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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**

September 2016 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

There will be no delivery service **on Monday October 10th** for Thanksgiving. Clinics will be open in the morning and on call vets available for emergencies.

Thanks for those who could attend our Customer Appreciation Barbeque in August! We were pleased with the turn out, and still had some leftovers to share with Ray of Hope. We hope the weather is kind to us next year, too, when we plan a barbeque for you at Hwy 89!

Online payment of your Linwood invoices through TelPay is now available. Please email us at linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca and we will forward instructions for TelPay to you.

Pesticide and Medications disposal: The Clean FARMS program has several dates and locations throughout Ontario in September, for drop of agricultural pesticides and livestock medications. To find out if there is one near you, call 877-622-4460 or visit www.cleanfarms.ca

If you purchased Boehringer products Cefal-Lak®, Cefa-Dri® or Dry-Clox® between May 1 and July 31, 2016 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 30th, 2016.

AVOIDING CONTAMINATION OF MILK CULTURE SAMPLES

Too many samples cultured in our lab, turn out to be contaminated with too many bacteria types to determine which is causing the mastitis. It is essential that proper protocol is followed when taking the sample, for the results you need. Detailed instruction sheets are available, and you can book a Registered Veterinary Technician from the clinic to come to your farm to review the techniques.

Some of the critical points in collection steps:

- › Before collecting sample, ensure cow has NOT been treated in the last 10 days.
- › Use a clean, sterile and labeled mastitis vial and wear clean gloves.

- > First, forestrip each quarter into CMT to determine quarter(s) to sample. Do NOT forestrip into vial.
- > Clean **each** teat, always starting with teats farthest from you and work towards yourself.
- > Pre-dip the teat(s) with predip or (iodine mixed with warm water and moistened paper towel to wash) allowing at least 40 seconds of contact time, attention to teat ends, then wipe teats dry.
- > Using a gauze soaked in alcohol, wipe each teat vigorously making sure to pay special attention to the teat end. Repeat this step until the teat is clean enough to "Put your mouth on". Allow the teats to dry.
- > When taking sample, start with the teat closest to yourself, **this will avoid dragging contaminants on the clean teats**. Tilt vial 45°. For composite samples, squirt a few strips from each teat into the vial. Fill vial ½ to ¾ full. Quarter samples are preferred, as they will give you the best results.
- > Place samples in refrigerator immediately and keep cold, if samples are left out, they will grow bacteria (especially in summer), and this **could also contaminate sample(s)**. If samples are not going to lab within 48 hours, put them in the freezer. Fresh samples are preferred.

Cystic Ovaries

What are they and what can we do about them?

What are they?

There are both follicular cysts and luteal cysts. A cyst is a fluid filled structure on the ovary that is greater than 25 mm in diameter, has persisted for greater than 7 days and no CL (corpus luteum) is present. Cysts disrupt the normal estrus cycle. Cysts are most common in fresh cows, prior to 60 days. The older a cow is the more likely she is to have a cyst. Cows which were cystic previously are more likely to become cystic again.

The Signs?

- Intermittent signs of heat
- Swollen vulva
- Mucus present on and off
- No signs of heat (most common)

How do we treat them?

Cysts are easily diagnosed at herd health by either ultrasound or manual palpation. Once they are diagnosed we can successfully treat most cysts in one or two attempts. There are multiple protocols for treating cysts, every vet has their favourite. The key is they must have some combination of Fertiline (GnRH) and Lutalyse/Estrumate (PGF). Ovsync protocols such as a CIDR sync work very well to remove cysts or a protocol as listed below also work well.

Example protocol for cystic cows:

Day 0- 5cc Fertiline

Day 1- 4cc Fertiline

Day 7 or Day 10- 5cc Lutalyse or 2cc Estrumate

How do we prevent them?

We don't know all the causes of cystic ovaries in dairy cattle, like most fresh cow diseases, multiple factors can lead to cystic ovaries in cattle. Negative energy balance, especially prolonged, is a known factor in causing cystic ovaries. Thus, a good dry cow and fresh cow program is important. Some feed ingredients containing estrogen like compounds such as mouldy feed or red clover can lead to cystic ovaries and other reproductive issues.