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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.*

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

## **APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER**

### **Great News! Milk Cultures in House**

The Clinic is confident and ready to start doing the milk cultures in house. The need for monitoring Udder Health to avoid the SCC Penalty level, to insure the proper use of medications in the treatment of Mastitis and to reduce the risk of inhibitor violations means producers are ready for this to be done in house, too. Our Registered Veterinary Technicians will be running the lab and will be providing vets the results to guide clients in making Smart therapy decisions.

Costs will be structured the same for now as with our outside lab but there will be improvements in turnaround time.

Results will be in 36 to 48 hours generally depending on what is cultured and if additional culture time or tests are required to identify the culture. Results can be delayed due to weekends and holidays. Milk samples received Monday to Thursday Noon would follow the 48 hour turn around. Samples arriving after Noon Thursday would not have results until Monday Noon due to the weekend. The clinic will send samples off to an outside lab on a regular basis as a means of Quality Control to ensure accurate results.

Times to take Milk sample for culture:

- Minimum 14 days following the last antibiotic treatment
- Prior to treating any new mastitis
- Any cow with a chronically elevated SCC
- Can do a post mastitis treatment sample to confirm a "cured" infection

Please utilize sterile milk collection to get the most accurate culture results. If you have any questions regarding milk collection or culturing do not hesitate to ask your veterinarian, or Brandi RVT.

### ***Milk Culture Collection Summary***

The way to reduce milk culture failures to grow or contamination is to follow a strict procedure in the collection of the sample. It would be advisable to wear gloves to reduce the chance of contamination due to contact with the collector's skin.

Best to sample single quarters rather than a composite sample.

The correct steps for taking sterile milk cultures are:

*see over*

Use Proper Equipment (sterile vial/container)

- Clean, Dry Teats and Udders
- Forestrip Teats to be Sampled
- Predip Teats
- Dry Teats
- Sanitize Teat Ends (alcohol swab)
- Take Sample (10-20 ml)
- Label Sample
- Refrigerate or Freeze Sample and get to the lab ASAP

## **WHAT'S NEW?**

### **TOPVAC**

TOPVAC is an inactivated mastitis vaccine against E.Coli, Staph aureus, coliforms and coagulase-negative staphylococci (CNS). This is a new vaccine for the Canadian market, but has been licensed elsewhere in the world under the name Startvac. This product has recently become available to us. We do not yet have personal experience on farm with this vaccine. We are hopeful that it will be beneficial in herds that have a contagious mastitis problem.

TOPVAC is similar to other E.Coli vaccines on the market but has the added protection against Staph aureus and CNS. It is the first vaccine able to prevent or stop the development of "biofilm", a thin protective layer that these pathogens (Staph aureus and CNS) create, thus protecting them against antibiotics and the host immune system.

Label directions indicate that TOPVAC is to be administered two doses before calving (45 days and 10 days before) and one application post-partum (on day 52). By following this protocol, mastitis is reduced at the time of greatest risk of infections and economic losses

Ask your herd veterinarian if TOPVAC might have a place in your vaccination protocol. Note that though not a stocked item at this time, TOPVAC can be ordered in quickly early in the week.

## **Ram or Billy Goat (Blocked/Straining/Constipated)**

### **Measures to help prevent urinary calculi**

1. **Ration mineral levels.** Feed low levels of Phosphorus and Magnesium in the total ration. Calcium must be balanced to compliment these levels. Feed a ration with calcium to phosphorus ratio of 2.2:1 to 2.5:1. This is a key requirement to help prevent crystals from forming.
2. **Ration salt levels.** Feed moderately higher levels of salt to encourage higher water intake. This can be done by a slight increase ration sodium levels or offering salt free choice in the form of block salt. When salt levels are increased, make sure that there is adequate fresh clean water available.
3. **Feed a urine acidifier.** This helps prevent crystal formation and accumulation in the urinary tract. The most common compounds are ammonium chloride or ammonium sulphate.
4. **Water supply is important.** Free access to clean fresh water is extremely important! The more water animals drink and the more urine that is produced the less likely animals are to developing crystals that block the urethra. Monitor water mineral content. Highly mineralized water adds to the total dietary mineral load.
5. **Bucks and Rams** must get free access to good quality water.