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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

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

October Holiday
Monday October 10th there will be no delivery service on Thanksgiving Day. Vet will be available for emergencies. Clinics will be open only in the morning for pick ups and early residue tests.

Bovikalc® Fall Promotion – Sept 1 2022 to Oct 31 2022 apply for a $40 prepaid gift card with each case purchased.

Upcoming Newsletter Topics:
By now all dairy 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 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.

Bovine Leukosis

What is Bovine Leukosis?

Bovine Leukosis is a production limiting disease caused by Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV). Many cows can become infected in their lifetime, however only approximately 5% of cows develop clinical disease. This typically presents as the development of tumors which may occur in one or more of the common sites: uterus, abomasum, heart, spinal canal and/or lymphoid tissue behind the eye. In addition, internal lymph nodes may become enlarged. Once a cow becomes infected with the virus, they remain infected for life. Infected cows can have significantly lower lifetime milk production (292-3609 kg[1]) compared to their negative counterparts and have shortened longevity in the herd. BLV costs producers on average $412[2] - $635[3] per case. This includes cows that are sub-clinically affected. In addition, cows with tumors are condemned.

How does BLV spread?

Bovine leukemia virus is a blood-borne disease that survives in white blood cells called lymphocytes. The main method of transmission is through blood. Lymphocytes can also be found in colostrum and milk. In utero transmission of BLV can occur to a limited extent. Research has shown approximately 10% of calves born to infected dams will be born infected.

How can I test for BLV?

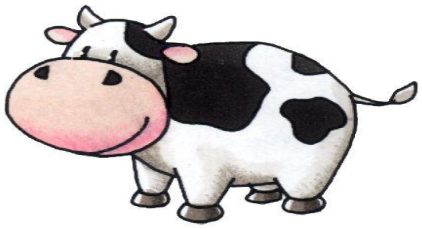
If you are interested in further testing to determine what cows in your herd are BLV positive there are two common ways of testing for BLV antibodies. Blood can be taken on suspect cows (eg. poor milk production, coasting along in the herd) or all cows in the herd. Milk samples on cows can be tested through DHI for presence of antibodies. Both blood and milk samples have high accuracy.

How can I reduce spread of BLV?

The best management practices for reducing introduction and spread of BLV in your herd include:

- √ Test cows for BLV prior to purchase. Isolate on arrival and re-test in 45 days. Maintaining closed herds is ideal.
- √ Thoroughly clean on-farm equipment: electric dehorners, balling guns, ear taggers, hoof knives, castrating equipment, drenchers, etc.
- √ For pregnancy checking and artificial insemination use a new sleeve for every cow
- √ Do not reuse needles and syringes (syringes that have been contaminated with blood)
- √ Artificial insemination. Using natural service with infected bulls can spread BLV through your herd
- √ Keep maternity pens clean.
- √ Do not feed colostrum and/or milk from positive dams. Isolate calves born to positive dams until they can be tested
- √ Implement fly control strategies. Some research has suggested possible spread (weak evidence) of BLV through mechanical vectors such as flies.

It is recommended that herds work to reduce the risk of transmission of BLV throughout their herd. *Any questions? Please reach out to your herd veterinarian!*



Stay tuned for next month's newsletter which will cover *Salmonella Dublin*. All producers should have received fact sheets about each of the diseases. These fact sheets provide valuable information- give them a read and chat with us!

Resources:

1. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27720022/
2. Rhodes, J.K., K.D. Pelzer, and Y.J. Johnson. 2003. Economic implications of bovine leukemia virus infection in mid-Atlantic dairy herds. J Am Vet Med Assoc. 223:346-352
3. https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302(19)30038-4/pdf
4. Bovine Leukosis Bulk milk testing: Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet
5. https://www.vet.cornell.edu/animal-health-diagnostic-center/programs/nyschap/modules-documents/bovine-leukosis-virus