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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**

## **AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER**

### **Clinic News**

There will be no delivery service on Labour Day **Monday September 7th**. Clinics will be open in the morning and on call vets available for emergencies.

In early September, Jones Feed Mills will be hosting a series of beef producer meetings featuring live demonstrations on handling, processing, and implanting. There will also be a presentation on receiving cattle rations. These meetings will be held on-farm throughout the area and are in conjunction with Elanco Canada, with cattle processing demonstrations facilitated by Linwood Veterinary Services. Call Jones at 1-800-265-8735 / 519-698-2082 for details, and to confirm a spot, by September 2. The first meeting will be hosted by Clare Martin and Family, 6537 8<sup>th</sup> Line RR#3 Harriston, N0G 1Z0, on September 8. Plastic boots will be available. Lunch will be provided.

Sharps containers 4.5 litre with prepaid disposal included in cost, now in stock. 23L containers are also available. Add to your order, and return to the clinic when sharps hit the fill line, for safe disposal.

If you purchased Boehringer products Cefal-Lak®, Cefa-Dri® or Dry-Clox® between May 1 and July 31, and have milk culture stickers- don't throw them out! Each sticker is good for a \$12 discount on a milk culture at the clinic, if submitted before November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **Dying Calves Means Looking for THE Reasons not the BUG**

With sick and dying calves, all want to jump to the most attractive explanation: "**I have a BUG!**" The "bug" in this case is some new highly pathogenic bacteria or virus that has invaded the operation and is the primary reason for the sick and dying calves. This is when the producer reaches out for professional assistance to solve the sick and dying calf problem but they think that they already know how to find the solution. "**Identify the BUG.**"

#### **Most common situations are:**

- Overstocking which increases calf to calf contact.
- Manure pack, would you want to kneel down on the bedding in that pen – wet!
- Blood agar cultures of colostrum/milk replacer being fed to the calves resulted in plates with too many colonies to count - well over 1/4 million per ml.
- Very heavy growth on the MacConkey plates showing heavy coliform contamination.

### What can we do?

- Blood sampling of calves to check on immunity levels.
- Necropsy data from calves from a university laboratory.

### What is the next step?

- Send more dead calves to the lab.
- Use other professionals to help in the search for "the solutions" since the calves keep dying.
- Use a team approach and assess the calf management program from top to bottom.
- Identify opportunities to reduce pathogen exposure and increase immune defenses.

## Reducing Exposure to Pathogens

### 1. for newborn calves

- Collecting and feeding clean colostrum.
- Dipping navels, >7% iodine solution.
- Keeping calves away from adult cow manure and cow airborne pathogens.
- Goal: First day of life must minimize exposure to parasite oocysts, viruses and bacteria; especially exposure to fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal: oral exposure is the most dangerous.

### 2. for preweaned calves

- Feeding clean milk replacer or milk.
- Keeping adult cow manure away from calves including:
  - \*Calf care personnel, \*Veterinarians, \*Consultants, \*Suppliers
  - \*Equipment such as skid steer loaders, tractors, manure spreaders
- Keeping calves away from calf manure including:
  - \*Clean pens or hutches and bedding.

## Increasing Resistance to Pathogens

### 1. Excellent colostrum management

- Collecting clean colostrum soon after calving.
- Feeding clean colostrum within one-half hour after collection.
- For colostrum to be stored, chilling below 60° within one-half hour after collection.
- Feeding enough high quality colostrum soon after calving (10% BWT).
- **Goal:** High enough passive immunity from dam's colostrum to reduce infection rate.

### 2. Selecting an adequate ration for preweaned calves

- Monitoring calves' nutritional requirements for maintenance and growth
  - \* Maintenance needs increase as size increases and below 15 C.
  - \* Growth needs depend on our goals
- **Goal:** As calf passively acquired immunity declines, we want the calf's own immune system to provide it.

### 3. Selecting a farm-specific vaccination program based on the risk of pathogen exposure (selections made with the advice of the herd veterinarian)

- Assess exposure risks (for example, IBR, BRSV)
- Assess farm-specific exposure risks (for example, salmonella, clostridia)
- Use the vaccines that have the highest chance of creating effective resistance at a reasonable expense
- Apply the proper protocol for administering the vaccines.