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Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Sat 7am – 12pm

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

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

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service

AUGUST 2012 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Holidays- Please note that there will be no delivery services available **August 6th** or **September 3**, observing the Civic Day and Labour Day Holidays and the Linwood clinic will be open till noon only, on those days, and Hwy 89 till 1pm. Your veterinarians will be on call for any emergency needs.

August Billing

Due to some down time for computer maintenance, a few July invoices may arrive later in August, or appear with your August billing in September. Thank you for your understanding, and please call us if you have any questions!

Watch the following during heat stress

Meeting the nutrient requirements of dairy cattle during heat stress can be a chore. These points are important to keep in mind during heat stress:

1. Maintain rumen health, especially when trying to cram extra energy into the diet.
2. Minimize pregnancy loss. The effects of heat stress are not just in a two- or three-month window during the summertime. Think about how heat stress affects reproductive performance nine months down the road.
3. Keep cows as comfortable as possible. The importance of cow comfort and heat abatement can't be stressed enough.
4. Minimize dry matter intake loss. Keep intakes consistent with good bunk management.
5. Minimize body condition score loss. Feeding fat is a strategy that can help with this.
6. Minimize sorting. Sorting becomes a bigger issue during heat stress.
7. Don't crowd close-up and fresh cows. Watch competition issues related to bunk space.
8. Rethink the size of your transition/calving facilities to accommodate changes in calving behaviour that results from heat stress.

Added Progesterone may help increase fertility during hot summer

Reduced dairy cow fertility during periods of elevated temperature, humidity or both might be associated with low plasma progesterone concentration. Recently, researchers in Israel examined whether insertion of a controlled intravaginal drug-releasing (CIDR) insert containing progesterone following artificial insemination (A.I.) on day 5 post-A.I. for 13 days would improve summer conception rate. Their findings were published in the June issue of the *Journal of Dairy Science*.

Results showed that treatment did not alter the overall conception rate. However, the probability of conception increased in CIDR-treated cows with low body condition score (BCS) (53%) compared with their control counterparts (27%). Furthermore, a pronounced increase in conception probability was recorded in CIDR-treated cows exhibiting both low BCS and postpartum reproductive disorders (58%), compared with their control counterparts (14%).

Therefore, the scientists conclude progesterone supplementation can be effective, especially for cows with low BCS and postpartum reproductive disorders. Producers could target these particular cows if they are bred in the heat of summer.

Beef Corner

The drier than normal weather has and will continue to play a large role in raising livestock in 2012. It is not just that there is less feed available but the quality from stressed plants will reduce nutrient values as well and will cause wide variations in feed composition. This means that we must be as efficient as possible with the feed we can get into storage.

Pasture management is difficult due to the challenging rainfall. However, a mid-season deworming for animals on pasture would help reduce the waste in feed due to parasites. A **basic rule** is that if cattle are exposed to grass, then they have gastro-intestinal parasites. Supplementing with a **creep feed** is also recommended to improve weaning weights in calves and thereby reduce stress on the cows which you are attempting to have rebred. Creep feed must contain a coccidia-stat like Rumensin to control Coccidiosis and have the additional side effect of improving feed efficiency.

Feedlot issues are not just heat related so ensure that there are mechanisms in place to help the cattle cool themselves and don't limit yourself to just providing clean drinking water. Ration analysis is a must due to the composition variability in feed stuffs as well as potential variability arising from using alternative feed sources. Watch for the typical "Pinkeye" and "Foot Rot" as well as pneumonia. Every dollar spent in parasite control and implanting makes money due to increased feed efficiency. If you have any questions about the use of dewormers or implants, please call to speak to a veterinarian.

It should also be remembered to plan ahead and get organized to process this year's calves. It is always best to vaccinate and dehorn before weaning to minimize the stress on these calves. Also, a sunny day in September or October is far better than a rainy, snowy day in November or December. Call now and book for a veterinarian and processor to help keep your herd up to date for pregnancies as well and since this year's forages have not left a lot of extra hay around the countryside, there is no sense in feeding open cull cows if the feed price does not reward you for it.

I hope everyone knows that, as of **July 1, 2010** all cattle must be tagged with an approved Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag prior to moving from their current location or leaving their farm of origin (Including going to a vet hospital or common pasture).