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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

CLINICS CLOSED AND NO DELIVERY SERVICE MARCH 29 -GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

Notice: 8TH Annual Waterloo Wellington Beef Barn Tour Wednesday April 10th

Meet at 11:00 am for tour and lunch at the farm of Brian and Nancy Martin 2319 Floradale Road. Tour two more barns in the afternoon. For more information call - Melvin Steckle 519-338-5381, Arnie Martin 519-589-4127 or Maynard Martin 519-669-0048

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, Johne's Program Co-ordinator. Email johnes@uoquelp.ca or Phone 226-979-1664.

Highlights from February Dairy Producer Meeting- Mastitis and SCC

- Dr. Ann Godkin (OMAFRA) gave an overview of somatic cell count (SCC) trends in Ontario and the impact lowering the penalty for high SCC from 500,000 to 400,000 has had on producers
- Dr. Melodie Chan (Zoetis) and Dr. Jodi Wallace (Pfizer) presented practical tips for lowering bulk tank somatic cell count, and dealt with many good questions by producers in attendance
- They focused on 4 main categories: 1) Monitoring 2) Prevention 3) Diagnostics 4) Treatment

MONITORING- very important to record **all** cases of mastitis. Complete records are a MUST. A good goal is to aim for < 5% incidence rate of new intramammary infections and <8% incidence rate of chronic or recurring intramammary infections.

PREVENTION- this is really the key to lowering bulk tank somatic cell count. We don't want to treat mastitis, we want to **prevent** it from happening in the first place.

- Proper udder preparation is very important:

- 1) Forestrip, then pre-dip (iodine-based predips do a good job but they must be allowed to remain on the teats for 30 seconds).

-fore-stripping is a very important way to detect early cases of mastitis, and helps to provide the necessary stimulation to allow for oxytocin let-down of milk

- 2) After a 30 second lag time, wipe the teats dry and apply the milking unit. Your goal should be to have a 60-90 second lag time between preparation of the teat and application of the milker. (a lag time of < 2.5 min is acceptable)
- 3) Wash hands and wear nitrile gloves
- 4) Be sure that you are not OVER-milking your cows- watch for "blown out" teat ends. A good goal is to have >80% of teat ends smooth. Teat ends that are irregular or blown-out are not effective barriers against invasion of the quarter by bacteria.
- 5) Use suitable dry-cow therapy and a teat sealant product at the time of dry-off to help protect those teat ends that are not capable of forming a suitable natural plug.
- 6) The environment should be kept as clean and dry as possible- try to eliminate the environment challenge by bedding well and keeping udders and feet and legs clean.

DIAGNOSTICS

- Some cows are not good candidates for mastitis treatment (eg. Cows with yeast/algae infections, chronic staph aureus cows, etc)
- We don't know what bacteria or micro-organisms are creating problems in herds unless we culture milk samples. This can be very helpful in making treatment decisions.
- Linwood Veterinary Clinic will be culturing milk samples in-house – watch the newsletters for announcement of lab opening- our objective is to provide more useful turn around time on results for meaningful decision making.
- It is a good idea to take a sample of clinical cases of mastitis before treatment and freeze these samples. They can be sent for culture if needed.

TREATMENT

- When it finally comes down to having to treat a cow, there are a number of products licensed for use in lactating cattle (eg. Special Formula, Spectramast LC, Pirsue, Cefa-lak)
- To determine which treatment will work most effectively, milk culture and sensitivity results are very useful.
- Ask your veterinarian for advice on the best protocols. Some products may have to be used for an extended period of time and you will require a veterinary script for any off-label antibiotic treatment.

TAKE HOME- good monitoring and preventative steps are key when it comes to reducing bulk tank somatic cell count. Use diagnostics such as milk culturing to help with decisions on treatment where necessary.

COM Update

All producers must check when they are due for their CQM validation since there is potentially a substantial amount of preparation to becoming validated. Please ensure that you begin keeping treatment records, recording TTR alarms and maintain Corrective Actions Plans and Corrections for **at least 3 months** prior to your planned validation date since these are **mandatory**. Producers can work on the following items prior to their First Advisor meeting. They can complete and **submit (*)** these to their Advisor prior to setting up the follow-up Advisor visit.

1. **Producer's SOPs***: Can be completed on DFOs website.
If no internet access, then request a **SOP check off form*** from your Advisor and your SOPs will be entered online at the Vet clinic. Get a **password*** for the Advisor by calling the Help Line at (905) 821-8970.
2. **Producer's CAPs***: Can be submitted to the Advisor (template available).
3. **Treatment Records***: Record #10, sample to evaluate proper procedure
4. Animal Identification: Producer must ensure all animals have proper ID.
5. **Chemicals/Medicines List***: Record #9, Advisor to approve the items.
6. **Treatment Protocols***: For the advisor to generate extra-label scripts.
7. Completed Equipment Sanitization chart: Record #13.
8. Cleaning and Sanitization chart: This is record #14, to be completed by a qualified Dairy Equipment technician.
9. Annual Wash System Analysis: Record #14b, also by the technician.
10. Annual Water record: Usually provided by DFO yearly by mail or can be accessed when SOPs are completed on-line.

Your Advisor will review the information and then the "Advisor On-Farm Evaluation Checklist" can be completed at the follow up visit with the Advisor.

Once these are completed then you may send a request to DFO to be validated.

Once Validated please send Self-validations into DFO in a timely fashion and update any drug list, SOP, CAP changes and renew scripts with your Herd Health Vet.