



DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. ANDREW MACLEOD
DR. JOHN TOKARZ DR. KELLY HAELZLE DR. AMANDA TOPP DR. DAVE LAMB
Linwood Veterinary Services
3860 Manser Road, Linwood, ON N0B 2A0 (519) 698-2610
& Hwy 89 Veterinary Services, 7434 Hwy 89 Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
1-800-663-2941 Fax (519) 698-2081
linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca

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

NOTE: CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY

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

NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Note: Zoetis (formerly Pfizer) 2014 Monthly Planner Calendars have arrived!

Linwood Veterinary Services/Hwy 89 Veterinary Services has been striving to become a bovine and small ruminant focused service provider. In an effort to meet this goal, we wish to offer our clients more support. This involves added Processing services, in-house diagnostic lab testing, Registered Veterinary Technician availability and enhanced Veterinarian support.

Our latest development in the Processing field: Kyle is excited to be using our new 41 ft twin alley tub cattle chute for processing, weighing, and recording information for your cattle. Please call the clinic to talk to Kyle about your processing needs.

Moving towards 2014, our veterinarians will be focusing each month on specific health issues in the dairy, beef, and small ruminant fields. This will allow your vet to have more time to invest with you on your farm not to just answer questions but to provide consultation and investigate future opportunities to improve your bottom line.

Feedlot calf mistakes to avoid

This fall, the veterinarian, nutritionist and producer will have to work together to get calves off to a good start. The goal is to get the individual animal consuming the proper nutrients at the proper units/levels to promote healthy, cost efficient growth. Potential health issues depends on the cattle buyer, the facilities, the ingredients including the milling/mixing/moisture levels, the weather, the animal health crews and feeding crews, the veterinarian and the nutritionist. Success is based on good animal husbandry practices which must involve the animal, the veterinarian and the nutritionist working together.

20 mistakes in newly arrived calves

Feeding management:

- 1. Inconsistent feeding times.** Cattle should be fed within 15 minutes of when they were fed the prior day.
- 2. Bunks too high for calves.** With today's prices, a lot of smaller calves are coming into the feedlots and they can't reach into the bunks very well.
- 3. Cattle standing around.** A standing calf costs 15% more in maintenance than if lying down. If cattle are standing around waiting on late feed or for bedding then they are losing energy.

Nutrition:

4. Not watching moisture levels in diets. Moisture levels in different ingredients such as high-moisture corn and wet distiller's grains can widely vary and that can change energy density. Silage moisture levels can change roughage content. Also watch things like pre-ground hay that is ground so much all the fiber is gone — it becomes not a roughage but a bloat-promoting, highly soluble material due to the over processing of the feed stuff.

5. Feeding calves unfamiliar diets. For example, feeding silage to calves that have never seen silage before can reduce or delay intakes. Transition feed into the ration. Remember, we are feeding the cattle not the cement feed bunk, watch cattle behavior!

6. Blaming acidosis on everything. It's common to blame acidosis for dead cattle based on the pH of the rumen after death, which is around 4.8, however, pH is most often caused by fermentation which continues after death, not acidosis, so be careful in your diagnosis.

7. Not balancing distiller's grains correctly. Distiller's grains need to be balanced with the right kind of fiber, if you combine it with alfalfa, you'll most likely create diarrhea. Also, make sure fiber sources are not cut in too large or cattle will sort the feed.

8. Attention to ingredient processing. The processing impacts energy availability and how "hot" the diet is. For example, ground wheat digests very rapidly and can cause metabolic upsets as acidosis.

9. Feeding the wrong forages to new calves. Grass hay is great with the hulls having great palatability. Silage can be used depending on the cattle and if they are familiar with it.

10. Feeding ingredients free-choice. When possible have the ingredients mixed instead of free-choice to avoid sorting.

11. Supply minerals. Calcium and phosphorous are important in receiving diets as well as Vitamin E levels at about 400 IUs.

Stress:

12. Receiving pens in high-stress location. Having receiving pens next to shipping pens, the mill, etc. can cause newly arrived cattle to get no rest, and increases stress which can decrease intake.

13. Mixing wild cattle with bunk-broke cattle. Wild cattle that are not used to feed bunks won't mix with other cattle and get to the bunk and eat. They should be sorted off or handled differently, including shortening the pen, placing extra feed troughs in the pen, feeding at night to lower aggravation, etc.

14. Not resting new calves. Incoming calves need some rest after transit, and that many feedlots don't take into consideration the total transit time the calves have gone through, not just the last transit to the feedlot.

15. Castrated calves with non-castrated calves. Putting newly castrated calves with non-castrated calves can cause problems, as for the first few days the newly castrated calves don't want to get bumped around, and will be more hesitant to crowd up to the bunk. Separate them.

16. Small and large calves together. Putting 400-lb calves and 700-lb calves in pens together can result in the larger calves dominating the bunk. The smaller calves won't eat for a few days, and then they will make a break for it and gorge themselves.

Hospitals:

17. Insufficient water trough space in the hospital. Sick cattle like to hang out by waterers, Competition with other hospital pen cattle can reduce water intake.

18. Overfeeding/underfeeding hospital cattle. It's important to have a fairly accurate headcount of hospital pen cattle so that the correct amount of feed can be fed to avoid creating acidosis in those most sensitive to it.

19. Not cleaning the hospital pen and bunk. Regular pens get slick bunks multiple times a day, but hospital pen bunks may only get cleaned out once a week. Unappetizing rations that sit around in the hospital bunk can also be at risk for molds, especially with high-moisture feeds.

20. No salt or mineral blocks in the hospital pens. Sick calves need vitamins and minerals to help with immune function and health.