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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 2024 NEWSLETTER

Warm wishes from all of us at Linwood Vet and Hwy 89 Vet for a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Down and out with how to manage down cows?

Here's what you need to know:

Even though the dairy cow has evolved a fair bit, with help from us, she is still a prey animal at heart; meaning that when a cow is down and not getting up, something is *NOT RIGHT!*

So what are the primary questions you should be asking yourself when your cow is down?

- Is she about to calve? Is she experiencing a difficult calving?
- Is she fresh? Does she have milk fever?
- Is she recently fresh or a high producer? Does she have a toxic mastitis?
- Has she been battling an infection? Has she become toxic?
- Has she suffered an injury or trauma?

Once you have run through these questions, it is your job as a farmer to decide if it is within your skill set to treat your down cow according to which clinical disease she is presenting you with (please follow your on-farm SOPs or prescriptions provided by your veterinarian). If you are unsure of how to treat or what the disease process is, a down cow is always worth a call with or visit from the vet.

It's also very important to remember that, regardless of treatment, it is *essential* to maintain supportive care such as providing soft bedding and easy access to water and feed.

Now, let's say you have decided why your cow is down and have treated her appropriately, ensured that she has good supportive care, and she is not back up within 24 hours. You may be thinking "Did I treat for the right disease?" or "Does she just need more time?" At this point, it is in your best interest – and the cow's – to contact your veterinarian; a down cow's chance for a successful return to standing upright is improved by how quickly she is appropriately diagnosed and then managed for any secondary damage.

Down Cow Conditions that are curable*	Down Cow Conditions that are incurable and euthanasia required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -most metabolic conditions -nerve damage -minor muscle loss/tears -minor nerve damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -coxofemoral joint luxation (hip dislocation) -gastrocnemius rupture (hock touches the ground) -broken or open fractured limbs

Down cows are curable when they are caught early, treated appropriately and receive supportive care

Lastly, the importance of lifting and moving a down cow safely. As an industry we need to get away from using hip lifters as they do far more damage than good. We know that using hip lifters can have a negative effect on the gluteal muscles that insert from the hip to the femur. Secondary trauma from hip lifters or trying to move the cow inappropriately can actually be contributing factors as to why she will not get up, inflicting injuries like broken ribs/vertebrae or causing severe internal bruising that is not identifiable on physical exam.

But how does one move a +1000lb beast? Unfortunately, there is no simple or perfect way. It is essential to try to handle your cow with care. This can be accomplished by using large slings or belly band apparatuses, gently rolling into a loader bucket, or shifting onto a stone boat/plywood and pulling to a soft, bedded location. Do not aggressively pull on the head/neck or tail.

Please talk to your vet today if you have any questions regarding the management of down cows!