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OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

CLINIC NEWS

In our haste to send September's newsletter in a timely fashion, we missed some important information on the new long-lasting, single injection antimicrobial, Excede.

Excede must be given by subcutaneous injection in the middle 1/3 of the posterior aspect of the ear, a similar site to where implants are placed. This route of administration provides a 3-day meat withdrawal with a minimum of 7 days of therapy. However, intravascular injection, particularly inadvertent intra-arterial injection could result in sudden death of the animal. As a result it is important that producers receive proper training on the ear route of administration (ERA), which includes using the proper Excede needle. Please contact the office for training on ERA.

With regards to the Anti-infective Update Meeting at McCall Livestock on October 10th, space is limited as there will be a chute side demonstration of the ear route of administration of Excede. Excede is currently licensed to treat bovine respiratory disease (BRD) in all beef cattle and dairy replacements under twenty months of age. As a result, we anticipate the product will be primarily used in feedlots, where BRD is most prevalent. Therefore, we are only encouraging feedlot producers who anticipate using Excede to plan on attending this meeting.

Please, RSVP to either Ron Stevenson (519) 525-0166 or Dennis Eagles (519) 939-3136 if you plan on attending. As stated, space is limited and the Ontario Cattle Feeders Association have invited key feedlot producers, so there may not be enough room for all producers. However, Pfizer will partner with Linwood Veterinary Services to ensure all producers that are interested in this exciting new product are trained on its proper use, including ERA.

SWINE

The general outlook in the swine industry is pessimistic; the driving force causing this outlook is the high Canadian dollar. Low prices are the next contributor to our gloom and doom. Both of these factors are beyond our control. What can we control? Productivity, pig flow, disease status, and to a lesser degree; input costs. Ontario pork producers cannot survive severe disease challenges. Each farm must look seriously at all alternatives if disease is not well controlled or eliminated.

We have had some very good success stories in PRRS elimination and farms that face a new outbreak must act quickly and not be afraid of aggressive intervention. The cost of prolonged production of viremic pigs is very high. Even though you can have a PRRS outbreak anytime of year, fall, winter and early spring have a much higher occurrence of new outbreaks. Risks of an outbreak are defined and all farms should focus on the big 3.

1. Pigs
2. Pig trucks
3. Barn entrance

Control these risks and you are 90% of the way to preventing a new PRRS outbreak. If we assume the short term cost of a new aggressive PRRS outbreak is \$20,000/100 sows; controlling for the top 3 risk factors seems inexpensive.

If your facilities are fully depreciated and production, health or market options are questionable, empty out. We will try to provide best options for each farm asking for input. Pig flow changes, batch farrowing and herd health evaluation may be part of every farms production decisions.

Inputs must provide a cost benefit. In financially challenging times many producers cut cost by eliminating an input e.g. cheaper ration formulation. Depending on the genetic potential of the pigs this short term savings can result in long term costs in slow growth and reduced carcass quality. All inputs need to show a cost benefit depending on price. This may translate into reduced loss not increased profit but its still money in your pocket. We will happily review your health inputs to assist you in identifying those that have a favourable cost benefit and those that don't.

DAIRY

Autumn is often a time that many farmers think about vaccination of the dairy herd. Many farmers have already made the switch to modified live vaccine and have seen favourable results. For those farmers who are not using MLV there is some new technology available to help guard your herd. CattleMaster Gold vaccine from Pfizer has added a fetal protection claim to their label. CattleMaster GOLD FP 5 contains IBR and PI₃ viruses and modified-live BRSV plus a liquid, adjuvanted preparation of inactivated BVD virus strains (Types 1 and 2). CattleMaster is for vaccination of healthy cattle, including pregnant cows, as an aid in preventing abortion caused by infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR, bovine herpesvirus Type 1), persistently infected calves caused by bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) virus Types 1 and 2, and respiratory disease caused by IBR, BVD (Types 1 and 2), parainfluenza₃ (PI₃) and bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV). The most severe BVD problems occur when pregnant cows and heifers are infected. The virus can cross the placenta, infect the fetus and result in the birth of a calf that is a carrier of the BVD virus for life (persistent infection). While no vaccine can guarantee 100% efficacy, studies showed 100% protection from BVD Type 1 and Type 2 persistent infection in the CattleMaster vaccinates while, 88% of non-vaccinates were persistently infected.

