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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

FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Monday February 25 - Dairy Producer Meeting – MASTITIS

PRACTICAL TIPS TO REDUCE BULK TANK SCC COUNTS **Target 200k to Beat 400K**

Linwood Veterinary Services and Hwy 89 Veterinary Services invite you to a dairy producer meeting with keynote speakers Dr. Melodie Chan and Dr. Jodi Wallace focusing on **mastitis**.

Mastitis is the most frequent and costly disease of dairy production. It costs the Canadian dairy industry millions of dollars every year due to lost milk production, cow treatments, discarded milk, premature cow culling and the potential penalties due to improper milk or meat withdrawals being followed. 70-80% of costs associated with mastitis are due to subclinical infections. These are infections in the udder that do not cause visual changes to the milk. Mastitis can be caused by many different bacteria and other microorganisms, and we typically classify it as being transmitted from cow to cow (contagious mastitis) or from the environment to the cow (environmental mastitis).

Mastitis is generally a preventable disease. There are steps each producer can take to help reduce the negative impact it has on their own herds. Prevention is key, but treatment protocols and effective use of medications are required depending on the specific cause of mastitis cases and the individual cow mastitis history. Your herd veterinarian may suggest collecting milk samples for culture as part of your mastitis control program to help make sure you are treating cases as effectively as possible.

Please join us to learn more about how to effectively manage this costly disease in your herd!

The meeting will be at the **Linwood Community Centre** 5279 Ament Line, Linwood on Monday February 25th. Doors will open at 9:30 am and presentations will begin at 10am and a hot beef lunch will be served about noon. Presentations will conclude by 3pm.

RESERVATIONS: Please call the office **as soon as possible** with the names and phone numbers of those planning to attend to book lunch, or to book a seat on the bus from Mount Forest or Arthur and back if needed, so we can plan adequately for everyone's appetite. A bus to Linwood will leave from Mount Forest Sports Complex at 850 Princess St. at 8:50 am and from Liquidation World parking lot on Hwy 6 in Arthur at about 9:20 am and return after the meeting.

Call to reserve 1-800-663-2941

Drying-off cows effectively improves milk quality

The dry-cow period is more than an opportunity to let your cows rest and recharge. A proper dry-cow mastitis protocol is needed to prepare and condition your dry cows for the next lactation and reduce Somatic Cell Counts. The goal of an effective dry-cow program is to deal with current and prevent new intramammary infections. It should be able to clear up existing subclinical infections, prevent new clinical infections at freshening and reduce udder exposure to environmental causes of mastitis.

A dry-cow program requires these three steps:

1. Use of dry-cow intramammary tubes (many options) to help clear up existing infections.
2. Use an internal teat sealant (such as Orbeseal). This offers a physical barrier against environmental pathogens and aids in the prevention of new infections during the dry period.
3. Vaccinate against *E. coli* mastitis (several options) to reduce the severity of coliform mastitis and improving treatment outcomes.

Invest in a comprehensive dry-cow mastitis program to improve milk quality. You can visit www.milkqualityfocus.com to review the steps involved in a complete dry-cow mastitis program.

Deliver a Warm Meal to Calves in Winter

It is not the easiest job to deliver milk or milk replacer at calf body temperature during the winter. Your goal is to deliver whole milk or milk replacer at 105° F/40 C so that calves do not have to warm it back up to body temperature.

To help you accomplish this, try these tips:

- When mixing milk replacer, make sure that the water is at the proper temperature according to label directions.
- Use a fast and accurate thermometer to check the temperature of the liquid when mixing and as the milk replacer is delivered to the calf.
- Mix up small batches so there is less time for the milk replacer to cool down before it is fed to calves.
- In extremely cold temperatures, mix the milk replacer with a portion of the total water needed, according to the temperature on the label directions. Add the rest of the water needed for that batch at a higher temperature so that by the time it gets to the calf it is at 105° F.
- Keep your mixing-to-feeding times consistent to achieve the goal of delivering the liquid at 105° F.

A few things to keep in mind.

The amount of feed energy for body heat production depends on the age of the calf as well as other variables including wind, moisture, hair coat and bedding.

Energy intake can be increased by adding an additional feeding of milk or milk replacer. If an additional feeding cannot be done, then increasing the milk feeding size, increasing fat content of the milk or the amount of powder mixed in the same amount of water can help the calf fight the cold. Older calves are able to eat more starter creep feed to battle the cold.

Extra bedding will help the calf keep warm and dry. Deep bedding will trap warm air in addition to keeping the calf dry. A calf blanket for a newborn especially can also be used to give extra protection.

If a young animal is sick, do not withhold milk or milk replacer. The energy from the milk is essential for the calf to fight illness. Electrolytes that provide minerals, energy and protein to the calf should be fed in addition to normal milk feeding for scouring calves.

JOHNES UPDATE

Johne's Education & Management Assistance Program

Just a reminder to Producers in Wellington North and Minto Townships that you should have or will shortly receive a testing submission form (Green Sheet) prior to your scheduled testing date.

Your testing date will be from Feb. 10 to March 23.

If you have any concerns, please contact Nicole Perkins, Johnes's Program Co-ordinator. Email johnes@uoqueph.ca or Phone 226-979-1664.