

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
DR. ROXANE PARDIAC

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

OCTOBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

EQUINE

Grain/Concentrates Overload

Horses are well known escape artists and can open even the most complicated locks. Once they have escaped, the eventual target is often the feed room. Often times they will eat as much as possible until they have been found. After their adventure, most horses appear to be no worse for wear. Unfortunately, often unbeknownst to the owner, the damage has already begun. When a horse consumes a large amount of concentrates, it accumulates in the stomach quickly. The gastro-intestinal tract cannot readily handle a large amount of concentrates. The bacterial flora in the gut can not digest all the feed and toxins that start to be produced. As the bacteria continue to try to digest the feed, the toxins enter the bloodstream and begin to circulate throughout the body. The toxins then begin to invade the highly sensitive laminae of the hoof. Consequently, the horse becomes laminitic (founder) and may go on to colic.

Once a horse has become laminitic, the only course of treatment is to control the pain and to prevent any further damage. Ideally, the veterinarian should be contacted as soon as the horse has been found. The stomach can be pumped and lavaged with water and mineral oil in an attempt to decrease the absorption of the toxins. The horse should be placed on anti-inflammatories and closely monitored. Inappropriate access to concentrated feed is an emergency and treatment should be initiated as soon as possible. The longer one waits to initiate treatment, the worse the condition of the horse will be.

DAIRY

Cattlemaster vaccine now provides fetal protection to pregnant animals against BVD and IBR, as well as continued protection against PI₃ and BRSV. An additional strain of BVD Type II allows for even greater protection against BVD. For those who are still using killed vaccines, look to Cattlemaster Gold for enhanced protection of your livestock.

The autumn is a good time to consider the application of endectocides for parasite and worm control in your dairy animals. Eprinex is approved for use in lactating cattle and is very effective in the control of intestinal and abomasal worms, as well as in controlling mites which cause tailhead mange. Fresh cows treated with Eprinex have been shown to improve milk production by as much as 7 lbs per cow per day. Topical parasiticides such as Eprinex should be used only after we have had a hard frost and cattle have come in for the winter. In this way you will not have re-infestation following treatment, and have enhanced control over lice and other mites. Discuss the use of Eprinex with your veterinarian to control costly parasites.

SWINE

Schering Plough is hosting 2 meetings in October; the first one is on October 17 in Stratford at the Arden Park Hotel and the second one is on October 18 in London at the Four Points Sheraton. Dr. Walter Heuser will be speaking about Surviving in a Commodity Based Market and Dr. Louis Coulombe will be speaking about Review of Vaccines and Adjuvants in the Face of PCV2 Associated Diseases (PCVAD). Lunch will be provided. In order to attend you will need to reserve a space ahead of time so please give the clinic a call before October 10th and we will let Schering know that you will be attending.

CALF MANAGEMENT

The wet rainy September was a good reminder of how the fall weather sets up calves for pneumonia. Many people have already called in with concerns of increased coughing. Provided that the group is still eating well and there is no risk of contaminating a pen of finishing veal or steers then feeding our medicated crumbles is a cost effective approach. This crumble is medicated with oxytetracycline and can be fed at two levels, which are stated on the

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label. Both these levels are higher than the drug levels in AS-700. This medicated crumble works well when used early in the disease process, when calves are well vaccinated and in dry, draft free environment. It cannot cover up and prevent disease when there is an overwhelming challenge.

The following is a review for early intervention for treating calves for pneumonia:

1. When feeding calves two times a day, failure to come up to eat (double check that there is no diarrhea).
2. Very early in the stage of pneumonia, there may not be obvious puffing, look just behind the ribs for increased rate of breathing.
3. Very early in the stage in the first 12 hours they will have a high fever such as 106°F or 41°C and you can feel the heat in the tips of the ears.
4. After the first 12 hours the fever starts to come down, but still greater than 103.5°F = 39.5°C (remember normal is 101.5°F = 38.8°C).
5. Calf stands back by him/herself and head starts to hang down.
6. Calf increases its breathing rate and appears to be “puffing”. It is more difficult with veal calves to only rely on this as some calves after pneumonia have so much damage that they continue to puff, but these calves are bright and alert and are seen to be chewing their cud while continuing to puff.
7. Final stages calf can’t get up, grunting, and mouth breathing. This is way too late to treat.

There is a new drug for treatment of pneumonia, called Draxxin. More information is available under the section on Draxxin. It is labeled for use in dairy animals under 20 months of age. It is not a miracle worker but we look forward to cautious optimism in using it. One place that may provide a labour and health friendly role is upon exit of the hutch into groups in a barn. The drug will provide up to 14 days worth of drug coverage as calves are high risk of getting sick after they leave the hutch. We still promote excellent management in order to reduce the challenge. Calves need to be dry and draft free, the fluctuating temperatures are great at setting off viral activity. The antibiotic Draxxin will not change viral activity, but is a labour friendly way of dealing with the bacteria. Call if you have more questions.

BEEF and SWINE

This month for both the beef and swine sections of the newsletter we want to feature a new Antibiotic that may turn out to be the biggest gun in our arsenal against bacterial respiratory disease.

Draxxin is the name of this new antibiotic brought to the market place by Pfizer. Over the years one of the most common requests we have heard from producers is “don’t you have a drug I could just give once and not have to repeat injections.” It appears we may have this product.

Draxxin is a unique Macrolide compound that gives 14 day duration of treatment. One injection treats most bacterial respiratory infections for 14 days.

Dosage for cattle: 1.1cc/100lbs IM – 30 day withdrawal

Dosage for swine: 1cc/40kg IM – 8 day withdrawal

Draxxin has been shown to produce exceptional results against the bacterial pathogens causing Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) including Mycoplasma Bovis. It has also been shown to produce similar results in treating the bacterial pathogens causing Porcine Respiratory Disease (complex PRDC) other than Strep suis. The bad news is that it is expensive.

Cost comparison:

| | Draxxin 1.1cc/100lbs IM | A 180 2 shorts 48 hours apart 1.5cc/100lbs SQ | Nuflor 6cc/100lbs SQ | Micotil 1.5cc/100lbs SQ |
|---------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 500lb steer | \$23.38 | \$16.50 | \$21.24 | \$10.95 |
| | Draxxin 1cc/40kg | | Nuflor 2.5cc/100lbs 2 shots 48 hours apart | |
| 75lb Grow pig | \$3.61 | | \$3.54 | |

Keep in mind that the most expensive drug is the one that does not work. Call the clinic for more details and we will keep you posted on results as we try Draxxin in various challenge situations.