

# 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

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

### CALF MANAGEMENT

The smell of autumn is in the air, and the high daytime temperatures and low night time temperatures are another classic sign. With the fluctuating temperatures, comes the "fall pneumonia". Pneumonia requires an agent to inflame the lung. However there are trigger factors such as weaning, transportation and for home-grown or cattle placed more than three weeks, temperature fluctuations and ventilation have a major effect. One of the viruses that loves temperature fluctuations is BRSV. Our recommendation to help reduce the risk of a BRSV outbreak is to vaccinate calves twice with a modified-live vaccine at 5 weeks of age and 3 to 4 weeks later. To help reduce the effect of Pasteurella (now called Mannheimia) a one-shot Pasteurella vaccine can be administered with the second modified-live vaccination. Please call the clinic and speak with a veterinarian on a program for your farm. Animal health technicians are available to help your farm stay on top of vaccination programs.

### DAIRY

Rumensin CRC boluses have proven themselves to be a highly effective tool in the prevention of ketosis and displaced abomasums in fresh cows. Most producers who have utilized this product have had a very positive experience and have found them to be highly effective in their intended purpose. Unfortunately we have experienced a backorder situation on this product making their availability uncertain of late. According to Elanco, here is the most recent information on this situation.

From the Elanco dairy team:  
Rumensin CRC back-order situation:

- Elanco is committed to improve inventory levels of Rumensin CRC to meet market demands
- Currently working to ramp up supplies to cover recent back-order challenges, however the supply of CRC will continue to be inconsistent this fall
- We are expecting that the next shipment of Rumensin CRC's will be available in approximately 1 month (late September / early October) and are working to expedite subsequent shipments.
- We appreciate your support of the Rumensin CRC and look forward to having this situation corrected in the near future

Our backyard cow program is still going strong. Fall is a great time to get that favorite family cow bred- the weather is more favorable than during the heat of summer, and cows bred now will calve during early summer when fresh grass is plentiful. Call for details.

Lately, several farmers have been commenting on increased somatic cell counts or mastitis incidents. This is a problem that is best to stay ahead of in order to prevent it from becoming a massive issue later on. Here are some things you can do to help keep somatic cell levels and mastitis cases in check.

- Sample clinically positive cows and submit these samples for culture. By identifying which mastitis types are affecting your herd it is possible to create a strategy to control or eliminate the organism. In addition it is possible to create a treatment plan that will yield the highest cure rate by properly selecting the most appropriate mastitis treatment.

- Use a CMT paddle to determine the affected quarter in high cell cows which may not show clinically abnormal milk. These cows are called subclinical and represent your greatest economic loss associated with mastitis. Identifying and controlling these cows is critical.
- Use dry cow therapy (such as Novodry or Cefa-Dri) on all cows at dry-off. Dry cow therapies help cure existing infections (often with greater success than treatment during lactation) and prevent new infections during the dry period. While it may be necessary to drop a cow's production prior to dry-off by limiting feed or feeding poorer quality feeds the best strategy for dry-off is to simply and abruptly stop milking the cow. Then administer dry cow therapy, teat dip and leave alone.
- Orbeseal has also become an important and effective tool in the prevention of mastitis during the dry period. Research has shown that up to 25% of teat ends fail to close and keratinize during the dry period, the cow's way of preventing bacterial invasion. Failure to keratinize means bacteria have an open access into the udder with minimal risk of being flushed back out. Orbeseal is not an antibiotic and works by blocking these openings preventing bacterial invasion. Best success for Orbeseal is when it is used in conjunction with dry cow therapy. Infections obtained during the dry period can be related to mastitis cases in the first 100 days of lactation. Limiting such infections can prevent cases during the peak milk of early lactation.
- Monitor DHI sheets for signs of subclinical cows (elevated cell counts greater than 250,000, or a linear score of 3). Discuss your mastitis treatment plan with your herd veterinarian.

Just a note on Orbeseal usage: when properly placed in the teat (and not into the udder) Orbeseal will remain in place for the entire dry period. Some cases of loss have been reported but these tend to be very occasional and individual cow problems. Be sure to strip out Orbeseal at freshening. Occasionally farmers report Orbeseal accumulation in their pipeline but this is mainly because farmers do not strip it out properly, or do not use bucket milkers for diverting fresh milk from fresh cows. If you encounter problems with Orbeseal accumulation consult with your herd veterinarian and dairy supplier for information or assistance.

## **SWINE**

Fall weather is just around the corner and with seasonal temperature fluctuations come more health challenges in pig barns. Now is the time to make sure your barns are prepared for colder temperatures.

- Make sure air inlets are adjusted for cooler nights (avoid drafts) ensure heaters are working.
- Insulate around doors, etc. to avoid drafts

It is also a good time to review feed medication programs. Often we will change medication recommendations in October to give more respiratory disease treatment or prevention options.

