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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 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 519-323-9002

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Clinic News

Monday February 19, 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. Please bring in any milk samples for residue testing, as early as possible, as some testing takes three hours, and needs to be completed before noon.

Draxxin® producer mail in Health Opportunity Rebate from Zoetis on 250 ml and 500 ml– note this program has been extended to the end of February 2018.

With the recent weather changes be sure to be on the lookout for pneumonia in your dairy cattle, stockers, sheep, and goats. If you're animals have pneumonia be sure to let us know- there are many great preventative and treatment strategies we can use to help keep your animals healthy.

ProAction Corner

In the coming newsletters there will be a **ProAction Corner** which will outline requirements for CQM, Animal Care and Traceability for our dairy clients. This is an area to remind you of the requirements and the reasoning behind them.

Our first ProAction topic is in the Animal Care section. One of our animal care requirements deals with feeding unweaned calves. All farms need to have this new section in their SOPs before their next full validation date.

There are 3 required sections to this SOP for feeding unweaned calves.

- 1) Newborn Calves: Feed newborn calves (for a 100 lb calf) **at least 4L** of good quality colostrum within 12 hours of birth, with the first feeding occurring as soon as possible, and no more than 6 hours after birth. A newborn Jersey calf would need 2L of good quality colostrum in the same time frame.

Why is this important?

Feeding good quality colostrum (you can measure colostrum quality in seconds with a refractometer for less than \$50) in a timely manner is the most important thing you can do to ensure a healthy, well grown calf in the future.

- i. A colostrum feeding checklist should include:
 1. Clean, warm colostrum fresh from the cow or properly mixed colostrum replacement powder
 2. Use a clean bottle with a nipple or clean tube feeder if calf doesn't suck.
 3. Feed calf ASAP. The ability of a calf's gut to absorb antibodies from colostrum is decreased by half in the first 12 hours. The best time to feed colostrum is within 30 minutes of birth.
 4. Make sure a Holstein calf gets at least 4 L by 12 hours of age. Jerseys need at least 2L.

- 2) Feed calves a volume and quality of milk OR milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigour. E.g. feed calves milk at least 2 times per day or free choice, with the total daily intake equal to 20% of the calves' body weight for the first month (about 8L per day for a Holstein calf).

Why is this important?

- i. A well fed calf fights off disease better. Young calves should have some condition on them.
- ii. A calf that grows and puts on weight quickly in the first 2 months of life is a healthier heifer who gets bred quicker and milks more in her first lactation. There is the potential for +1000L in her first lactation.
- iii. Feeding more milk WILL NOT SCOUR a calf. It will make their manure more liquid but it won't make them sick.
- iv. Calves will easily drink 8-10L per day (split into 2 feedings) once they are a couple weeks old.

- 3) Incrementally increase volume of milk fed during cold weather by about 25% (e.g. 8L increases to 10L). Sudden increases can lead to gastric problems. For all calves, the colder the temperature becomes, the more milk they need. As a result, feed more as the temperature drops.

Why is this important?

- i. As the temperature drops a calf has to use more of its energy gained from the milk it drinks to maintain body temperature. This means as the temperature drops, less and less of the milk a calf eats will go towards growth.
- ii. Calf coats help decrease calf maintenance needs by keeping calves warmer so more of their milk energy can go towards growth.

If you don't already feed at least 8L of milk or milk replacer daily to your unweaned calves I challenge you to try it and see what you think of it. Producers who have tried it see calves that grow quicker, have more condition, glossy hair coats and don't get sick as easily.