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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 to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

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

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

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Warm wishes from all of us at Linwood Vet and Hwy 89 Vet for a happy and healthy 2023!

Zoetis 2022 Calendar Planners have arrived – ask for one with your order or vet visit.

Calendar Note: **Monday February 20**, Family Day, is a Statutory Holiday. **There will be no delivery service that day.** Clinics will be open only in the morning and vets will be available for emergencies.

Ontario Equine Disease Alert

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) was notified of a confirmed case of equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (EHM) caused by equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) infection at an equine facility in Wellington County. EHV-1 does not pose a threat to public health or food safety.

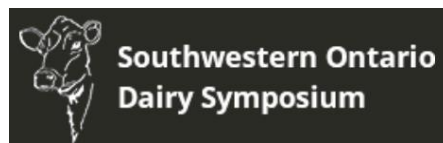
EHV-1 is an alpha herpesvirus that causes four main clinical syndromes: respiratory disease in foals and young horses, late-term abortion, neurologic disease, and neonatal death.

Biosecurity recommendations:

- Quarantine new horses upon arrival for a 2-week period. Take daily rectal temperatures and eliminate movement between resident and quarantined horses.
- Report any abnormalities (fever or neurologic signs) to your veterinarian.
- Ensure your horses are vaccinated- although there is no current vaccine to protect against the neurologic form of the disease, the vaccine available to prevent respiratory disease and abortion will help reduce shedding of the virus.

Southwestern Ontario Dairy Symposium

- An in-person dairy symposium for producers is being held in Woodstock on Feb 22, 2023. Runs from 10:15 am to ~3:30 pm.
- Program: <https://dairysymposium.com/program/>
- Topics include optimizing health and production on robotic dairies, raising dairy beef calves, breeding strategies for optimal genetic progress, etc.
- Location: 875 Nellis Street, Woodstock. Registration fee is \$25 (payable at door) and includes a hot lunch



By now all producers should have received a letter from DFO that showed the results of various diseases that your bulk tank was tested for. Bulk tank samples were taken from all Ontario Dairy Farms and tested for: Johne's, Bovine Leukosis, Salmonella Dublin and four contagious mastitis pathogens: Staph aureus, Prototheca, Mycoplasma and Strep ag. All producers should have received fact sheets about each of the diseases. It is ***strongly encouraged*** that producers read these in addition to the newsletter to understand how testing was performed and what your results may indicate.

Over the next few months, the newsletters will focus on one disease and highlight recommendations for further testing and preventative measures.

Contagious Mastitis Pathogens

Staphylococcus aureus - a bacteria responsible for causing contagious mastitis in dairy cows.

- Infection with the bacterium can lead to:
 - Reduced milk production
 - Increased cases of clinical mastitis
 - Elevated somatic cell count (SCC)
 - Increased risk of culling due to mastitis and/or negative effect of mastitis on reproduction
- Overall average cost of ~\$490 per case of *S. aureus*
- *S. aureus* is resistant to many antibiotics making infection very hard to treat
- This bacterium can persist within the infected quarter and cause long term damage to the quarter
 - Cattle infected then periodically shed the bacteria and become the source – spreading to other cattle

Preventing introduction into your herd:

- Maintaining a closed herd
- If cows must be purchased, strategies used to reduce introduction into your herd include:
 - Purchase from herds with bulk tank SCC of <200,000 cells/mL
 - Purchase pregnant heifers
 - Purchase cows with SCC <200,000 over entire lactation
 - Culture the quarters on new additions- treat them as suspect (isolate and milk last) until results are received

Prototheca – type of algae found in the environment and on udder of infected cows.

- Infections are spread from cow to cow during milking and through the environment
- No effective treatment is available and infected quarters slacken and dry off over weeks or months
- Important to note that *Prototheca* can be present in the environment therefore samples should be collected aseptically when taking milk samples
- If you have a positive PCR test when testing individual cows evaluate the cow's clinical history- does she have an elevated SCC? Does the cow have clinical mastitis?
- Infected cows should be milked last and culled from the herd

Mycoplasma- commonly found in the nasal cavity and the reproductive system of healthy cows however stressors can allow the organism to enter the mammary gland resulting in mastitis.

- Commonly introduced into herds through the purchase of sub-clinically infected cows
- Transmitted from cow to cow during milking and through respiratory secretions
- To reduce introduction of *Mycoplasma* into your herd:
 - Purchase from herds with low prevalence in their herd- may be tested through bulk tank PCR testing- this test has high specificity therefore you can be confident that milk samples testing negative are truly negative.
 - Test new additions- treat them as suspect (isolate and milk last) until results are received
- To reduce spread within your herd:
 - Avoid mixing fresh cows with sick cows or cows with mastitis
 - Avoid feeding milk from infected cows to calves- calves may develop pneumonia, joint infections, and head tilts. Pasteurizing is an effective method to eliminate transmission through the milk
- Detection of *mycoplasma* mastitis is through milk culture. Treatment of *mycoplasma* mastitis is generally unrewarding.

Streptococcus agalactiae- infections are typically chronic and subclinical. Clinical mastitis may be seen periodically.

- Transmitted through milking, purchased animals are typically the source of introduction
- Bacteria is susceptible to intramammary antibiotics
- Reduce spread throughout your herd by implementing sound milking practices- pre & post dipping, milking hygiene- wearing gloves, single-use towels, maintaining milking equipment
- Test new additions- treat them as suspect (isolate and milk last) until results are received