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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.*

## DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

### Clinic News- Holiday Closures and Delivery Days

**Please plan in advance** for your needs over the holidays and year end purchases! The clinics will be CLOSED Christmas, Boxing Day, and New Years Day; Dec 25, 26 and Jan 1. There will be no drug delivery service running Dec 25, 26, 27 or January 1. We will provide limited delivery Friday December 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

*Linwood and Hwy 89 Veterinary Services Veterinarians and Staff wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

## VACCINE SELECTION GUIDELINES

Vaccines need to be carefully assessed and chosen to ensure your dairy operation has the protection it needs in a disease outbreak. The investment you make in selecting the right disease prevention products and protocols reduce the costs and labour associated with disease treatment.

Consider the following:

- 1. Label indications and levels of protection:** Label claims are based on demonstrated and proven efficacy for each disease listed in the vaccine. These levels of protection include from best to least: Prevention of Infection, *Prevention of Disease*, *Aids in Disease Prevention*, *Aids in Disease Control* and *Other Claims*.
- 2. Duration of immunity (DOI):** This is the minimum amount of time you can expect a vaccine to help protect your cattle, based on manufacturer disease challenge studies. A vaccine's DOI should help protect during the critical risk period for disease risk. Your veterinarian can help schedule vaccination protocols according to your vaccines' DOI.
- 3. Immune response time:** Some types of vaccines stimulate protective immunity more rapidly than others. Intranasal vaccines can help provide a quick immune response.
- 4. Modified-live virus (MLV) vs. killed virus vaccines:** MLV vaccines contain live organisms that can undergo limited replication within the body. MLV vaccines can have benefits including rapid immune response, a more complete immune response and longer duration of immunity with few post-vaccination reactions.
- 5. Route of administration:** Follow the route of administration on the label to help achieve the expected efficacy of the vaccine. Your vaccine choice and preferred route of administration depends on your management capabilities and may require training your employees on proper administration.
- 6. Safe for use in pregnant cows:** Choose vaccines that are safe for use during pregnancy (if boosted properly) to help stimulate immunity of the cow and enhance colostrum quality. The option to revaccinate cows during gestation will provide protection against viral shedding and supports herd immunity.

7. **Convenience:** Your veterinarian can help you identify disease risks based on herd history. When choosing combination vaccines, remember that DOI and levels of protection may be different for each antigen in the vaccine.

8. **Cost-effectiveness:** Profitability on the operation is important, and cost-effectiveness is always a factor in product selection. Work with your veterinarian to discuss protocols and factors that impact a cost-effective vaccine, including management time and labor for administration, vaccine combinations, levels of protection, duration of immunity and cost of a potential disease outbreak.

## **BEWARE OF MYCOTOXINS THIS FALL**

Dairy producers need to manage the risk of mycotoxins. These occur routinely in feeds and forages and cause a variety of health issues and reduced milk production. Post-harvest factors that promote the presence of mycotoxins include damage to feed (broken kernels and trash content), poor storage conditions or facilities that expose feed to damaging high levels of moisture, heat, air and pH as well as practicing improper feeding methods.

Silages can commonly contain unwanted bacteria, yeasts and molds, along with mycotoxins produced by molds because the ensiling process is never perfect. As a result, excellent silage management is essential to help ensure a high-quality feedstuff.

Mycotoxin development is influenced by local conditions. These include weather, hybrid variety and plant resistance to environmental stresses. As well as, the timing of planting/harvest, and field rots. Drier weather typically results in mycotoxins such as aflatoxin and fumonisin, while wet weather can promote zearalenone, T2 and deoxynivalenol (DON).

Mycotoxic symptoms in Dairy cattle include digestive upsets, low feed efficiency, milk loss, poor fresh cow transition, poor reproduction, nervous disorders, increased disease and higher culling rates. Mycotoxins are also considered innate immune system suppressors which leaves Dairy cows more susceptible to a host of health disorders, reduced milk production and lower milk quality.

This diagnosis can be difficult, since a mycotoxin cause may not be apparent unless the feed is tested for it.

We offer the following management recommendations to reduce the toxicity of mycotoxins:

- Optimal field and storage conditions and management.
- Both individual feedstuff and a total mixed ration sample mycotoxin testing.
- Feed treatments to reduce mycotoxin content, such as adsorbents that help reduce digestive absorption of toxins.
- Better nutrition management through immune stimulants and the use of antioxidants.

If you are experiencing any of the listed health issues or suspect a mycotoxin problem, please do not hesitate to discuss it with your herd health veterinarian to develop an action plan to identify and resolve the problems you might be experiencing.

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

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

**NOTE: CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY**

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

**24 Hour Emergency Vet Service**