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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: **Please call BEFORE 9:30 am** for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service **call any clinic number 1-800-663-2941 519-698-2610 519-323-9002**

## **DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER**

### **Clinic News**

**HOLIDAYS** please note the clinics are **CLOSED** **Monday December 26<sup>th</sup>** and **Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup>**



**VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WISHES FROM  
ALL YOUR VETERINARIANS AND STAFF AT HWY 89 AND  
LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES!**

Waterloo Cattleman's Association Annual General Meeting: Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 2pm. Linwood Community Centre 5279 Ament Line. Agenda: Guest speaker Dr. David Lamb - Elanco Veterinarian, BFO Update, Annual Waterloo County Business meeting. \$15 - hot lunch included, to register please call Brad Cober 519-503-1530 or Mike Edwards 519-501-8865

### **Keeping the Future of Our Dairy Herds Alive, Healthy and Prospering**

The next few newsletter articles will be focusing on calf health. Calf health is of utmost importance if we want healthy, productive dairy cattle to fill our barns in the future. Healthy, well grown calves before weaning is extremely important. Did you know increased calf growth before weaning correlates to increased milk production in her future lactations. In fact, a calf with gains 1 kg/day for the first 65 days of her life compared to a calf gaining only 0.5kg/day will produce 1000 kg more milk in her first lactation alone? Therefore optimizing your calf health should be of utmost importance!

#### **What should your calf health goals be!?!?**

1. Successful passive transfer. Calves must get 4L of colostrum within 6 hours of birth.
2. Less than 10% of pre weaned calves with pneumonia.
3. Less than 15% of pre weaned calves with scours.
4. Calf housing **MUST** be clean and dry all the time.
5. Air quality. Clean, fresh air with no ammonia smell.

If you are not meeting these 5 goals please talk to your Veterinarian today because we can help you get there.

Cleanliness is something which cannot be overlooked when it comes to calf health. Calves are babies and thus more likely to get sick compared to adult dairy cattle. The first point we will explore pertaining to calf health is how to properly wash bottles, pails and nipples for optimum calf health.

Let's say we refill our bottles or pails in the calf pens at every feeding and only rinse them out in between. Or maybe we are a little better and take our pails and bottles back to the milkhouse and give them a rinse with lukewarm soapy water and stack them in the corner for the next feeding. When those pails and bottles sit, the leftover milk residue allows bacteria growth to flourish. So the next time we take that pail and dump in new fresh milk, the new milk knocks all the bacteria off the inside of the pail and the calf gets a big gulp of bacteria filled milk. Calves that drink bacteria get calf scours. Calves that have scours are much more likely to get pneumonia. Calves which get scours and/or pneumonia don't grow well. Thus, every bottle, nipple, and pail that milk touches before being fed to a calf should be cleaned just like we clean milking equipment.

The RIGHT way to clean calf feeding equipment:

1. Clean immediately after feeding
  - a. The longer you wait the more bacteria grows
2. Rinse
  - a. Use lukewarm water. Hot water will bake on milk proteins and allow bacteria growth.
3. Wash
  - a. Use hot water (above 49C or 120F).
  - b. Add liquid detergent and bleach or dry chlorinated detergent. (use the detergent you use for washing your milking equipment)
  - c. SCRUB! You must scrub all surfaces with a clean brush. Remove all traces of milk residues.
4. Rinse
  - a. Use warm water and acid.
  - b. Don't rinse off acid water solution. Leaving it on allows for greater bacteria killing power.
5. Dry
  - a. Allow bottles, nipples and pails to drain and dry before next use. Drying racks are great.

The goal of washing calf feeding equipment is to have it clean enough that you would drink out of it. When plastic pails or bottles get rough to the touch or become discoloured they should be thrown out and replaced with new ones.

A few tips to help you achieve perfectly clean pails, bottle and nipples:

- Have multiple dedicated brushes for scrubbing. You must have a bottle brush to properly clean bottles.
- Install a digital thermometer in the sink you wash your pails and bottles in to ensure the wash temperature is correct
- Build a drying rack
- Make yourself a wash chart (just like you have for milking equipment so you add the right amount of detergent or acid to the water)