



DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. ANDREW MACLEOD  
DR. JOHN TOKARZ DR. KELLY HAEZLE DR. IAN BISHOP

3860 Manser Road, Linwood, Ontario N0B 2A0 (519) 698-2610  
1-800-663-2941 Fax (519) 698-2081  
[linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca](mailto:linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca)

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

## JUNE 2012 NEWSLETTER

### *June is National Dairy Month*

#### Clinic News

Holidays- Please note that there will be no delivery services available on **July 2**, or **August 6<sup>th</sup>** observing the Canada Day and Civic Holidays and the Linwood clinic will be open till noon only, on those days. Your veterinarians will be on call for any emergency needs.

### **Mastitis culturing programs reduce antibiotic use**

A new multi-herd clinical trial published in the September 2011 *Journal of Dairy Science* confirms that mastitis culturing programs work to aid in strategic treatment decisions for cows with clinical mastitis. A total of 422 cows in the USA and Canada affected with mild or moderate clinical mastitis in 449 quarters were in the study.

In the control group, quarters received immediate on-label intramammary treatment with cephalosporin sodium. Quarters in the mastitis culture program were cultured and treated with cephalosporin sodium after 18 to 24 hours of incubation if they had gram-positive growth or a mixed infection. Quarters with gram-negative results or no growth did not receive intramammary therapy.

Results indicated that the use of a mastitis culture program to guide the strategic treatment of clinical mastitis reduced intramammary antibiotic use by half and tended to decrease milk withholding time by one day without significant differences in days to a clinical cure, bacteriological cure risk, new intramammary infection risk and treatment failure risk 21 days after the clinical mastitis event.

Linwood Veterinary Services is in the process of developing an in-clinic mastitis culturing lab to provide timely mastitis treatment information with the goal of improving treatment efficacy. This should improve treatment outcomes and positively affect Somatic Cell Count with a reduced amount of antibiotics used. This reduction in antibiotic use will decrease the risk of bulk tank inhibitor residues.

## Pasture cattle parasites

Traditional parasite control in cow herds has often been done as a convenient addition to other reasons for processing through the chute early in the summer or at weaning in the fall. Producers should move away from this routine of convenient deworming in favor of a more strategic application.

We need to know the cycle of parasite infestation, environmental conditions specific to the farm along with year-to-year variability in factors affecting internal parasites. Producers should work with their veterinarian to develop a control program.

The goal of strategic control is to prevent heavy infestations. This means stopping adult parasites in the cow from shedding eggs for as long as possible, especially during the early part of the grazing season.

Infective larvae must have warm temperature and moisture, from rain or heavy dew, to leave the manure and swim up the grass. The larvae don't go far; most are found within 10 cm of the manure and less than 5 cm up the grass leaf. This is why close grazing makes the problem worse. The larvae reach infective stage in 14 days or less and live for 60 to 90 days waiting to be swallowed by a cow. Once ingested, they will develop into adults in a few days and begin shedding new eggs in four to six weeks.

The process slows in winter, but the eggs or larvae can survive very well and become infective when it warms up. Numbers build rapidly in the spring with these surviving larvae. During droughts and in hot and dry conditions of July and August, the process is slowed or suspended without moisture.

The first treatment is determined by when grazing begins. Cows will ingest over-wintered larvae in contaminated pastures. After this re-infestation, the **first treatment occurs before new shedding of eggs in four to six weeks after they are placed on pasture**. Even with continued ingestion, it will be another four to six weeks before new eggs are shed after treatment. Hopefully by then, we are into the hot and dry part of the summer **otherwise a second summer treatment may be required**.

A general strategic program for mature cows follows with **another treatment at the beginning of winter**. Deworming at weaning in mid-fall may leave time for the cows to become re-infested. Treating after the first heavy frost gives the herd a better chance of staying parasite-free through the winter.

Many other variables affect this cycle. Review the variables with your veterinarian and plan your strategy.

## Dealing with a common disease in cattle- pinkeye

*Moraxella bovis* is the typical infectious agent for pinkeye, an eye irritation is always necessary for the development of the disease. Eye irritants can be factors such as plant material (unclipped pastures), ultraviolet light (sunlight), face, house and stable flies and dust from bedding or dry pastures.

Flies not only serve as irritants, they also feed on secretions from the eye, thereby serving as a means of transmitting *M. bovis* from infected to non-infected animals. Under experimental conditions, disease transmission is uncommon without the presence of face flies and is common with flies present.

Producers must control possible irritants since relying on vaccinations as the sole means of controlling pinkeye can be a disappointment because there are over 20 strains of the *M. bovis* bacteria and continuous mutation occurs in the bacteria. While vaccines contain the most common strains of *M. bovis*, they offer poor protection and are not recommended at this time.

Early treatment of pinkeye is highly recommended. Not just to increase the chances of clearing up the infection with less complications and scarring, but treatment also serves to decrease the shedding of the bacteria and the risk of transmission to other cattle. Your veterinarian is the best source of information about specific treatments for pinkeye.

Good prevention and early detection can minimize the losses pinkeye can have on your operation