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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

JULY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Holidays- Please note that there will be no delivery services available **August 6th** or **September 3**, observing the Civic Day and Labour Day Holidays and the Linwood clinic will be open till noon only, on those days, and Hwy 89 till 1pm. Your veterinarians will be on call for any emergency needs.

Orders

To help you get your delivery orders in by 9:30 am, you can fax or email in your orders at any time. Fax 519-698-2081 or email linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca. The after hours answering service can also take clear order information and will forward to the office for the morning orders.

WELCOME BACK KYLE

We are pleased to have Kyle Aitken rejoining our team this month! Please call the clinic to talk to Kyle about your processing needs. He will be available beginning July 9th and is looking forward to working with you again.

Why is 400,000 Good for The Dairy Industry?

The Dairy Farmers of Canada have agreed that the Canadian somatic cell count(SCC) standard should be set at 400,000 cells/ml effective Aug. 1. The current standard in Ontario is 500,000 cells/ml. The change could result in a dramatic increase in the number of farmers in the penalty range. A farmer will be subject to a somatic cell count penalty if the monthly-weighted average somatic cell count test is equal to or greater than the limit set in the regulation for the current or most recently completed month and in two out of the three previous months. The penalty rates are \$3, \$4 and \$5 per hectolitre for the first, second, third and subsequent penalties in a rolling 12-month period. Shut off from the milk market happens if a farmer incurs four somatic cell count penalties in any rolling 12-month period.

Production of maximum quantities of high quality milk is an important goal of every dairy operation. While poor milk quality with high number of somatic cells affects all segments of the dairy industry, ultimately resulting in milk with decreased manufacturing properties and dairy products with reduced shelf-life. On the other hand, high quality milk has a very low number of somatic cells, a longer shelf-life, tastes better and is more nutritious. The most direct method used to assess milk quality throughout the world is the somatic cell count and refers to the number of somatic or white blood cells in the milk.

One characteristic feature of cows with mastitis is a significant elevation in the number of somatic cells in milk. Milk from uninfected mammary glands contains less than 100,000 somatic cells/mL. A milk SCC of more than 200,000/ mL suggests that an inflammatory response(Mastitis) has been elicited. High levels of somatic cells in milk reduce milk quality. Infection of the udder by mastitis pathogens alters milk composition and reduces milk yield. Most herd milk contains from 200,000 to 500,000 somatic cells per mL of milk. These herds are losing at least 8% in potential milk production.

There are ways to get ready for this lower SCC level. One of them is by taking advantage of Pfizer's Complete Mastitis Prevention Protocol called **FRESH START**. Discuss this with your herd health vet, since the protocol has a Guarantee attached to its use provided by Pfizer.

Fly Control a Must

With the hot temperatures, this is the time to focus on preventing the problems caused by flies on cattle production goals. Proper control of flies and their effects can be a challenge for many producers. Prevention and appropriate treatment depend upon which fly species causes the irritation.

Some of the most common irritating flies are:

1. **Horn flies (*Haematobia irritans*)** - this is one of the most serious and injurious pests for cattle as they are known for transmitting mastitis-causing bacteria and reducing weaning weights. These flies spend most of their time on the animal and take 20 to 30 blood meals a day. The feeding pain and annoyance interferes with feeding, resting and other behaviours of cattle.
2. **Face flies (*Musca autumnalis*)** - face flies are considered to be severe enemies of cattle. These flies spend most of their time feeding on mucous secretions from the eyes and mouth of cattle. They tend to cause eye irritation and aid in the spreading of the bacteria that cause pinkeye.
3. **Stable flies (*Stomoxys calcitrans*)** - the bites are very painful as they take 2 to 3 painful blood meals per day, usually on the legs of cattle. Stable flies cause cattle to bunch up, stomp and kick.
4. **House flies (*Musca domestica*)** - house flies spend their time feeding on decaying organic matter and spoiled feed. Eggs are laid in rotting organic matter, such as old hay or manure. This species of flies causes mild irritation to cattle.

Practices for managing fly infestation:

1. **Ear Tags** are recommended for flies that spend most of their time on the host. These flies include horn flies and face flies. Although ear tags are recommended, you need to remember there is a limited lifespan for ear tags. It is suggested to wait for the fly season to attach ear tags. Waiting until June to De-worm heifers on pasture and attach fly tags for the best fly control results. Remember to rotate between organophosphate-and-pyrethrin-based ear tags to slow fly resistance to the chemicals.
2. **Pour-on** is a fly control method that may assist in protecting against all species. This treatment is labor intensive and must be repeated often for continued results.
3. **Environmental control (Manure management)** is an important element in controlling house fly populations and reducing their nesting environment.
4. Other options for managing flies and problems linked with flies include using Barn sprays, parasitic wasps, back rubbers and traps. Although these are recommended management practices for controlling flies, the best fly control strategy varies by geographical location, rainfall, stocking density and management. Producers need several different forms of fly control throughout the season to ensure proper control. It is always advised to seek advice from your veterinarian for more definite recommendations specific to your operation.