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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

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

FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Annual Producer Meeting 2014

Dr. Todd Duffield: **Use of Pain Management in Cows and Calves**

Do you try to minimize pain in calves at dehorning? Should you treat calves with diarrhea or calves from a hard-calving with pain medication? Do cows with mastitis or that undergoing surgery benefit from receiving pain medication?

Dr. Rob Tremblay: **The Effect of Timing on What I get with Vaccination or Deworming**

A look at factors which influence the effectiveness of prevention programs to help to optimize your input costs.

Will I Ever get rid of Coughing in these calves?

This is a common issue in all production and housing types.

The meeting will be at the Linwood Community Centre 5279 Ament Line, Linwood on Wednesday February 19th. Doors will open at 9:30 am with coffee and muffins with presentations begin at 10am. 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 so we can plan adequately for lunch.

There will be a bus to Linwood and back, from the Mount Forest Sports Complex at 850 Princess St at 8:45 am, and also stopping at Liquidation World parking lot on Hwy 6 in Arthur at about 9:15 am. Please call us if you are planning to be picked up so we can let the driver know.

1-800-663-2941

Pain-free procedures are possible

Pain management is an emerging issue in the livestock industry with increased concerns about Animal welfare by a variety of parties including activists, food companies, consumers, and producers.

It is a must to perform procedures like dehorning, tattooing and castrating humanely. These activities are a necessary part of dairy calf and heifer rearing as well as beef calf raising, but there are methods that can be used to make these jobs as pain-free and stress-free as possible for the animals.

The following are considerations to remember when performing potentially painful procedures:

1. Physiological indicators of pain; elevated respiratory and heart rates.
2. Behavioral indicators of pain; vocalization (grunting or bellowing), abnormal standing posture, teeth grinding, tail swishing, a change in facial expressions, kicking or stamping of feet, restlessness, limping, reluctance to move, head turning, decreased appetite, body weight or milk production, and depression. Since cattle are prey animals, they hide their pain in order to not be perceived as weak and become a predator's next meal.
3. Prevention of secondary diseases;
4. Production considerations; depressed weight gain

Methods of controlling pain include:

- Sedation
- General anesthesia
- Local anesthesia; and
- Pre- and post-operative administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

Stressors (items, actions or circumstance which forces an animal to adapt)

Many stressors are the result of management decisions. Stressors can be individually too large and occur too close to each other. Better management has the potential to reduce the degree of stresses and spread them out over time.

Why is Stress desirable? Absolutely critical for survival in life-threatening situations.

Why is stress undesirable? Stress results in the production of cortisol. Five of the main effects of cortisol are: (1) blood pressure increases; (2) strength of heart muscle contraction increases; (3) blood is diverted from peripheral organs to vital ones; (4) blood sugar goes up and sugar used by body cells goes down; and (5) acute reactions of tissue cells to trauma and/or toxins is prevented or inhibited.

The downside to cortisol is that it decreases the body defense mechanisms and results in the body turning off the immune system defenses in an attempt to survive crisis situations. This may increase short-term survival but on the other hand, can result in an overwhelming infection and death. Reducing stresses and spreading them out are critical to reducing illness.

Environment: Overcrowded resting areas, too little bunk space, inadequate bedding and poor air quality all add to stressful conditions for cattle.

Pathogen load in the calving area: The cleaner the calving area, the lower the chances of adult cow manure getting into a newborn's mouth.

Adequate nutrition: All calves should have enough to eat to meet not only their maintenance needs but also to grow. If dry matter intake from milk, milk replacer and/or calf starter grain falls below maintenance levels, the calf is under a lot of stress. Most often, this occurs in below-freezing weather.

Transportation: Loading calves on and off a stock trailer is a stressful event. We need to plan housing to minimize the number of these events.

Weaning calves: Weaning-induced stress may result in cortisol release for as long as a week. Look for reduced rates of gain for the week post-weaning. Alternatively, we may see pneumonia in calves five to seven days after weaning.

Housing: Just moving from individual to group housing is stressful. This change may be separated from a move to a new barn by having pens that convert from individual to group size. In addition, every subsequent group change will add stress among transitioning dry cows and heifers.

Management protocols: Dehorning and vaccinating both add more stresses, although for a relatively short time.

Multiple stressors: Alone, each of the listed stressors is a threat to calf health and growth. When stressful events happen at the same time, the risk is multiplied for respiratory illness and lower growth rates.