LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES

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Orders for Delivery: **call by 9:30** for same day delivery Mon to Friday
24 Hour Emergency Vet Service

FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Please note that February 21 is a statutory holiday. Vets will be available for emergencies only. There will be no regular deliveries. For your convenience the office will be open 7am to 12pm.

Announcements

Ag- Day: The annual **Agriculture Information Day** is **Tuesday, February 22**, 2010 from 9-4 at the new Linwood Community Centre. For further information please contact Jones Feed Mill (519) 698-2082.

Canadian Quality Milk

Linwood Veterinary Services Veterinarians are all CQM Advisors trained by DFO**.**
First, a review of topics from previous newsletters:

CQM Topic #1: Advisors Role in Your CQM Validation

The CQM program has three paths for a milk producer to become validated with or without the help of an advisor. Forms must be completed by producers and submitted online.

CQM Topic #2: Cow Identification

In order for on-farm records to be reliable and easily used, all cows must be uniquely identified. .

Review: CQM Topic #3: Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

1. SOP for **Pre-milking**.
2. SOP for **Milking**.
3. SOP for **Milking Cattle with Abnormal or Treated Milk**.
4. SOP for **Post-Milking Cleaning.**
5. SOP for **Treating Cattle.**
6. SOP for **Shipping Cattle**.
7. SOP for **Feeding Medicated Feed**.

NOTE: Use the DFO SOP Wizard, which can be found at www.milk.org . For those without internet access forms are available through advisors.

Review: CQM Topic #4: Critical Control Points (CCP) and Corrective Action Plans (CAP).

Neglect or error at any of these 3 points can lead to permanent problems with the end food product. The CQM program has *THREE* CCP:

1. Milking treated animals
2. The cooling and storage of milk
3. Animal shipping

CAPs outline the steps taken to correct a problem which occurs at a CCP with detailed instructions and contact numbers.

CQM Topic #5: Drug/Chemical Inventory

The purpose of the inventory is to keep a list of all chemical or medical products that a cow may be exposed to, to ensure they are approved for use in dairy cattle, that they are stored properly and that their product label or instructions for use are easily found. Examples of products which must be recorded include drugs, vaccines, pesticides, ointments and medicated feeds.

CQM Topic #6: Treatment Record

The Individual Treatment Record must be kept daily and includes the following to ensure that a treated animal and person treating it are identified, the product's expiry date is checked, the correct withdrawal periods are observed, and any **broken**

needles are recorded. Treatments must be recorded for all cattle when the product has a milk or meat withdrawal or is being used differently than the label instructions and for all pesticide/chemical treatments.
An example of a Treatment Record is given in Record 10 of the CQM Workbook.

CQM Topic #7: Prescriptions/Protocols

Any drug or pharmaceutical **used off label** will require a veterinarian's prescription or annual treatment protocol.

CQM Topic #8: Wash Analysis of bulk tank and pipeline

Must be completed by your Dairy equipment dealer annually and updated anytime changes are made to the wash system or to chemicals used.

CQM Topic #9: Water Test

A water test is required annually to prove pot ability of water used in the milk house.

Next month on CQM:

- What you need to pass
- The requirements for continued CQM Registration
- Validation process moving forward

Voluntary Waiting Period: What is appropriate?

Voluntary waiting period (VWP) can be defined as the interval from calving to the start of breeding activities. Many producers ask what is the appropriate length of a VWP: in other words, how long should VWP be? This answer is not always straightforward, but there are a few factors that will influence the correct answer.

Getting cows pregnant is probably one of the main challenges faced by the dairy industry. Cows that do not become pregnant at a reasonable interval after calving will linger in the herd, have increased days in milk, reduced milk yield, and if they do become pregnant at some point, will be dried off and calve overconditioned which makes them more likely to develop post-parturient diseases in the next lactation. However, on the other hand, cows that become pregnant too early after calving would be dried off too early in lactation when they are still producing a reasonable amount of milk.

After calving, cows basically have zero fertility. This changes quickly in the following weeks as the uterus involutes and returns to normal size and normal estrus activities resume. This process often takes approximately two months and may vary from farm to farm, depending on management, nutrition and environment. In addition, any cows that have had some type of reproductive or metabolic incident at calving need more time to recover. They typically return to normal estrus about one cycle later than herdmates that calved without difficulties.

In recent surveys it has been observed that the average VWP is approximately 60 days in milk. However, because of poor estrous detection efficiency the interval from calving to first insemination can be considerably longer than the VWP. Breeding cows much earlier than the standard 60-day VWP is not a wise decision. Shortening VWPs below 60 DIM does enable some cows to become pregnant earlier after calving, but this offers a false sense of reproductive improvement because these pregnancies are the exception rather than the rule. In addition, another research trial showed that cows bred after short VWPs had significantly reduced conception rates for first services than those bred later. This was true for cows with above-average and below-average milk production.

Bottom line, cows need a rest.

Regardless of strategy used, the ultimate goal is to achieve average days open as close as possible to 110 to 120 DIM. In most of the economical analysis, this provides a good balance between average calving interval, milk production and heifer replacement throughout time.
In summary, there is no easy answer to the question of what is an appropriate VWP. We can agree, however, that too short and much below 60 DIM is not appropriate as cows need a chance to return to normal uterine health and function. Through timed AI programs it is possible to observe this VWP while still getting cows bred in a timely fashion to achieve an average days open close to 110 to 120 DIM. By doing this we will optimize the reproductive efficiency of the herd while still respecting the cow's requirements. While we may not strive to breed cows when we see heats below the VWP, remember that this is a good sign as it shows us that she is cycling normally and will respond very well to breeding protocols like OvSynch when implemented at the appropriate time.