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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

## MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER

### Clinic News

Please note – For the Victoria Day holiday, Monday May 21 offices open 7am - 12 pm and vets are on call for emergencies.

Please plan ahead for your pharmacy needs as there is no delivery service Monday May 21. For single cow milk residue tests please bring in as early as possible or call the office to find out if there is time to run the test.

### Ultrasound used for Pregnancy Detection in Sheep and Goats

Ultrasound (US) optimizes feed costs and allows culling of unproductive animals to save the producer time and money. The cost of US an open ewe or nanny is very low compared to the cost of feeding her when she could have been shipped or rebred. Ewes and does maybe placed into management groups based on the number of fetuses and stage of pregnancy to allow for feeding the proper diet to avoid a malnutrition situations at lambing/kidding.

US can be performed any time after 30 days out to 120 days. If fetal numbers need to be estimated then US should be delayed to 45+ days. Dry off times can be reasonably estimated.

Tips for successful pregnancy management include tracking the date of the ram or buck entry and date of removal. Book your appointment well ahead of time to coincide with the best window for scanning. Do not rely on clinical signs such as no return to estrus, enlarging abdomen and mammary gland development since these are common with false pregnancy. US can also identify abnormal, non-viable pregnancies as well such as mummification or pyometra.

Please call us to talk to Dr. Tokarz, Dr. Haelzle or Brandi, who is a Registered Veterinary Technician, about your herd needs, the best time to scan, how long it takes, and what protocol to use. You will need to be on hand to catch the animals and record results as the technician scans.

Remember, “Pregnancy diagnosis is a veterinary procedure and can only be performed by a licensed veterinarian or a qualified technician under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.” It is important to have the proper personal to get the most accurate information to use for successful small ruminant pregnancy management.

### Canadian cow is the all-time dairy queen

The Guinness World Records has confirmed that a Canadian cow has broken the record for lifetime milk production.

Gillette Emperor Smurf has produced 478,163 pounds of milk over 15 years. “That’s the equivalent of more than one million glasses of milk,” notes her owner, Eric Patenaude, of Embrun, Ontario, Canada.

The previous record was set in 2006 by a Michigan cow, Tacoma Mark My-Word, which was credited with 471,900 pounds of milk.

# Fifteen Ways to Reduce Somatic Cell Counts

1. Keep cows clean and dry at all times. This assures clean teat surfaces and prevents bacteria from entering the teat end.
2. Seek assistance from a qualified dairy professional (veterinarian, milk plant field rep, milk equipment dealer, Extension educator).
3. Do individual cow SCC tests monthly to help identify herd trends and pinpoint the infected cows.
4. Run a monthly bulk tank culture through a reliable laboratory to find out what kinds of bacteria are causing mammary infections.
5. If bulk tank culture results show a high level of contagious mastitis pathogens (staph aureus, strep ag, or mycoplasma), identify infected cows by individual cow culturing. Reduce cow-to-cow spread and remove the high SCC quarters from the milk supply.
6. If bulk tank culture results show high levels of environmental pathogens (non-ag streps, coliforms, or staph species), improve bedding management and pre-milking cow prep. Replace ALL organic bedding in EVERY stall weekly with clean bedding. Every day, replace the bedding in the back half of the stall with fresh, clean bedding. If you use sand bedding, add fresh, clean sand at least once per week. Keep stalls leveled and remove soiled sand daily.
7. Improve consistency in milking procedures. Include a pre- and post-milking teat dip, 10 to 20 seconds of cleaning, at least 30 seconds of contact time for the teat dip, and a thorough teat end wiping before attaching the milking unit. Plan routine to achieve 60-120 second prep-lag time.
8. Include forestrip during cow prep to identify high SCC quarters and keep milk from those quarters out of the bulk tank.
9. Cull chronically high SCC cows that do not respond to therapy.
10. Treat ALL quarters of ALL cows at dry off with an approved dry cow intramammary tube.
11. Consider using a dry cow teat sealer.
12. Provide dry cows with adequate space, ventilation and clean bedding. (Minnesota DHIA records indicate that an average of 35% of cows and heifers calve with high SCCs.)
13. Keep cows as cool and comfortable as possible during hot weather.
14. Control flies.
15. Maintain milking equipment in good working order. Develop a routine performance check and maintenance program. Replace rubber parts at recommended intervals. Be sure system cleaning is done consistently and properly.

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