### Update on Circovirus

So far we are very pleased with the results of the commercial vaccines. The Intervet wean pig vaccine has had some amazing results. Barns that were ranging as high as 15% mortality have dropped to under 3%. We are hopeful that vaccine supply issues are fixed by October. The Merial sow vaccine is also performing well and this product is more available. We are very optimistic that Circovirus will not be a long term contributor to growing pig mortality.

We have recently started using a new product that prevents coccidiosis scours in piglets. Results have been very good. Coccidiosis is a protozoan parasite. This parasite is species specific. That is swine coccidiosis is different from poultry or beef. In pigs the earliest a piglet can have a cocci scour is 5-7 days. More commonly the scour presents over 10 days of age. It is yellow in colour and can be runny to paste in consistency. Usually affected litters become runty but have low mortality. Call the clinic for more details about coccidiosis prevention.

## **BEEF**

The fall run of stocker calves is soon under way. It would appear that calf price will be strong again this year. There are more cow herds using herd vaccination program and more calves hitting the market prevaccinated. If we could get good information exchange inputs on entry could be re-evaluated. A detailed knowledge of the health protocols used on calves pre-sale is very valuable.

Vaccine and antibiotic decision can be made with greater confidence if you know what the calves and their mothers have had prior to sale. Buy in at the cow-calf level has improved over the last few years and we need to tip our hats to those producers who take pride in selling a healthy immune stocker calf. In fact in Ontario the last few years these calves have been sold at the top of the market.

Try and get a history and let us know in advance of calf delivery and we can set up an incoming program to minimize cost and maximize pay back. This year Pour On Endectocides will be sold at the lowest price ever. Pressure from generic brands and other products has resulted in price reductions. This is good news for an industry that has many uncertainties ahead.

Last spring we sent out a questionnaire regarding treatment response to different drugs and the effectiveness of in feed meds.

Results:

- Very strong opinions that the feedlot starter medications worked very well.
- Very strong opinions that the new “treatment” feed top dress pellet worked very well.
- Injectable antibiotics rating from best to least effective for treating Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD)
  1. A 180
  2. Nuflor
  3. Baytril
  4. Micotil

We want to thank everyone who participated and hope to do it again this winter.

Our treatment top dress pellet will be available again this year. The purpose behind this product is to provide an easy cost effective method to group medicate cattle that are showing increasing BRD signs. We prefer the in feed route to in water medication. Depressed water intakes because of taste changes is an issue and an over reliance on water treatments is an issue. If a beef calf is not eating it should be injected! The treatment top dress is designed to be used for 5 days and can be pulsed i.e. 5 days on, 5 off, 5 on. We need to know the number of cattle and average weights as well as if they are on any medication in a feedlot starter. Call the clinic for further details.

## **EQUINE**

### Ocular Issues

Horse owners commonly experience ocular issues with their horses, especially during the summer months. During the warm weather, flies are the leading cause of irritation to the eye. Additionally, the position of the eye on the horse’s head increases the likelihood of injury. The only protection available to the eye is the eyelids.

Common signs of eye problems are: squinting, increased blinking, tearing, purulent (pus-like) discharge, swelling, as well as reddened sclera (white of the eye). If any of these signs are noted, the first thing that should be done is to bring the horse indoors or out of the bright sunlight. A veterinarian should be contacted and the horse should be seen as soon as possible. The exam will consist of an initial visual exam with a penlight. The eye will then be stained with fluorescein. The stain will be picked up where the first layer of the cornea has been damaged. If the ulcer extends deeper, the stain will not be taken up but the damage will still be visible.

The course of treatment needs to be started immediately. Treatment will likely consist of an topical ointment several times per day, anti-inflammatories, and possible systemic antibiotics.

Another common problem with similar signs is known as equine recurrent uveitis or moon blindness. This eye problem is generally caused by a hypersensitivity reaction and needs to be treated aggressively. Ocular issues are serious and can progress rapidly thereby making them a priority. Until the veterinarian arrives, keep the horse out of direct sunlight. A flymask will help prevent flies from causing further irritation.

# Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians Big Bug Day III

**Date:** Wednesday, November 29 2006

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Lunch included)

**Location:** Kirkton Community Centre, Kirkton, ON

**Topics to include:**

- PCVAD intervention strategies
- PRRS intervention / elimination strategies
- Biosecurity to keep PRRS out
- PRRS Project 1 update
- PRRS success stories

**Feature Speaker:** Dr. Scott Dee, University of MN

Meeting details to follow at a later date.

**Registration:** Linda Dillon, Clinton OMAFRA Resource Centre  
Tel: 519-482-3333 Fax: 519-482-5031 Email: [linda.dillon@omafra.gov.on.ca](mailto:linda.dillon@omafra.gov.on.ca)

**Session Cost:** \$20 payable at door by cash or cheque (payable to OASV)

**Pre-Registration required by Friday, November 17, 2006**

**Sponsored by:** Pfizer Animal Health and Boehringer Ingelheim  
**Registration & Technical Support by:** OMAFRA, Ontario Pork & OPIC

*Proceeds to Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians disease initiatives*