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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

## SEPTEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

### Clinic News

**Holidays-** Please note that there will be no delivery services available Monday **October 8**, observing Thanksgiving, and the Linwood clinic will be open till noon only, Hwy 89 till 1pm. Your veterinarians will be on call for any emergency needs.

### Fall ⇨ Beef Herds Focus on Prevention

Our vets are here to assist you with protocols and services to fit your herd, including diagnosing health issues and making treatment recommendations such as:

- Beef and Dairy vaccination programs for disease prevention
- Preventative antibiotic programs for incoming high risk calves
- Castration of bulls via banding to manage behavior
- Implants to improve feed efficiency and weight gains
- Temperature monitoring and treatment administration as required in active disease situations
- Pour on or injectable deworming to control internal and external parasites for feed efficiency
- Processing and recording animals for export
- Dehorning calves for safe handling and injury prevention

With beef season upon us, Linwood's vets and vet supervised auxiliary staff can help you stay on top of your protocols to keep your herd healthy. If you are in need of a cattle chute and processor to manage the needs of your herd, please call us for assistance.

### CQM Update: New Web Access

The new CQM web site was launched, Wednesday August 15, 2012. Current producer SOPs that were housed on the DFO system have been transferred to the new CQM site. **This means that SOPs cannot be accessed from the DFO site.** Access to SOPs is ONLY via the new CQM site. Producers will find messages on the DFO site directing them to access the CQM site to view, edit, or develop new SOPs on the SOP Wizard. SOPs on the new web site will have the Required Elements which are part of the CQM validation. This new site does not have the potential privacy issues related to the previous SOP access methods.

Letters have also been sent to producers with validation dates from Aug 2008 to July 2013. The remaining producer letters will be sent out at the end of the year. These letters contain the information producers will need to set-up their account on the new CQM site. If you are unable to set-up an account then your herd health vet can act as your Advisor and will be able to do this for you.

The site will provide Advisors with access to view edit or develop SOPs for producers they have submitted training invoices for. Advisors will also have access to CQM documentation and other useful information.

The switch over to the new site will provide Advisors and producers with a number of enhanced services on the new CQM site including robotic SOPs. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact your

## Navel Dipping

Increased calf mortality and illness is blamed on a variety of things. The proper disinfection of the navel can reduce the risk of many ailments in calves.

The umbilicus of the calf is made up of a tube leading to the bladder, two arteries and a vein that connects to the liver and thus the bloodstream. Once the umbilicus of the calf is detached from the placental membrane the calf begins to breathe and the umbilical cord is open to a plethora of bacteria in the environment of the calving area. This means that every minute the calf's navel goes without dipping the likelihood of illness in the coming hours or days increases. Studies show that calves with non-dipped navels had an 18 percent death rate, compared to 7 percent for calves with dipped navels.[1]

There are many outlets for exposure of bacteria to a calf's navel, including: calving area, tools or equipment and other calves. To protect the calf, dipping the navel should be the first and last thing done when processing new calves. Dipping the navel of a wet calf has its benefits but once the calf has had time to dry re-dip as an extra precaution.

To effectively dip the navel:

- Use 7 percent **tincture** iodine designed for navels. Teat dips contain substances that slow the drying process of the navel down and thereby reduce the effectiveness of dipping. The drying of the navel makes the healing process much quicker.
- Make sure to achieve full coverage from tip to abdomen. A navel dip cup is good to use to ensure full coverage of the navel, but be sure dip cups are also cleaned and refilled with new iodine regularly. Spraying the navel is also acceptable, if full coverage is achieved. The best coverage is to find the open end of the umbilicus, fill with the iodine solution and milking the solution towards the base of the umbilicus.

Another key part of monitoring your navel dipping protocols is detecting navel infections and illness. The most common signs include swollen, hard, wet or pain in the navel region. If left untreated or severe enough the body wall does not fully close and the infection will present as a hernia: a bulging mass on the abdomen.

[1] S. Leadley, Attica Veterinary Associates and P. Sojda, Offhaus Farms, *Calving Ease – Navels & Newborns*, May 2004

## Newborn calf care: Make the first step count

The calving process may be challenging for some. Once breeding is successful, the bred female has to carry the unborn to term and calve with minimum stress to the cow and the calf.

There are major risk factors for stillbirth and infectious disease. Problematic calvings may limit the calf's ability to absorb antibodies from colostrum.

The following steps can help:

- **Clear the airway** - Remove mucous from around the mouth and nose, assist the calf to breathe. Stimulate the calf by inserting a piece of straw into the nasal cavity or pouring some cold water on the calf's head. This should initiate a gasping reflex to promote breathing.
- **Dry off the calf** - Dry the calf with a clean, dry towel. This should be done if the dam is unable to dry her calf, or if the calf is removed immediately. Vigorous drying around the shoulders and neck stimulates the nervous system and encourages breathing. Removal of moisture is important since water evaporation removes heat, which can leave the calf vulnerable to chilling.
- **Feed colostrum** - Once the calf is breathing well, colostrum should be administered at a rate of 10% of body weight within in the first four hours of life.

Colostrum has several positive effects on a calf. Providing the calf with disease-fighting antibodies and increases the calf's blood volume and improves blood circulation.