While the killed vaccines perform very well the preferred route continues to be modified live vaccination. MLV provides gold standard protection against BVD (Type 1 and 2, IBR, PI₃, and BRSV). This affords the best protection against viruses which can cause respiratory and reproductive disease in your herd.

Vaccination is a critical component of the overall health and performance of your herd. Consider the choices carefully and discuss with your veterinarian. Be sure your herd is protected.

CALF MANAGEMENT

For those of you with access to the internet dairyherd.com has a link to "Calf and Heifer Resource" which provides a source of information from veterinary and animal science research to real life experience raising calves and heifers. There are many ideas of how to run the business of feeding calves better from using coloured clothes pegs on pens/hutches to indicate how much milk to feed based on age of calf to the latest research on how 0.3 ppm of organic selenium and 1000 IU of Vitamin E starting before weaning helps to reduce the number of sick animals. With the beautiful September weather and fall field work we can get a little behind in our vaccinations but the good weather is the best time to vaccinate. Vaccinate your calves 5 weeks of age and older with the modified-live vaccine. Traditional vaccination programs do work but you must booster the calves 3 weeks later and you can only vaccinate once they are 4 to 6 months old. Call now to discuss switching over to a modified-live program.

With the border in a position to open on or after November 19th, 2007 it will be tempting for people to get into the heifer trade. If you have been out for a few years then just a few reminders. First, scours is still a big killer of calves. Can we push the industry to purchase calves 3 weeks of age and older, after the scour stage? Secondly, pneumonia after weaning is a challenge especially in a continuous flow single air space. Could we look at

batching the calves? Instead of weaning on a regular basis, wean once a month? Have enough hutches to feed calves in there longer? Purchasing calves from unknown, multiple sources with unknown cow health, herd health and colostrum intakes should yield 10% losses. (The swine industry learned long ago how challenging this approach was.) When you are buying calves, add these costs so that you go into it with your eyes wide open. Oh yes, and don't forget that even though the milk replacer price has gone up that you still need to feed these youngsters more once the temperature drops below 15 degrees Celsius or 60 degrees Fahrenheit. If you are trying to save on milk replacer costs, instead of cheating on amounts, discuss with your feed company a cheaper milk replacer once they are 4 weeks of age. Encourage dry feed intake by placing calf starter in their mouth immediately after they finish their milk. Be careful, if calf starter prices increase due to increased grain prices, don't skimp and end up with expensive poor doing calves. Calves need energy, body fat for a healthy immune system. Nobody said that raising calves would be easy!

LINWOOD MEDICATED CRUMBLES

The medicated crumbles are again available. Medicated crumbles are often fed to incoming stocker calves as an aid in the prevention of pneumonia and other respiratory problems encountered by stocker calves.

EQUINE

Red maple leaf toxicity

Autumn brings with it additional risks to the horse population. One significant concern involves the red maple trees (*Acer Rubrum*). The leaves are less of a concern when they are still on the tree or fresh on the ground. Only a small amount of wilted leaves can cause Heinz body hemolytic anemia.

Heinz body hemolytic anemia develops when damage occurs to red blood cells. These red blood cells are then removed by the spleen or they are destroyed within the bloodstream. This attack on the horse's supply of red blood cells causes a shortage to develop. Additionally, the red blood cells have a decreased ability to carry oxygen to the muscle and other cells.

Clinical signs that you can watch for include; exercise intolerance, yellow or brown mucous membranes, increase in heart rate or respiratory rate as well as brown urine. Exposure or potential exposure to wilted red maple leaves should be avoided.

If you are at all concerned that your horses may have been exposed to red maple leaves, please contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. Clinical signs in conjunction with a complete blood count, blood smear and biochemistry profile can assist in confirming the diagnosis.

While waiting for your veterinarian's arrival, remove the horse from the source immediately. Treatment likely to be provided to your horse include but are not limited to supportive therapy such as intravenous fluids and blood transfusion. Prognosis is good if there is only modest anemia, poor if renal damage has occurred and grave if the mucous membranes and urine are brown. If you have any additional questions or concern please call the clinic.

