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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.

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



DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER



Clinic News

Please review your inventory, and plan your pharmacy needs around the seasonal holidays!

The clinics will close at 1pm (Hwy 89) and 2pm (Linwood) on **Dec. 24th** and be **closed Dec. 25th** for Christmas, and **Dec. 26** for Boxing Day and **Jan. 1** for New Year's Day.

There will be no delivery service Dec 24, 25, or 26th or Jan. 1. Just a reminder there is also no delivery service on Saturdays, but the clinics are open in the morning on Saturday to pick up orders.

20 Feeder Calf Mistakes to Avoid

This fall when calves are entering the feedlot they will face issues related to the cattle buyer, the incoming facilities they are handled with, the feed stuffs from a milling/mixing/moisture levels point of view, the weather they have to deal with, the animal health crew/owners, the veterinarian and the nutritionist. All have to work together as a team to get the calves to thrive.

20 mistakes made and problems seen with newly arrived calves at feedlots.

- 1. Inconsistent feeding times.** Cattle should be fed within 15 minutes of when they were fed the day before.
- 2. Bunks too high for calves.** A lot of smaller calves are coming into the feed yards and they just can't reach.
- 3. Cattle standing around.** If cattle are standing around waiting on late feed trucks, they are losing energy.
- 4. Changing type and amount of ration concurrently.** Moving up the amount of ration and changing ration at the same time can mess with intakes. You should transition from ration 1 to 2 but keep it at the same level of intake during transition to avoid decreased intakes.
- 5. Not watching moisture levels in diets.** Moisture levels in different ingredients such as high-moisture corn and wet distiller's grains can widely vary and that can change energy density. Silage moisture levels can change roughage content.

- 6. Feeding calves unfamiliar diets.** For example, feeding silage to calves that have never seen silage before can reduce or delay intakes. Watch cattle behavior.
- 7. Not balancing distiller's grains correctly.** Distiller's grains need to be balanced with the right kind of fiber, if you combine it with alfalfa, you'll most likely create diarrhea. Also, reduce sorting due to fiber sources which are cut in too large of pieces or cattle will sort the feed.
- 8. Not paying attention to ingredient processing.** Starch digests very rapidly and can cause metabolic upsets as acidosis. Steam-flaking will increase the starch availability of the corn kernel which will improve performance without excessively high rates of fermentation. Corn by-products such as corn gluten feed are great to substitute for grain in starting diets as they are high energy without the rapidly digestible starch component.
- 9. Feeding the wrong forages to new calves.** Grass hay is great with the hulls having great palatability. Silage can be used depending on the cattle and if they are familiar with it.
- 10. Feeding ingredients free-choice.** A total mixed ration instead of free-choice will avoid sorting.
- 11. Not considering amino acid profiles.** Use less than 1% of urea in incoming diets since urea adaptation by rumen microorganisms takes around 12–14 days.
- 12. Not analyzing fat source.** The nutritional value of fat sources varies quite a bit.
- 13. Not supplying minerals.** Calcium and phosphorous are important in receiving diets. Just assume a trace mineral deficiency and include them at 150%. Don't forget to place Vitamin E levels at about 400 IUs.
- 14. Receiving pens in high-activity areas.** Having receiving pens next to shipping pens, the mill, etc. can cause newly arrived cattle to get no rest, and increases stress which can decrease intake.
- 15. Mixing wild cattle with bunk-broke cattle.** Wild cattle that are not used to feed bunks won't mix with other cattle and get to the bunk and eat. Wild cattle should be sorted off or handled differently, including shortening the pen, use extra feed troughs and feeding at night to lower aggravation.
- 16. Not resting new calves.** Incoming calves need some rest after transit and take into consideration the total transit time the calves have gone through, not just the last transit to the feedlot.
- 17. Castrated calves with non-castrated calves.** Putting newly castrated calves with non-castrated calves can cause problems, as for the first few days the newly castrated calves don't want to get bumped around, and will be more hesitant to crowd up to the bunk. Best to separate them.
- 18. Small and large calves together.** The larger calves dominate the bunk. This results in the smaller calves not eating for a few days at which point they will make a break for it and gorge themselves.
- 19. Insufficient water trough space in the hospital.** Competition in the hospital pen cattle can reduce water intake.
- 20. The hospital pen and bunk.** Hospital pen bunks may only get cleaned out once a week. Unappetizing rations that sit around in the hospital bunk can also be at risk for molds, especially with high-moisture feeds. Don't forget a salt/mineral block since sick calves need vitamins and minerals to help with immune function and health.

How to manage and prevent DAs

Left displacement of the abomasum (LDA) is one of the most common surgical diseases seen in dairy cattle. The incidence rate of LDA varies widely but a good goal would be less than 3 to 5 percent of cows developing a LDA. If you are above this level, then it's probably time to review your protocols and management. Look at these LDA risk factors and ways to deal with cows that develop a LDA.

Prevent first: Focus on keeping cows eating and ruminating. Any decreases in dry matter intake before or after calving will increase the risk of developing a LDA.

Consider these factors:

- **Ketosis.** Identify these cows after calving and treat them immediately with glycol orally or dextrose IV, to help prevent the development of a LDA.
- **Low blood calcium.** Cows that have low blood calcium levels have decreased appetite and trouble after calving. A bottle of SQ calcium maybe beneficial even if they are subclinical.
- **Fresh cow diseases.** Anything that makes a cow sick can be the first step to a LDA. This includes metritis, pneumonia and lameness. These problems must be identified and treated promptly.
- **Close-up cow feed intakes.** If fresh cows experience ketosis and a LDA, investigate how much dry matter the close-up cows are actually eating.
- **Factors that decrease feed intake.** Close-up and dry pens should have 100 square foot of space per cow and 3 feet of bunk space per cow. Only using headlocks in the close-up pen and nowhere else on the dairy can decrease intakes. Heat stress and poor ventilation will also decrease intakes.
- **Poor quality forages.** It can be challenging to get dry and close-up cows to eat enough forage, or impossible if the forage is long-stemmed, fibrous, over-mature hay. Cows simply cannot eat enough of this non-digestible fiber to satisfy nutrient requirements.
- **Overestimating the amount of long-stem hay consumed.** If you feed a large round bale in one feeder or feed free-choice hay, you often overestimate what the cow actually eats. One feeder limits the number of cows that can eat at a time. Often there is more hay on the ground than in the rumen! Ideally, hay should be chopped to 1.5- to 2-inch maximum particle length and mixed with other ingredients in a TMR to prevent sorting, maximize intakes and allow for more accurate monitoring.
- **Moving cows too close to calving.** Moving cows less than three weeks before they calve or isolating them for several days in a single maternity pen are significant risk factors for ketosis and LDA.
- **Fat cow syndrome.** Sometimes ketosis and LDA are due to a reproduction problem from the prior lactation that leads to overly conditioned cows.

Management strategies

- Not all cows are a good candidate for correction of LDA. Be careful using products with a meat withdrawal if you think the cow may have a LDA. Do not cull cows that are too ill to be shipped.
- Aggressively treat off-feed fresh cows. Using a rumen-drench system for off-feed fresh cows can medically manage them to prevent a surgery. **Do not delay** treatment of your fresh cows.
- Learn to diagnose LDAs. Purchase a stethoscope and ask your veterinarian for help to diagnose LDAs. Early cases can sometimes be medically managed.
- Ask your veterinarian for advice regarding proper prevention and management strategies.

