



DR. MARTIN MISENER DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR.
NANCY CHARLTON DR. ANDREW MACLEOD DR. JODI KENDREW DR. JOHN
TOKARZ DR. CHRIS DITTENHOFFER DR. ROXANE PARDIAC

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

NOVEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Swine Meeting

When: On Tuesday, December 12, 2006

Where: Mount Forest Legion

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

About: The Three B's of Swine Production

Agenda:

- **Barnyard Bucks** – a review of basic swine economics and where to find opportunity income
- **Barnyard Breeding** – so you have closed your herd, now what? How to keep F1's alive and well in your herd
- **Barnyard Basics** – managing the herd for disease control along with an update on Circovirus Vaccine and Draxxin for treating sick animals

Register: Call the clinic by December 5th to register

There will be a hot lunch provided

2006 Dairy and Veal Healthy Calf Conference

On **Tuesday, December 5, 2006** at the Oxford Auditorium, Woodstock Fair Grounds, Woodstock, Ontario
from 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Keynote speakers:

Hints and tips for raising quality calves: a producer perspective – Ms. Jeanne Warmuth, CY Farms, New York

Top ten take home tips for calf management – Dr. Tom Fuhrmann, DairyWorks, Phoenix, Arizona

Increase your awareness of calf disease challenges – Dr. Sam Leadley, Attica Veterinary Associates, New York

Other topics include: Calf immunity – what is happening on farm, Nutritional management for healthy calves and
Protecting your herd from disease challenges.

Advance registration (before Nov 15th, 2006): \$50, Regular rate (after Nov 15th, 2006): \$65.

Please call the OVA office at 519-824-2942 or visit the **website** www.ontarioveal.on.ca to register.

EQUINE

Exertional Rhabdomyolysis/Azoturia/Tying-up

The weather is changing rapidly as is the amount or regularity of exercise being provided to the horses. Consequently, we are seeing many more cases of azoturia/exertional rhabdomyolysis/tying-up. The clinical signs that are often present include muscle stiffness, tremors as well as dark urine. The back and hindlimb muscles will often feel quite hard upon palpation. Many horses will even refuse to move and may start to sweat profusely. If allowed to remain untreated, it may lead to recumbency and occasionally death.

The cause of this condition is multifactorial. Often times, the horse will have been off work while being fed a full carbohydrate ration. Upon return to work, the horse's body cannot cope and the condition develops. It is more commonly seen in fillies and mares. The condition may also develop secondary to excessive struggling (i.e. colic, restraint, entrapment, after a surgical procedure or being cast). This is a serious condition and medical help should be sought as quickly as possible. Avoid moving the horse if at all possible because it may cause more damage to the affected muscle groups. Once a horse has had an episode, it is more likely to succumb to the condition again. Prevention of another episode is key. It is important to make sure the diet has a well balanced mineral content. Confinement should be decreased as much as possible and consistent, regular exercise should be provided. Additionally, proper warm-up and cool down of the horse should be done for each session of exercise or work.

COW/CALF

It is that time of year again when cows are coming off pasture. Know which cows are pregnant and which are not, open cows cost money to feed and do not produce. **This year we are offering a package that includes deworming, vaccination and pregnancy checking for one inclusive price. We will also supply a chute and processor if needed. Call the clinic for details and to book your appointment now.**

All new multi-dose bottles will have a notice on their label to use within 28 days of opening. If you use a clean needle each time you draw from the bottle and store according to label directions you can use product until you reach expiry date. After a product is expired do not use.

SWINE

Unfortunately through the month of September and October we have seen some acute PRRS outbreaks in sow herds. As most of you are aware, abortions, early farrowing with weak or stillborn piglets as well as sows off feed are the most common clinical signs of a PRRS challenge. There are other reasons for these clinical presentations so a definitive diagnosis is the first step in dealing with an outbreak.

Things you can do to help reduce the impact of new viral strain introductions. Consider the following points if your herds begins to exhibit clinical signs:

1. Limit sow movement within the herd. (viremic sows will increase herd exposure)
2. Halt routine vaccination programs. (needle transfer of virus will increase herd exposure)
3. Evaluate feed inventory. Don't order a large quantity of feed and fill the bins until the problem is diagnosed. (allows quicker intervention if the choice is the Pulmotil/serum vaccination route)
4. Consider down stream pig flow (allows for an opportunity to isolate viremic weanlings and avoid cross-contamination of older weaner pigs.)
5. Identify sows off feed that have not aborted. (these are our best animals to sample if there are no clinical signs in piglets)
6. Call us to initiate testing to diagnose the problem.

DAIRY

Our embryo transfer business is up and running. We have been quite successful with many productive flushes. Currently we are averaging approximately 6 fertile eggs per donor cow. These eggs can either be transplanted to a suitable recipient as fresh eggs or frozen and transferred at a later date, perhaps as more recipients become available.

The way embryo transfer works is a donor cow is treated with super-ovulatory drugs to make her produce as many eggs as possible. The cow is inseminated to fertilize these eggs, and then seven days later we flush the cow to remove these embryos and prepare them for transfer to another recipient (a heifer or young cow) or frozen for a later date. Recipients are often aligned to come into heat along with the donor to facilitate direct transfer without the need of freezing. Donor cows seem to respond best when they are at least 80 days in milk.

We have also been using embryos to settle some problem-breeding cows. We use a CIDR and a Lutalyse shot to bring a cow into heat, and then put in an embryo one week later. This has been shown to settle approximately 1/3 of these cows who have been bred 3 times already.