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*We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.*

**Linwood Clinic Hours:** Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Sat 7am – 12pm      **Hwy 89 Clinic:** Mon-Sat 7am-1 pm

NOTE: BOTH CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY

Orders for Delivery: ***Please call BEFORE 9:30 am*** for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service 1-800-663-2941

## **APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER**

**Dairy Promotions:** Zoetis is currently promoting a “Get Away From It All!” Contest. Enter the draw if you’ve purchased OrbeSeal® between March 1 and June 30, 2016. Win 1 of 3 all-expense-paid weekends for two (2) to the Canadian city of your choice! If you’re a Canadian dairy producer and you’re 18 years-of-age or older, you’re eligible to participate. Find out all the details and enter to win at [www.orbeseal.ca](http://www.orbeseal.ca)

### **Milk Cultures- Discount**

**Reminder-** From March 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> Boehringer Ingelheim is offering \$12 off milk culturing for every 12 tubes of Cefa-Lak®, Cefa-Dri® or Dry-Clox® you purchase from March 1 to July 31. Milk culture discount stickers (enclosed with your purchases) can be redeemed up until November 30, 2016.

### **Rabies Vaccination for Farm Dogs**

Don’t forget to get your farm dogs vaccinated for rabies this spring. This is a requirement by law and a helps to protect you, your family and your animals from a fatal disease. Rabies has been found in Ontario in the last 6 months, so vaccinating your farm dog is more important than ever!

### **Hypocalcaemia ( Milk Fever, Parturient Paresis)**

Hypocalcemia or milk fever is a disease of dairy cattle which occurs shortly before or shortly after calving. It is generally caused by low blood calcium but may have concurrent low blood phosphorous levels.

Risk factors for milk fever include: Older cows (2+ lactations), overconditioned cows, high milk producers, jersey, improper dry cow ration high in potassium, cows not eating well before calving.

Milk fever (both subclinical and clinical) at time of calving increases the risk factors for many other fresh cow diseases. A cow who is low in calcium around calving is more likely to have a prolapsed uterus, retained placenta, metritis (uterine infection), left or right displacement (twist) or mastitis. Overall, preventing and treating milk fevers is a very important for the health and well being of your dairy cattle.

There are 3 stages of milk fever.

**Stage 1:**

The cow is ambulatory but may show any of the following signs:

- Cool ears, cool to the touch
- Excitable, sweaty
- Ataxic (wobbly)
- Tremors, head bobbing, ear twitching
- Restless, shuffling feet

**Stage 2:**

The cow is unable to stand, but still laying down in a normal sternal position. Cows are not eating, cold ears and other extremities, lower than normal body temperature, higher and weaker heart rate. Digestion function will slow, leading to bloat, failure to pass manure or urine. Cows will often be observed with head tucked into sides and an S- shaped curve to the neck.

**Stage 3:**

Cows will only survive a few hours in stage 3 before they die. Cows lose consciousness, lay flat out, no muscle tone, very high heart rate, bloat and unresponsive to stimuli.

## **Prevention & Treatment**

There are many options to prevent and treat milk fever. What you choose depends on your operation, your preferences and your veterinarian. Milk fever can be prevented with properly formulated dry cow ration, particularly one low in potassium. Talk with your nutritionist to go over your dry cow ration. Milk fever can also be prevented with timely administration of oral or subcutaneous (under the skin) calcium. Common oral calcium includes calcium boluses and oral calcium drenches. If a cow is showing any signs of milk fever, oral calcium doesn't work quick enough alone. Oral calcium by itself is a PREVENTATIVE!

Treatment options include subcutaneous and/or intravenous calcium depending on the severity. IV phosphorous, dexamethasone and dextrose may also be given to milk fever cows.

Overall, milk fever is a very serious disease and if left untreated can result in death. Further complicating matters is even a mild case of milk fever leaves a cow much more susceptible to other fresh cow diseases like retained placentas and displaced abomasum. If you're battling milk fever or any other fresh cow diseases in your dairy herd be sure to give your herd health vet a call so we can help you solve the problem and make your herd healthier and more profitable.