



LINWOOD
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EQUINE

Continued specialization in Large Animal Veterinary medicine has resulted in individual Veterinarian's focusing increasingly on specific species. We have for the last four years provided Equine, Bovine and Swine services.

We have struggled with the business structure of the Equine portion of our business and are very pleased to announce the formation of a new Equine practice, Wellington Equine Services, owned by Dr. Christina Mohos.

Wellington Equine Services is targeted to be up and running in October. We are committed to assist Christina in any way we can to help her business offer a high quality Equine Veterinary Service to our clients.

DAIRY

Colostrum Management

When it comes to colostrum, remember 4 key concepts – quickness, quantity, cleanliness and quality.

Quickness – Timing is everything when it comes to feeding colostrum. Following birth, a calf's gut loses about 5% of its ability to absorb the nutrients and antibodies we provide through colostrum each hour, with no absorptive ability left by 24 hours of age. What does this mean? The optimal time to feed colostrum is when the calf is between 0 and 4 hours old.

Quantity – A good goal to strive for is to provide 4 litres of colostrum before the calf is 4 hours old. This may require the use of a tube, as many newborn calves will not drink the full amount on their own.

Cleanliness – Remove the calf from the dam as soon as possible following birth, otherwise it is likely to consume manure while searching for its first meal from mom. Be as sanitary as possible while collecting the colostrum – proper teat preparation and sanitation of bottles and tube feeders is very important. Do not leave unused colostrum sit at room temperature. It should be refrigerated to prevent rapid multiplication of bacteria.

Quality – If the quality of the colostrum is not good, it doesn't matter how much of it you feed. Avoid feeding colostrums from cows who have been milked prior to freshening or have leaked during late pregnancy. Also, any colostrum from a cow that has been treated with antibiotics or is contaminated with mastitis or blood should not be fed. Instead, you can feed a replacement colostrum product or frozen/refrigerated colostrum from an older, known Johne's-free cow. A colostrometer can be used to exclude poor-quality colostrums.

SHEEP AND GOATS

Pneumonia in lambs and kids is rarely a simple case and often involves many causative agents. These may include Pasteurella bacteria, viruses, and mycoplasma. Because of these complex interactions between agents, it is important in an outbreak situation to identify the agents involved. If there are pneumonia related deaths, a post mortem should be performed and samples collected. The first signs of pneumonia in lambs and kids include fever, depression, runny eyes and nose, coughing, lagging behind when groups are moved, and a reluctance to eat or nurse.

The causative agent for pneumonia can be found in the respiratory tract of healthy animals. It is often stressors in the environment that cause disease to occur. These stressors could include humidity, overcrowding, poor ventilation, moving lambs or kids on dusty tracks, and a buildup of ammonia from manure packs. Controlling these stressors will go a long way to preventing a serious pneumonia outbreak.

Treatment with antibiotics is aimed at controlling the secondary bacterial infection and reducing the extent of the lung damage. Even the lambs and kids that recover from a bout of pneumonia could sustain chronic lung damage. These animals will be slower to grow and can represent economic losses. Identifying issues early and taking proactive measures are key to keeping economic losses at a minimum.

SWINE

If you have been around the office in the last month you may have seen a new face walking around. This new face is the newest addition to the Linwood Vets Swine team and his name is Dr. Kevin J. Vilaca. Kevin joined us at the beginning of July and will be one of the Veterinarians that you may be seeing from on your farm or speaking to on the phone.

Kevin has quite an extensive background in swine and has been involved in various sectors of the industry for many years. After graduating high school, Kevin enrolled at the University of Guelph where he took a four year Bachelor of Science Agriculture Degree. During his summers, Kevin worked for the Swine professors Dr. Cate Dewey and Dr. Bob Friendship at the Ontario Veterinary College on the Ontario Sentinel project funded by Ontario Pork.

After graduating with his Bachelor of Science, Kevin's interest in swine lead him to pursue a Masters degree in Epidemiology with an emphasis in swine health. Kevin graduated with his Masters Degree in 2002. His main area of research focused on the PRRS Virus and how PRRS vaccinations affected boar fertility. Kevin has presented and published the results of his research on a few different occasions at the annual meeting of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. Kevin graduated with his DVM in 2004.

In the 5 years since graduation, Kevin has been working as a swine veterinarian in herds across Ontario. He is a member of the Canadian Veterinary Reserve, has been a director of the Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians (OASV) and is directly involved with OSHAB, just to mention a few. We are pleased to have him join us and feel he will be a valuable addition to our swine team.