



DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. ANDREW MACLEOD
DR. KELLY HAELZLE DR. AMANDA TOPP DR. BETH VAN RYS DR. KRISTYNE SMITH

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 – 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

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

NOTE: 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

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Upcoming Holidays: Clinics will be open for the mornings only on Monday Aug 3 for the civic holiday, and Monday Sept 7, for Labour Day holiday. Vets will be on call for emergencies. The delivery service will **not** be running on the holidays.

Responsible Sharps Disposal

Linwood Vet is registered with the Ministry of the Environment in order to have a waste service dispose of our sharps waste. To assist you to properly dispose of your sharps, we will accept your sharps in Linwood Vet Service prepaid containers. Just order one and send it back, when full. We can **only** accept sharps (needles, syringes, blades) in these containers, and they can **only** be filled to the fill line, not the top of the container. No vaccine or medicines can be in the sharps container.

Do you need Hip Lifters?

Why Cows Go Down

- Calving induced nerve damage
- Milk fever, low cal/phos
- Toxemia from infection
- Fractures or dislocations, must be ruled out prior to lifting

Why lift?

- Limit pressure induced muscle injury
- The cow needs your help

Protocol

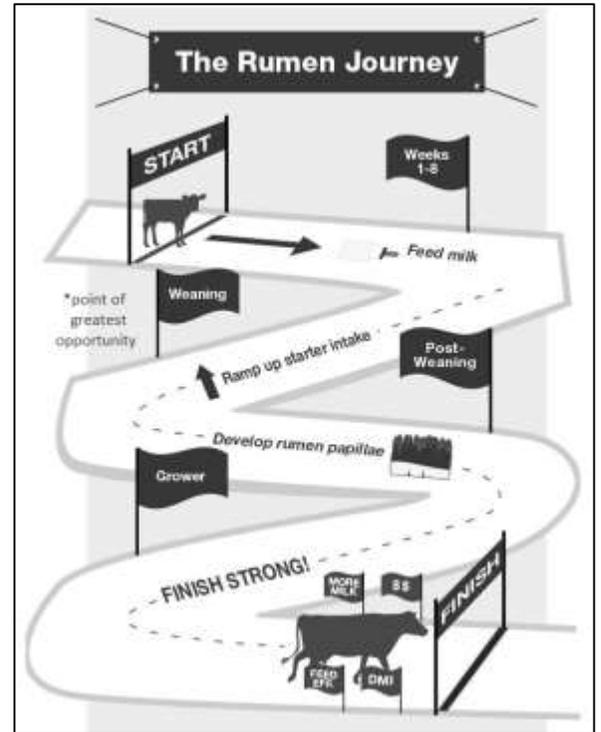
- Identify primary underlying problem
- Make the environment cow friendly, clean and dry with water and feed access
- Tie the hind legs just above the fetlocks with a 16" strap
- Attempt lifting 2-3 X daily and hope for 15-20 minutes standing time

Successful Weaning Relies on a Healthy Rumen – Part 2!

1. **The right age** (see last month's newsletter!)

2. A gradual transition – continued

There are many different methods used to wean calves off milk - abrupt, half and half, step down, etc. *Abrupt weaning*, switching calves from all milk feedings to all grain feedings at once, is the least time consuming method, but results in the greatest weight gain losses and stressed calves. *Half and half*, reducing the calf to once a day milk feedings, while allowing increased grain consumption, is a more gradual approach. This allows the calf to ramp up their calf starter intake and balance their energy intake over time before being completely cut off from milk. *Step down*, reducing the volume of milk fed each day over an extended period of time, is the most gradual method and results in continued weight gain and less stressed calves. The key to the step down program is to ensure that each meal (including the very last day before feeding grain only) is at least 2 liters – any less than 2 liters does not satisfy the calf's state of hunger once milk is presented to her, and will result in her suckling on walls, penmates, etc.



The ideal weaning transition would be to start slowly reducing the amount of milk and increasing the amount of starter intake for a period of 14 days, starting at 8 or 9 weeks of age. Fourteen days may not work for every farm, but extending weaning a few days can make a big impact on calves.

REMEMBER: Don't sacrifice weaning age for a gradual transition. A gradual weaning transition is great, but not if it means you must start weaning before calves are ready.

3. A nutritional balance

Whether you are able to wean over 6, 10, or 14 days, you should make sure your calves have fully replaced the same amount of nutrition they were consuming through milk with starter before completely transitioning to an all-dry feed diet. For example, if you are using the *half and half* method, by dropping the milk in half, you are also cutting the amount of nutrients the calf receives in half. It will likely take that calf a few days before she can consume enough starter to make up the difference.

4. A palatable, nutrient-dense starter

When weaning calves, it is important that the feed you are offering them is highly palatable (tastes good!). Palatability = higher intake! You should also be sure that the nutrient value of the starter is similar to the nutrient value of the milk they received to reduce any decrease in weight gains after weaning. For example, if you use a high-protein milk replacer, you should use a high-protein starter. Keeping fresh feed in front of the calves can also make a big difference – feed starter in volumes that the calf can finish, so you can provide fresh feed on a regular basis.

5. Provide forage

The grain/calf starter provides all the necessary nutrition for the calf, and helps to stimulate the rumen to develop rumen papillae. Hay and straw on the other hand stimulate the growth of rumen **muscle**, which is equally important for a healthy cow. The rumen will naturally grow as the calf does, but the addition of forage helps the rumen build strength to contract and move food.