



DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. ANDREW MACLEOD
DR. KELLY HAELZLE DR. KELLY FISHER

Linwood Veterinary Services

1010 Industrial Cres. St. Clements, ON N0B 2M0 519-698-2610 519-699-0404
Hwy 89 Veterinary Services, 7434 Hwy 89 Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0 519-323-9002
1-800-663-2941 Fax 519-699-2081 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.

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

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

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 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News: Friday April 15 the clinics will be closed for Good Friday and there will be no delivery service. Emergency Veterinary Services will be available.

STOCK UP AND \$AVE: **BOVIKALC®** Spring offer ends this month. Boehringer will provide a \$40 prepaid credit card, for each case of 24, up to 10 cases per farm, with proof of purchase between **March 1-April 30 2022**. Please let us know if you would like the clinic to submit on your behalf. Submission deadline is May 31, 2022.

Pregnancy Toxemia in the Small Ruminant- What is it?

This is a condition that is sometimes referred to as “twin lamb/kid disease” or “ketosis” and occurs in the last few weeks/months of gestation in the sheep and doe. Rapid fetal growth in the last month of pregnancy, especially if the ewe/doe is carrying multiple fetuses, requires large amounts of glucose and amino acids from the dam. As a result, blood glucose concentrations become too low to support proper brain function in the pregnant animal.

Common symptoms include: separation from the flock/herd, unsteady gait, off feed, depression, impaired vision or blindness, grinding of the teeth and eventually animals become unable to rise and may suffer convulsions. This condition is rapidly fatal, often despite intervention. The mortality rate can be as high as 80% and may take between 2-10 days between the first onset of signs and eventual death.

What are the risk factors?

- 1) Ewes or does that are either too fat or too thin going into their final month of gestation
- 2) Animals pregnant with 2 or more fetuses
- 3) Environmental or psychological stress (e.g., Inclement weather, transportation stress, disease outbreaks etc)

How can we try and prevent pregnancy toxemia?

- 1) Nutritional management of the pregnant ewe/doe is critical. We would like to see animals in adequate/medium body condition and not fat. The goal would be a body condition score of 3.5/5. During late pregnancy, ewes or does will require approximately 50% more feed if carrying a single fetus and up to 75% more if carrying twins/multiples. Due to the large volume occupied by the fetuses, the digestive capacity of the ewe/doe may be decreased, however. This makes it important to offer more energy-dense concentrates in the ration. Aim to offer approximately **one pound of corn or high energy concentrate** during the last 6 weeks of pregnancy. Consult with your nutritionist to determine the best feeding strategy for your flock/herd.
- 2) Try to avoid stress during the last 6 weeks of gestation. Avoid practices such as shearing and transporting heavily pregnant animals and ensure they do not go without feed.
- 3) Ultrasounding bred animals to determine pregnancy status and number of fetuses can be a beneficial tool in managing pregnancy toxemia as it allows producers to sort ewes/does carrying larger numbers of fetuses and feed accordingly to manage body condition. This service is offered by our clinic technician. Please inquire at the clinic if you would like to inquire about or book ultrasounding services on your farm.
- 4) Treatment of animals suspected to be suffering from pregnancy toxemia may include the use of oral propylene glycol or corn syrup as quick energy sources as well as supportive care with oral electrolytes and administration of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. In advanced cases, induction of lambing/kidding may be necessary. Please consult your flock/herd veterinarian if you would like to discuss treatment protocols.