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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.

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

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

NOTE: CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service -call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

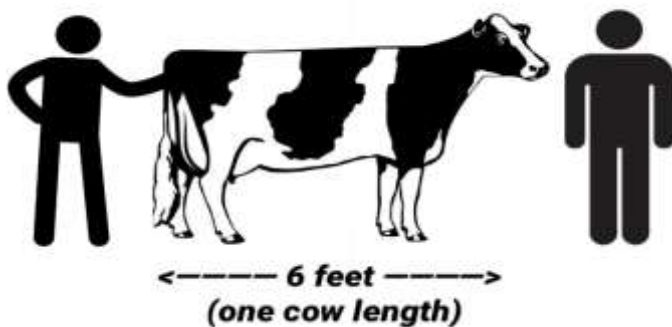
MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Reviewing the Covid 19 Protective Protocols

To help us with keeping our distance please try to have the animal/s secured before arrival for sick animal calls. Please let us know *before we arrive* if anyone on farm is showing signs of illness such as fever, shortness of breath, or cough, so we can determine together how to best handle each situation.

We continue to provide all services pertinent to food animal production. Services such as sit down consultations are on hold, but in the interim please call for any assistance you may need.



It is important, as we work through this pandemic together, that we all work to remember to stay adequately physically distant from each other- at least 6 feet - to slow the spread of the Covid 19 virus to protect our loved ones, and the food production industry.

Holiday

The clinics will be open only in the morning, and there will be no delivery for Victoria Day, **Monday, May 18**. Vets will be on call for your emergency needs.

Basic Bovine Requirements

If you wouldn't want to sit in the stall to eat your lunch, consider cleaning the stalls more often. The effort you put into creating a more comfortable laying space will be rewarded in the bulk tank!

1. Air

It almost seems silly to ask yourself if you provide air to your cattle, but think of **quantity** and **quality** of the air you provide. Good quality air means fresh, low humidity, low ammonia, and cool. This is often provided through natural wind ventilation, or fans. There are a few ways to easily test your air quality:

- Take note of the smell outside of your barn (fresh air), and then take note of the smell inside your barn (used air) – if you can notice a difference in the air, you need to get more fresh air into your barn
- Watch your cattle – cattle which are too hot will stand up more in order to cool down their body temperature; cattle that hold their heads up over walls/partitions may be looking for more fresh air – if you see these behaviours, you need to get more fresh air into your barn

2. Feed

Cattle are grazing animals and require access to feed at all times for optimal health. Ask yourself a few questions:

- Do your cattle have access to feed 24-hours a day?
- Are you pushing up the feed so they can access it at all times?
- Do you have enough bunk space so that they do not have to compete for eating time?

Fun Fact:

The feed area should only be 4" higher than the cows feet. If any higher, the cattle will eat with their head in a horizontal position. This results in less chewing and less saliva production!



3. Water

Most people think that feed consumption is what drives a cow to drink water, but it is actually the opposite, a cow will restrict her feed intake if she does not have access to water. It takes 5L of water for her to consume 1kg of dry matter. A cow will drink several times in a day, up to 20L at one time! The number of water sources available, their placement, and their cleanliness can have a greater impact on your herd than you think. Cattle should not have to compete for water sources so a general rule of thumb is 10 cows per small source, or 20 cows per large source. They should be spread out throughout the freestall or pen area to minimize competition, and should be cleaned on a regular basis. Dirt and slime on the bottom of a water trough or bowl alters the taste and can be off-putting to a cow - same for mould and bacteria!

4. Light

Light is an easy "basic requirement" to forget about, but think of how much happier you are when the sun shines! Studies have shown that cattle are more productive with 14-16 hours of "light" and 8 hours of "darkness" each day. So how bright do your lights have to be? The measured amount is 200lux at cow level (the light needs to reach where the cattle are standing/laying, not just at the barn beams!). If you don't have a way to measure the lux levels, simply try reading a newspaper in the darkest spot you can find at cow level - if you have to squint to read, it is probably too dark.



5. Space

Productive cattle need **easy** access to food, water, and a comfortable place to lay. They need the space to access one or all of these at any time without overcrowding. Overcrowding at certain times of the year is expected and unavoidable in growing farms, but year-long overcrowding will reduce the productivity and profitability of your cows. Cattle competing for feed bunk space, water sources, and laying space will waste more energy walking and produce less milk.

6. Rest

Laying time is a huge indicator of cow comfort and can dramatically increase productivity. Bedding needs to be soft enough to prevent knee, hock, and hip sores, and clean enough to reduce mastitis infections. If you can't kneel in the stalls for at least 10 seconds without getting sore or wet knees, more bedding is needed.

