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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: **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

APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Your herd veterinarian will be prepared to vaccinate **all dogs and horses** on farm in **May**. Each May we will repeat the performance to make it easier to ensure animals are vaccinated annually. The Vaccination of horses helps to minimize the risk of disease. Choosing vaccine involves considering their impact on the horse and risk to human. Each farm has different needs and, by consulting with your veterinarian, an annual vaccination plan can be tailored to your situation. The following vaccines are recommended and your herd veterinarian will provide a sheet with information on vaccines given, and any relevant booster directions.

PRESTIGE™ V + WNV WITH HAVLOGEN™, PINNACLE™ I.N. , IMRAB® 3 Rabies Vaccine

Calf Scours: Causes, Prevention and Treatment

Scours is responsible for more calf deaths prior to weaning than any other cause. It is characterized by frequent diarrhea, sometimes with blood, mucus, usually bright yellow or white feces. These calves may be weak, reluctant to feed and have sunken eyes, elevated or depressed temperatures and tented skin.

Causes

Scours often results from stress and nutritional inadequacies. Stress mostly caused by environmental factors such as overcrowding, sudden changes in the weather, extreme cold or heat, dampness, drafts or humidity, poor handling practice and poor sanitation. Nutritional scours can advance to infectious scours where viruses, bacteria and protozoa overpower the immune system in the intestines.

Prevention

Colostrum should be fed as soon as possible after birth at a 10% of body weight rate and certainly repeat within the first 12 hours. It should be collected using sanitary equipment, labeled and refrigerated quickly.

Careful calf observation—at least three times a day—helps catch signs early.

Early signs of Scours include:

- Milk refusal
- Not getting up eagerly at feeding
- Dry muzzle, thick mucus at nostrils
- Changes in feces consistency
- Body temperature above 103 degrees Fahrenheit(39.4C)

Treatment

Once calves have developed scours, work with your veterinarian to develop a treatment protocol and identify the source of scours. Treatment will primarily include oral electrolyte therapy and in severe cases (due to dehydration) intravenous (IV) administration. Antibiotics and NSAIDs are often administered for infectious scours. Scouring calves should be housed in a clean, dry, warm pen and fed small (2L), frequent amounts of milk replacer and electrolytes.

Protect Calves from Scours

Good scours prevention management in cows alone using pre-calving scour vaccination (i.e. **ScourGuard® 4KC (Zoetis)**, **Scour Bos® 9 (Novartis)**) is sometimes not enough. So cattle producers turn to practices like calf vaccination (i.e. **Calf-Guard® (Zoetis)**) to head off diarrhea in their spring calf crop. There are, however, pitfalls to early vaccination in calves. One problem with vaccinating calves at birth is the high concentration of maternal antibodies found in colostrum which are transferred to the calf. These maternal antibodies interfere with the calf's immune response to a vaccine. Since, they cannot distinguish between a natural challenge and a vaccine. When this happens, the maternal antibodies neutralize the vaccine, rendering it useless so the calf does not receive the scours protection intended by the vaccine. The second issue is that a calf must respond to the vaccine in order to develop antibodies. This process takes time, during which time the calf is vulnerable to disease. Finally, the immune response to a vaccine is also a drain on the newborn calf's limited energy reserves. This energy is diverted toward an immune response when it could be better used for body temperature regulation, growth and to fight off disease.

To overcome the challenges of newborn calf vaccination, cattle producers can turn to the immediate immunity available in antibody products. Concentrated antibody products can be fed to calves at the same time as colostrum so there is no interference with maternal antibodies and no waiting for a response from the calf's immune system. It also means less stress because the calf does not have to divert its precious energy reserves from maintenance and growth to mounting an immune response.

Antibody products are available in bolus and tube forms (i.e. **First Defense® (ImmuCell)**). A brief discussion with your Veterinarian can identify which product or combination of products will suit your operation and management style.

Calving Season Heads Up

Cow Nutrition is another area under our control. Minerals and vitamins are essential for formation of antibodies delivered in colostrum. These antibodies protect calves for the first 3 to 5 weeks and can mean the difference between life and death when it comes to calf scours. Because forages, especially stored hay, are deficient in many minerals and vitamins necessary to produce good quality colostrum, supplementation is absolutely vital. Supplementation should start **at least 6 weeks prior to calving**, and may be required all winter (for protein), if low quality forages are used. It takes weeks of proper nutrition to build quality colostrum. If you wait until scours become an issue, you will have waited too long!

Spend a little time this time of the year preparing your calving area and equipment. Make sure your calving facilities are clean, dry, and protected from the weather. Try to prepare a maternity pen with functional head-gate, crowd-gate, etc. to make things easier when you do have to assist with calving. Have plenty of bedding readily available. Have your veterinarian's phone number readily available. Make a list of the necessary supplies and be sure to have everything on hand. Some important supplies include OB sleeves, chains or straps, calf jack, towels, halters, feeding tube, light source, OB lube, soap, water, bucket, etc. Finally, plan ahead for problems. Consider how you might warm a cold calf, where you might house a calf with scours, where the veterinarian might be able to perform a Caesarean section, etc. A little planning can go a long way!