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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.

Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Sat 7am – 12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic: Mon-Sat 7am-1 pm

NOTE: CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY

Orders for Delivery: **call by 9:30am at the latest** for same day local delivery Monday to Friday
24 Hour Emergency Vet Service

JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Linwood and Hwy 89 Veterinary Services Veterinarians and Staff wish you a Happy New Year!

Waterloo Cattleman's Annual Meeting: Tuesday January 14th at Linwood Community Centre.

10 am-1pm \$15.00 Hot lunch provided

Martina Pfister from Pioneer, will be speaking about producing high quality corn silage.

Register ASAP with Jones Feed Mills 1-800-265-8735

Questions? Call Mike Edwards at the Mill, or on his cell 519-501-8865

Vaccine handling tips

Healthy productive calves are the result of a planned effort with your veterinarian stressing preventative care through proper management, sanitation, observation and vaccination.

Here are some **tips for handling** vaccines:

Safety and storage

- Try to buy bottle sizes that will be used up quickly since once opened they must be used immediately.
- Keep vaccines refrigerated at proper temperature (< 7°C) until use.
- Check fridge temperature regularly to make sure it's maintained at 4-7°C.
- Use an insulated cooler and multiple ice packs for transporting vaccines to work cattle.
- Avoid direct sunlight because ultraviolet light can impair vaccines' effectiveness.

Chute-side handling

- Keep your insulated container in the shade with the lid on to minimize sunlight and dust contamination.
- Mix only the amount that will be completely administered within one hour.
- Make sure syringes are properly labeled or marked to avoid mixing vaccines when refilling because it could inactivate the vaccine or make it less effective.

Vaccine administration and site placement

- Always read vaccine labels before use and follow directions. Look at expiration dates, injection dose, route of administration, etc. This will limit improper use of vaccine.
- Give injections only in the neck region. Never in the rump, top loin, or back leg.

- Space injections at least 4 inches apart (hand width).
- Keep **records** of each and every time an animal is treated or processed.

To learn more about vaccine handling, watch the BQA training **video** at **BQA.org** or download the BQA On-Farm Training **manual**.

Hypothermia & newborn calves

Hypothermia is something that affects all cattle producers whether you are in dairy or beef and we need to be concerned about at this time of year. The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) found that the average mortality of pre-weaned calves on farms during 2006 was 7.8%. Often pre-weaned death is a result of respiratory infections or diarrhea, with the majority coming about due to calving difficulty and poor environmental conditions at birth. Surveys also show that mortality in beef herds from birth to weaning also ranges from 3-7%. The majority of beef calf deaths occur within the first 24 hours of life and are related to dystocia (difficult births) and hypothermia (cold stress), especially this time of year.

Types of hypothermia:

Exposure hypothermia is the steady loss of body heat in a cold environment through respiration, evaporation, and lack of adequate hair coat, body flesh, or weather protection.

Immersion hypothermia is the rapid loss of body heat due to a wet, saturated hair coat in a cold environment. This often occurs after the birthing process because the calf is born saturated with uterine fluids. Other causes of immersion hypothermia may include being born in deep snow or wet ground, falling into a creek, or being saturated from heavy rains followed by chilling winds.

Hypothermia: (thermometer is essential to determine the degree of hypothermia)

Mild is any drop in body's core temperature below normal (approximately 100° F to 101.5° F).

Severe is when the body temperature drops below 94° F. Here is when the vital organs are getting cold.

Critical is below 86° F, signs of life are very difficult to detect and the calf may be mistaken for dead.

Treatment is to return the calf's core body temperature to normal (100°-101.5° F for newborn calves). Clean dry towels or calf blankets can be used to help dry the calf off and help increase the core body temperature while rubbing the calf vigorously. Floor-board heaters or pickup trucks, placing calves next to the heater in the house, submersion of wet calves in warm baths, or placing the calf in a warming box are all methods which have been used over the years, especially if the calf is experiencing severe hypothermia.

Feeding the hypothermic calf warm colostrum as soon as possible speeds recovery and increases the probability of full recovery. Breathing the warm air, coupled with consumption of warm colostrum, heats the calf from the inside out and provides the needed energy to overcome the trauma they just went through.

Early treatment of hypothermic calves is important. The severely hypothermic calf can be revived and saved. However, they often are set back from the experience and their immune system can be compromised. These calves should be watched more closely for future calf hood health complication