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## Linwood Veterinary Services

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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.*

**St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm**

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

**NOTE: CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS**

**Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday**

**24 Hour Emergency Vet Service call any clinic number 1-800-663-2941 519-698-2610 519-323-**

## JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

### Happy New Year !

#### Clinic News

Zoetis 2020 Planners are available. Pick one up or ask for one to be sent with an order.

Also for your calendars, **Monday February 17**, Family Day, is a Statutory Holiday. **There will be no delivery service that day.** Clinics will be open only in the morning and vets will be available for emergencies.

A reminder from the office, for those of you printing cheques, please put our new address in St. Clements into your system to prevent mail delays. We are still getting quite a few through the forward service.

#### Equine Colic

As we come into more serious winter months, it is important to remember to watch your horses for signs of colic. Colic is a condition where horses experience gastrointestinal pain due to feed impaction, gas impaction, or twisted intestines. Signs of colic vary and can include excessive yawning/grinding teeth, excessive looking/biting at their belly, kicking their belly, excessive rolling, not passing manure, and not eating. In the winter the most common form of colic is feed impaction and it results from horses not drinking enough water. Ways to prevent colic in your horses include ensuring they are drinking plenty of water (room temperature/warm is best), feeding warm soaked bran mash, and cooling your horse down well after working. If you are having trouble getting your horse to drink you can add some molasses to their water to entice them. Please give us a call if you have any questions or concerns about your horses and colic.

## Understanding the Fresh Period

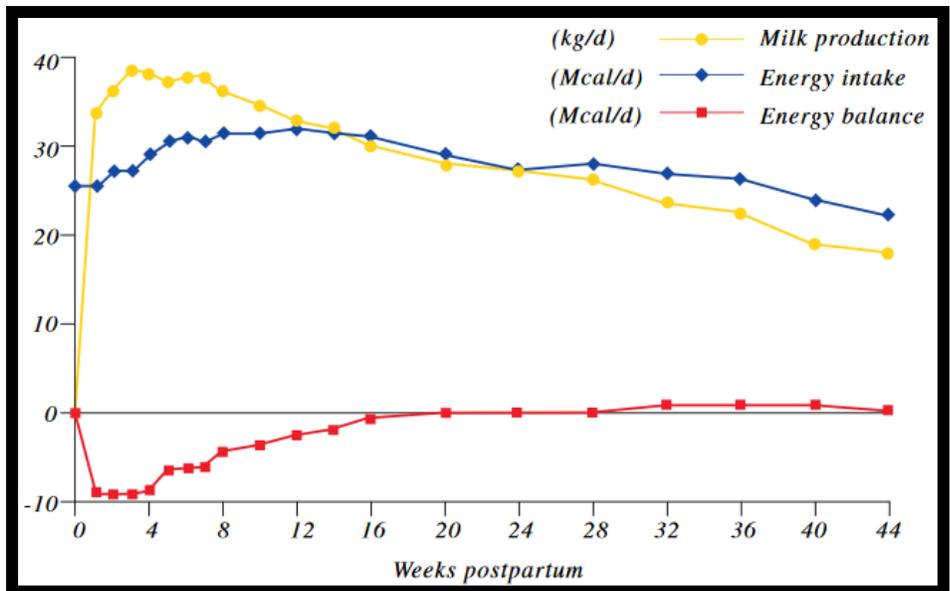
We provide good feed, clean water, and quality comfort to our cattle every day of the year, but the absolute most important time to ensure they are receiving the best possible care is in the transition period. Around calving is the most stressful time for a dairy cow - she is finishing growing the calf, producing valuable colostrum, fighting off infections while her immune system is compromised, and preparing to maximize her milk production for this lactation. We often forget how hard calving can be on a cow because they don't complain too often! A smooth calving is essential to ensure she has a good start to her lactation and maximize her production. This can mean providing a good environment (clean, dry, good footing), helping to pull a calf, calling the vet quickly if you think there is a problem, and proving her with pain relief (such as metacam or anafen). These simple steps can make a big difference to your cows during calving.

Although calving is hard work, most health problems actually occur within the fresh period, for 2 main reasons:

1. **Weakened Immune System:** Stress has a direct and very negative impact on the immune system. The transition period, and calving are both significant sources of stress to your cows. This becomes problematic because she is now more exposed to possible infections - she must clean (drop her placenta) and involute her uterus, her teats are at risk with every milking and she is being mixed with a new group of cattle (no longer in the dry pen).

2. **Negative Energy Balance:**

Dairy cattle today are asked to produce up to 60L of milk each day which requires a huge amount of nutrients. For the first several weeks after calving, the cow cannot consume enough energy to make the amount of milk she produces, and must borrow energy from her own body storage. This is a natural mechanism that all mammals go through, however the incredible production capacity of a dairy cow makes this negative energy balance a serious problem for her (can result in a twisted stomach, fatty liver, ulcers, etc.).



To minimize problems in the fresh period, there are many management techniques you can try:

- Vaccinate - help boost the immune system and protect her when she is at her weakest point
- Provide a clean environment - fresh bedding and well scrapped stalls help prevent mastitis
- Milking routine - make sure you are cleaning the teats well, and post-dipping to prevent mastitis
- Feed cows to a LEAN body condition prior to calving - fat cows have more metabolic problems
- Offer fresh cows high quality dry hay to encourage feed intake - a full rumen prevents twisted stomachs
- Be proactive - give calcium preventatively rather than waiting for weak cattle
- Use Controlled Release Capsules (CRC) to help cattle transition their metabolism
- Check ketosis levels and treat early to prevent twisted stomachs

***Talk to your herd health vet about improving your fresh period - it increases milk production, and reduces vet bills!***