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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: call by 9:30am at the latest** for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

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

## MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

### News

**Jones Feed Mill – DAIRY** Producer Meeting March 12<sup>th</sup> at Linwood Community Centre, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm with lunch provided

- **BEEF** Producer Meeting March 25 at Linwood Community Centre 7:30pm to 10:pm, and pie and ice cream will be served

Call Jones or your rep 1-800-265-8735 ASAP for info or to confirm attendance at either meeting

Wednesday April 9, is the **Waterloo Wellington Beef Barn Tour**- Please call Melvin Steckle 519-338-5381 tour includes lunch and starts at his place, 5857 Hwy 89 RR1 Harriston N0G 1Z0

### **Calcium When Fresh Cows Need it Most—Bovikalc®**

BOVIKALC® is an oral calcium supplement containing two calcium sources. Calcium chloride is available rapidly, while calcium sulfate provides sustained release of calcium during the period after calving, when fresh cows need it most. BOVIKALC® is easy to administer with its specially designed oral bolus with a unique coating.

Bovikalc® oral calcium supplement is a unique bolus formulation that provides fast and extended support of blood calcium levels in freshening dairy cows.



- Provides both quick and sustained calcium supplementation that supports blood serum calcium levels at a time when calcium is in great demand
  - A specially formulated and designed bolus helps provide a safe administration and better calcium availability
  - Easy to administer
  - The Bovikalc® bolus will disintegrate quickly in the rumen.

For administration and dosage instructions please consult our Veterinarians.

## Safety Information for Bovikal<sup>®</sup>

- Bovikal<sup>®</sup> should not be used for initial treatment of milk fever.
- Do not use Bovikal<sup>®</sup> for cows lying down or showing signs of milk fever.
- Do not use excessive force when giving the bolus to the cow.
- Read and follow all label directions.

## Are Calcium Supplements Good for Dairy Cows After Giving Birth?

- The health of dairy cows after giving birth plays a big factor in the quantity and quality of the milk the cows produce. Subclinical hypocalcemia is the condition of having low levels of calcium in the blood and occurs in many cows after giving birth. The low blood calcium is also related to higher levels of fat in the liver which can be the precursor to future health problems in fresh cows.
- Onestudy found that about 50 percent of dairy cows suffered subclinical hypocalcemia and subsequent higher levels of fat in the liver after giving birth to their calves. These higher levels of fat in the liver were often tied to future health problems in dairy cows, including increased risk for metritis, mastitis and ketosis. Ketosis is a condition that results in the cows expending more energy than they are taking in through their diet. All of these conditions decrease the amount of milk these cows will produce.
- Subclinical hypocalcemia affected the health of the cows after they gave birth and had a negative impact on cow fertility and reproduction.
- To maximize the health of the cows and the amount of quality milk dairy cows produce, pay close attention to dietary management in the late dry/early lactating period as well as provide supplemental sources of calcium during early lactation for cows at risk for subclinical hypocalcemia.
- **Important: Monitor Calcium Levels in Herd**
- Since this study suggested some potential risks for health issues in dairy cows with subclinical hypocalcemia, it is important for producers to monitor these levels in their cows. In herds experiencing a high incidence of subclinical hypocalcemia around the time of calving, we could suggest adding anionic salts to their diets and providing calcium sources orally or by injection at the time of calving could be beneficial to their overall health and productivity.

## Signs of Mycoplasma Bovis Infection in Cattle

Mycoplasma bovis infection is caused by mycoplasma, a small free-living pathogen in animals. This pathogen attaches itself to mucosal surfaces, invades tissue and liberates toxins that cause severe tissue damage. M. bovis also suppress the immune system and increase the severity of disease caused by other pathogens.

Infection spreads easily via cough, nasal secretions and direct contact with infected animals, milk, feedbunks and waterers. Infected cattle do not respond well to treatment so prevention is necessary to stop the cycle of infection.

Symptoms include:

- **Inner-ear infection.** Calf may hold its head slightly lower than normal, have droopy ears and tilt its head.
- **Discharge from eyes and nose.**
- **Increased respiration.** Calf may experience faster breathing and struggle to draw air in and out of the lungs.
- **Frequent, hacking cough.**
- **Fever.** Low-grade early on, with minimal fever as infection becomes chronic.
- **Arthritis.** Usually seen one week after pneumonia and can involve swelling around multiple joints.
- **Mastitis.** Udder swelling and decreased milk production that is watery, flaky and tan or brown in color.

Work with your veterinarian to develop a prevention strategy since that is the best way to keep mycoplasma from creating chronic problems with your herd's health and profitability. Vaccinating with Modified live multi-valent vaccines may help reduce the incidence and severity of disease.