



DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. ANDREW MACLE
DR. JOHN TOKARZ DR. KELLY HAEZLE DR. AMANDA TOPP DR. DAVE
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.

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: ***call by 9:30 am at the latest*** for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service 1-800-663-2941

SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

HOLIDAY HOURS There will be no delivery service on the Monday, October 13 for Thanksgiving. Both clinics will be open a half day in the morning.

Clarification of our Return Policy:

Linwood Veterinary Services and Hwy 89 Veterinary services cannot accept returns of vaccines or special order items. Returns of other recently purchased and unopened products with satisfactory expiry dates and conditions will be accepted with proof of purchase, and a 10% restocking fee on the returned items will be applied to your account.

What are Bacterial Counts good for?

They are used to screen for the overall quality of milk. These Bacterial Counts are associated with milk quality and can provide direction for trouble-shooting sanitation and procedural faults on the farm. A microbiological test that producers may be familiar with is the coliform count. Coliform bacteria encompass a broad category of Gram negative bacteria. Contamination due to these bacteria is typically from the environment, but theoretically could also be due to coliform mastitis. Coliform counts are often an indicator of fecal contamination. A closer look at bacteria counts may be able to point producers in the right direction for trouble-shooting problems when they arise. Examining the counts may help focus an investigation into the source of the problem.

Cow Cleanliness

Dirty cows are likely to have dirty udders, providing possible fecal or environmental contamination that can result in an elevated count. Careful and thorough udder preparation including adequate coverage and contact time for teat dips are keys to reducing these counts.

Equipment Condition and Cleaning

Carefully examining milking equipment for any condition that would make cleaning difficult such as gaskets, liners (inflations), and tubing that could be cracked, scored, or worn should be routine. Surfaces should be smooth to allow for easy cleaning. Be on the lookout for and promptly remove build-up of deposits and biofilms. Equipment condition and cleaning issues can be reflected in elevated counts. Sanitation and condition of equipment should be examined if elevated.

Temperatures

If milk is not cooling within the allowed timeframe, the result could be higher counts. Similarly, if lines are not draining properly and milk is sitting in the lines, the count could increase.

Water Supply

A water supply should be tested routinely for coliform bacteria. Issues with the water supply could be reflected by increased coliform count due to fecal or environmental contamination of the water, or due to decreased effectiveness of cleaning and sanitizing agents. 'Hard' water containing calcium and magnesium may interfere with the detergents and sanitizers being used and make them less effective.

Mastitis

If the coliform count is elevated, there could be an issue with coliform mastitis in the herd.

Septicemia is a serious condition

When a calf has septicemia, it has disease-producing organisms or their toxins in its blood. Septicemia in calves is usually the result of a bacterial infection that occurs while the calf is in the uterus, during, at or immediately after birth. The route of infection can be the blood of a sick dam, an infected placenta, the calf's umbilical stump, mouth, nose (inhalation) or wound.

Septicemia is the most severe medical problem that a calf can develop because the blood-borne infection disseminates and damages many different organs. The bacteria that cause septicemia in calves, many of which are characterized as gram-negative bacteria like *E. coli* and *Salmonella*, are difficult and expensive to treat, and survival rate is low.

Early signs of septicemia may be subtle, but in affected calves are usually neurological, including depression, weakness, a reluctant to stand, and a poor suckle reflex within five days of birth. Swollen joints, diarrhea, pneumonia, meningitis, cloudy eyes and/or a large, tender navel may develop. Fever is not a consistent finding in septicemic calves; many have normal or subnormal temperatures. Most septicemic calves have a history of inadequate colostrum intake.

Dairy calves should be identified quickly and antibiotic therapy along with anti-inflammatories be started. Additional protection can be given to the calf via a proper colostrum management and having a vaccinated dam. The use of scour vaccines enhances the colostrum quality. Ask your herd veterinarian if you have any questions regarding preventative protocols.