



DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. ANDREW MACLEOD
DR. JOHN TOKARZ DR. KELLY HAELZLE DR. IAN BISHOP
Linwood Veterinary Services
3860 Manser Road, Linwood, ON N0B 2A0 (519) 698-2610
& Hwy 89 Veterinary Services, 7434 Hwy 89 Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
1-800-663-2941 Fax (519) 698-2081
linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca

We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Sat 7am – 12pm

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

Orders for Delivery: **call by 9:30am at the latest** for same day local delivery Monday to Friday
24 Hour Emergency Vet Service

JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

CLINIC NEWS: Monday February 25, Dairy Producer Meeting – MASTITIS

Linwood Veterinary Services and Hwy 89 Veterinary Services invite you to a dairy producer meeting with keynote speakers Dr. Melodie Chan and Dr. Jodi Wallace focusing on **mastitis**.

Mastitis is the most frequent and costly disease of dairy production. It costs the Canadian dairy industry millions of dollars every year due to lost milk production, cow treatments, discarded milk, premature cow culling and the potential penalties due to improper milk or meat withdrawals being followed. 70-80% of costs associated with mastitis are due to subclinical infections. These are infections in the udder that do not cause visual changes to the milk. Mastitis can be caused by many different bacteria and other microorganisms, and we typically classify it as being transmitted from cow to cow (contagious mastitis) or from the environment to the cow (environmental mastitis).

Since mastitis is generally a preventable disease, there are steps each producer can take to help reduce the negative impact it has on their own herds. Prevention is key but treatment protocols and the effective use of medication may be required depending on the specific cause of mastitis cases and the individual cow mastitis history. Your herd veterinarian might suggest collecting milk samples for culture as part of your mastitis control program to help make sure you are treating cases as effectively as possible. If you would like to learn more about how to effectively manage this costly disease in your herd, please join us for our "mastitis-based" dairy producer meeting.

The meeting will be at the Linwood Community Centre 5279 Ament Line, Linwood on Monday February 25th. Doors will open at 9:30 am and presentations will begin at 10am and a hot lunch will be served at noon. Presentations will conclude by 3pm.

RESERVATIONS: Please call the office as soon as possible to put your name down for lunch, and for transportation from Mount Forest or Arthur and back if needed, so we can plan adequately for everyone's appetite and transport.

WATERLOO CATTLEMANS ANNUAL MEETING is Wed January 16th 2013 at the Linwood Community Centre, 10am to 2 pm. Please call Jones Feed Mills to register at 1-800-265-8735 Cost is \$15 per person, includes lunch. Speaker is Bill Helming, US Ag Economist. Space is limited. Call Mike Edwards at the mill with any questions.

The Goal is Pregnant Cows

One way to evaluate if we are reaching this goal is the 21-day pregnancy rate (PR). Dairy producers sometimes concentrate on conception rate (CR) and overlook the economic value of PR.

CR can be expressed as the number of cows confirmed pregnant divided by the total number of cows inseminated. For example, if we breed 100 cows and 35 are pregnant, our CR is 35 percent.

PR is expressed as the number of cows confirmed pregnant divided by the number of cows eligible to be inseminated in a 21-day period. It is the efficiency by which we get cows inseminated and confirmed pregnant. If we confirm 25 pregnancies and there were 100 cows eligible to be bred in a 21-day period (do not care how many cows actually bred), then our PR is 25 percent.

It is nice to optimize the CR. However, if our goal was to maximize CR, then we would only breed cows that were in obvious standing heat and forget about any synchronization programs. We need to get cows inseminated. That is the bottom line.

A key concept to concentrate on is decreasing the interval between inseminations. Herds need to identify open cows in a timely manner and get them rebred. Obviously, excellent heat detection is one very important aspect to ID these open cows. A regular herd health pregnancy/open exam with a veterinarian at 2, 3 or 4 week intervals is a must. The use of a resynchronization program also is a requirement.

When setting up synchronization programs with your veterinarian keep the cow's natural estrus cycle in mind. We need to work with Mother Nature, not against her.

Increasing pregnancy rate will:

- 1. Increase milk production.** This increases the time a cow is in the higher production portion of her lactation curve.
- 2. Increase herd replacement opportunities.** Every dairy has cows that should be replaced.
- 3. Increase lactation number.** 2-plus lactation cows produce more milk than first-lactation cow.
- 4. Increase the number of calves born per year.** Over the longer term these heifers can replace suboptimal cows

Dairy-specific goal-setting can be useful in the evaluation of your reproductive program. These values vary depending on management style.

The following are some useful reproductive goals which apply to most dairy herds:

- 1.** PR is greater than 20 percent.
- 2.** 50 percent of the herd is confirmed pregnant at any given time.
- 3.** First service percent pregnant is greater than 30 percent.
- 4.** Average days to first breeding is $\frac{1}{2}$ estrous cycle (about 10 days) greater than your voluntary waiting period (VWP). (In a herd with a VWP of 60 days, the average days to first breeding should be 70 days).
- 5.** Heat detection rate is greater than 50 percent. Research shows that most high-producing cows are in heat for about seven hours and will show three to 12 standing events during that period. This only gives us a very small window to detect heat and breed. Work with your dairy team to develop a simple, but effective, protocol to optimize the reproductive performance of your herd.