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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.

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

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

NOTE: BOTH CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY

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

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service 1-800-663-2941

NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News Winter is approaching, with holidays and potential bad driving days. Please take some time to determine what you will need on hand in your inventory so as not to be caught short on snow days or holidays. The 2015 Zoetis planners/calendar books have arrived and can be picked up at either clinic or sent out with an order by request.

CQM reminder- We are here to help with any of your CQM needs. If you find yourself with CQM questions, in need of CQM training or just help getting ready for a re-evaluation, please give the office a call or chat with your Vet. To successfully fulfill your CQM needs please give us lots of advance warning.

Parasite control in heifers helps profitability

Dairy producers could potentially be losing production and reproduction performance and returns if they are not treating for internal parasites in replacement heifers. Producers can easily stop parasites from sucking profitability from their bottom line. Simply put, with an increased age at first calving in your heifers then that lowers that cow's lifetime milk production. You want to get those genetically improved heifers into the milking herd as quickly and efficiently as possible since any delay in breeding and calving will also not only increase rearing costs but also reduce lifetime milk production.

Producers don't always include parasite control into their grazing management plan and by taking a proactive approach to parasite control you can improve reproductive performance allowing cattle to reach their full potential. Young animals, like replacement heifers are the most susceptible to the negative effects of parasites which are to reduce the animal's ability to gain weight and delay the time to first breeding.

Conventional dewormers only last 14 to 42 days. That's not long enough to protect cattle the whole season, or have an effect on the parasites on the pasture. Please take this into consideration as well as remember to read and obey milk and meat withdrawals.

Ask your herd veterinarian if you have any questions so that your herd will produce to their full potential.

Minimize cross-sucking

Cross-sucking is most often seen during the 10 to 15 minutes immediately following milk feeding of pre-weaned calves and is considered an abnormal behavior as it is not observed in nature. Cross-sucking among dairy heifers can occur both before and after weaning. The impact of cross-sucking on heifer mastitis and subsequent milk production makes it an important issue to monitor, control, and prevent on your operation.

Here are some management practices that can help limit this behavior:

- House calves individually rather than in groups.
- If in a group-housing system. The use of headlocks at feeding stations can be used to keep calves restrained for 10 to 15 minutes after milk feeding.
- Regardless of feeding method, the availability of a nipple to suck on can reduce cross-sucking.
- Observe calves frequently, watching for chronic cross-sucking behavior to identify calves.
- There are devices that can be used on calves to stop sucking behavior. These are usually lightweight, plastic anti-sucking device that can be attached to a calf's nose.
- There is data from a New Zealand study suggesting another tool to use when trying to suppress this problem. Providing a limited amount of palatable high fiber hay, preferably chopped for young calves, to promote lots of cud chewing but not so much as to suppress calf starter grain consumption, resulted in the least sucking behavior.

Do not ignore Cross-sucking in dairy calves and heifers since its impact on the udder health of heifers makes prevention and control efforts well worthwhile.

Auxillary vet services to aid producers

In addition to our Registered Veterinary Technicians, our processing service can also help you on the dairy farm:

Dealing with horns that grew past the burning stage
Regular vaccination programs
Administer CRC's to dry cows
Annual Eprinex cows and pour on to young stock.
Taking blood for routine herd monitoring tests
Freeze branding

Talk to your herd veterinarian or call the office and ask for Kyle.