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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

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

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

There will be no delivery service **Monday October 9th** for Thanksgiving. Clinics will be open in the morning and on call vets available for emergencies.

Lameness

Lameness in cattle can be divided broadly into a few categories:

- 1- Infectious (digital dermatitis, foot rot)
- 2- Hoof horn (ulcers, white line disease, hemorrhage)
- 3- Lameness above the hoof (injury, nerve damage)

Digital dermatitis prevention and treatment was covered in the last newsletter if you missed it. We will be covering management strategies to reduce lameness occurrence and reduce the welfare and financial implications of lameness.

Approximately 28% of freestall cows in Ontario are lame. Tiestall cows tend to have a slightly lower level of lameness. Consider if your herd of 60 cows had a 25% lameness incidence and each case of lameness cost \$400. In one year those 15 lame cows will cost you \$6000. It should also be noted that a high producing dairy cow who is lame has a 30-70% increased chance of being culled compared to her non-lame herdmates.

There are 4 main areas to focus your lameness prevention & treatment on:

- 1- Low infection pressure
- 2- Good horn quality and foot shape
- 3- Low forces on the feet
 - a. Good cow comfort
 - b. Good cow flow
- 4- Early detection and prompt effective treatment of lame cows

1- Low infection pressure

- a. Clean, dry stalls, alleys and pens
- b. Utilize a footbath to reduce infection
- c. Deep bedded stalls help to clean feet off

2- Good horn quality and foot shape

- a. Regular trimming by a trained professional
- b. Proper nutrition, minimize stress during transition period

3- Low forces on feet

- a. Reduce standing time & good cow flow
 - i. Comfortable, properly designed stalls
 - ii. Short wait times for the parlour
 - iii. Low stocking density in freestalls
 - iv. Proper ventilation and heat abatement
 - Hot cows will stand more as they can regulate their body temperature better standing vs. laying down

4- Early detection & prompt treatment

- a. Find and treat lame cows early- we should treat lame cows with a relative sense of urgency. Waiting for the hoof trimmer to show up in a few weeks isn't prompt treatment.
- b. Buy an on-farm trimming chute.
 - i. you can look at a lame cow right away, the cow is properly restrained and makes treatment significantly easier
- c. prompt treatment is very important as many hoof lesions can become chronic if not treated in a timely manner

Chat with your Veterinarian at the next herd health visit and we can help you address the lameness issues specific to your farm!