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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

OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News: Note that there will be no delivery service Monday, October 14th, on the Thanksgiving holiday. Clinics will be open in the morning and vets on call for emergency services.

Health Calf Fundamentals

Important factors in promoting healthier calves:

1. **Colostrum – This is the number one factor for a reason.** It is possible to measure IgG levels to ensure that calves are fed at least 150 grams of IgG in the first 24 hours of life. A good rule of thumb is 3-4 litres within 4 hours of birth and repeat in 8-12 hours with another 2 litres. Calves should receive a minimum of 10% of their bodyweight in colostrum within the first 4 hours of life. Levels can be further boosted with products like First Defense or Head Start Pouches. Newborn calves must rely on the immune protection they receive from colostrum until their own immune system starts to function at around 6 weeks of age. The longer you wait, the less IgG the calf is able to absorb and, the more susceptible it is to disease.
2. **Disease exposure** – Try to limit or prevent the introduction of disease pathogens to calves via feeding equipment (Use Bleach in 130°F wash water for manually scrubbing calf milk feeding equipment, 200 parts per million (ppm) is recommended. This is based on an approximate exposure time of 10 seconds. Two to three ounces of household bleach in five gallons of water will come close to this concentration. If you wish to soak some equipment after it has been washed then use a 2,000 ppm solution in hot water for at least one hour. A quick pre-feeding rinse with a 50 ppm solution can cut bacteria regrowth populations to one-tenth their original level. [50 ppm = 1 ounce in 5 gallons; 2,000 ppm = between 2 and 3 cups bleach in 5 gallons). Monitor pests which can come in to contact with calves. Ensure that the personnel who care for the calves must be aware not to spread illness.
3. **Respiratory Disease Treatment**, therapy Protocols must be developed with a Veterinarian and be in writing. Calves resist respiratory infection more effectively if they have been vaccinated. Poor air quality can overwhelm respiratory defenses to increase the risk of calf respiratory disease
4. **Calf housing** – Limiting pathogen exposure within the calves' environment is best do by placing them in clean, dry, disinfected and well/properly ventilated housing or if in hutches they need to be placed on top of gravel to enable drainage under the bedding. Must provide clean food and water. Remember that humidity makes calves damp and sick.
5. **Maternity area** – Provide clean, dry calving areas with one cow per calving pen if possible. Get newborns out of the maternity area and into a clean hutch or pen as soon as possible.
6. **Dedication**—Calves must be a priority for everyone on the farm who are involved in their care. Every person must take responsibility for his or her respective impact on the lives of calves

7. **Comfort and Welfare** -Excellent calf and heifer management is essential for any dairy. Everything you do, from colostrum to calving, affects the health of your heifers, along with the bottom line of your business. Calf and heifer management is time-consuming and expensive, and there's only a small window of opportunity to get it right. That's why it's vital to do the right things to minimize disease and promote overall calf and heifer wellness.

Take home message:

The two most important practices related to calf rearing which impact future milk production are:

- 1) Calf health, especially respiratory health.
- 2) Total dry matter intake around the time of weaning.

This is why if you have any concerns regarding Calf Health please do not hesitate to ask your herd veterinarian to help develop programs and protocols to maximize your calf's future potential.

Is Automated Calf Feeding Right For Your Operation?

In recent years automated feeding for calves has become mainstream technology and a popular option for many dairy farms. The pros, cons and how an automated calf feeder will fit into your operation should be taken into careful consideration.

One of the great benefits of automated calf feeding is the ability to offer calves multiple small meals per day much as nature intended, this can lead to improved calf growth and well being. The volume of milk consumed and step down weaning are also fully programmable. Most automated feeders mix milk replacer as the calf enters the feeding station resulting in fresh feed available at all times. Another advantage is the data on each individual calf's drinking frequency, amount and speed that can be collected with the newer automated feeders. This data is a great aid in helping to pick out sick calves early and administer proper treatment.

Installing an automated calf feeder on your farm is not a licence to ignore your calves. It is extremely important to make time twice a day to walk through the calf pens and visually inspect the calves. It is also important to ensure calves are housed in a clean calf pen, with adequate bedding and proper ventilation. As always nothing can make up for proper colostrum management, all calves need 4 L of colostrum within the first 6 hours of birth to help set them up for proper growth and health.

Overall, automated calf feeders are a great technology, which with proper management and housing setup can aid in decreased calf mortality and increased calf growth.

Kyle's' Korner

Incoming calves require special care and consideration when placing into feedlot situations. Think about what has to be done and remember that we at Linwood can be more than helpful to accomplish your goals. The following is a list of items to guide you in prioritizing what you need to have done to your calves.

- Castrate/Dehorn
- Vaccinate
- Implants
- Deworm
- Preventative Antibiotics
- Temping and treatment
- Monitoring the group health

Coming soon will be the options to record animal ID and weights on a scale. This will give you more information on weight gain and feed efficiency when animals are re-implanted or just re-weighted.

Please direct questions you might have regarding what procedures or products to use on your calves to one of the Linwood veterinarians. Also, there are also a couple of pharmaceutical company sponsored feedlot incentives available.