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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.

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

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News: Monday February 21, 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.

Nesting Score		Description
1		<p>When the calf is lying down, bedding does not cover any part of the foot or leg. This nesting score would be observed in the summer, when the calf is bedded with sand or shavings, but is not appropriate for winter.</p>
2		<p>When the calf is lying down, it is nestled slightly in the bedding. Part of upper leg is visible, and part of the lower leg is covered by bedding. In the winter, this score would indicate there is not enough bedding to nest in, unless the calf is wearing a calf jacket, which can increase the nesting score by 1.</p>
3		<p>Deep straw bedding allows a calf to nest and trap warm air around their body. When calves are lying down, their legs should not be visible. Usually 3 to 4 inches (7.6 to 10 centimetres (cm)) of shavings topped with 12 inches (30 cm) of straw is ideal.</p>

Resource: Calfcare.ca

Evaluating Nesting Scores

With the cold weather we are experiencing, it is encouraged that producers' review nesting scores in their calves. During the winter months, the use of deep straw bedding is recommended to provide calves with the optimal environment and reduced risk of scours, respiratory disease and poor growth. The chart here provides details for each nesting score. Evaluating the nesting scores in your calves should be performed when the calf is lying down. Questions? Please reach out to us!

Do not forget to do the kneel test!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.CALFCARE.CA

Proposed Changes to the Dairy Code of Practice

The dairy code of practice is currently undergoing revision. The *proposed* changes are designed to improve the care and handling of dairy cattle. The public comment period for the Dairy code of practice closed January 27th however further comments and concerns can be shared with your herd veterinarian to be passed along to the committee revising the dairy code of practice. This new dairy code of practice is scheduled to come into effect in late 2022.

Some of the proposed changes to the requirements have been listed below. Note the requirements already in effect with the 2009 dairy code of practice have not been included here.

Housing of pre-weaned calves

- Effective with the release of the new code, calves must not be tethered to a wall.
- Starting Jan 1, 2029 calves tethered inside hutches must be tethered with a collar.
- Starting Jan 1, 2029 calves housed in hutches must be able to access an area outside of the hutch large enough to rest comfortably.
- Starting Jan 1, 2033 healthy thriving calves must be housed in pairs or small groups by 2-4 weeks of age. This is required for indoor and outdoor housing systems.

Lactating and Dry Cows

Lactating and dry cows must be given the opportunity for freedom of movement as frequently as possible. Producers must allow for at least one of the following: *

- House lactating cows in loose housing or at pasture (weather permitting).
- House dry cows in loose housing or at pasture.
- Provide regular access to exercise yards and/or pasture for dry cows year-round (must provide shelter during the winter and shaded areas in the summer).
- Provide regular access to exercise yards and/or pasture for lactating and dry cows year-round (weather permitting).

*Exceptions for this requirement include poor weather, pasture conditions and age/class of the animal.

Coming into effect with the release of the new dairy code of practice newly built barns must allow cows to have daily freedom of movement, exercise and social interactions year-round.

Calving areas

- Calving pens must be clean and well-bedded, separated from the main herd and be large enough to allow the cow and calf to rest comfortably and to provide calving assistance if required.
- Effective Jan 1, 2028 all cattle must calve in loose housed pens or on pasture.

Castration

- Castration of calves must be done as early as possible. In consultation with your veterinarian, pain control must be provided and must include local anesthesia (eg. Local block) and systemic analgesia (eg. Metacam).

Disbudding and dehorning

- Horn bud removal must be performed in calves by 2 months of age. Exceptions can only be made on an individual case by case basis.
- In consultation with your veterinarian, pain control must be provided and must include local anesthesia and systemic analgesia.
- Following the procedure, monitor cattle to ensure no signs of infection or abnormal bleeding.
- Banding is not an acceptable method of dehorning.

Best management practices for disbudding and dehorning can be discussed with your veterinarian.

The topics included in this newsletter are some of the major highlights of the revised code, however, this does not represent all the proposed changes. It is encouraged that producers' look at the *proposed* changes to the dairy code of practice (<https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/dairy-cattle>) and evaluate how these changes may impact the current management of your herd. Any questions or concerns can be discussed with your veterinarian.