not as complete as the use of modified live vaccines. Modified live vaccines are inexpensive, generally safe, highly effective and very rapidly produce immunity to disease. This year Pfizer has presented a new take on an old favourite: Bovishield Gold is a new formulation of the former Bovishield 4. Gold still protects against BVD, IBR, PI₃ and BRSV as did Bovi-4, but also now specifically protects against BVD Type II, meaning it has increased protection against the type of BVD which affects reproduction. Bovishield Gold is available with or without the Leptospirosis protection, depending on whether you plan on vaccinating calves (Lepto is effective in cows and breeding-age heifers). Bovishield Gold has also changed its label to be safe for pregnant cows and heifers **if they were vaccinated with Bovishield within the previous year**. Otherwise, Bovishield Gold and Bovishield 4 should only be used on open animals. Talk to your veterinarian for more details.

BEEF COW-CALF

Recently we have encountered a few cases of blackleg in our practice area. Blackleg is an acute disease affecting skeletal muscle of cattle caused by the bacteria *Clostridium chauvoei*. Because of the rapid onset of this disease, it is common to simply find animals dead. Post mortem examination reveals swelling, gas and blood stained tissue in the skeletal muscles and under the skin. Clostridial bacteria are common throughout the environment and animals are constantly exposed to them. Frequently, it affects younger animals between 4 and 24 months of age. The bacteria often enters through skin wounds such as injection sites, castration sites or cuts. The bacteria then settles into this affected tissue and multiplies. In the case of infection, *Clostridium* organisms are very susceptible to penicillin. In addition, vaccination with Tasvax-7 is very effective at preventing disease (Booster shots are required with initial vaccinations). This vaccine is especially cost-effective at only pennies a dose – protect your valuable investments!