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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.

Linwood Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Sat 7am – 12pm **Hwy 89 Clinic:** Mon-Sat 7am-1 pm

NOTE: BOTH CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY

Orders for Delivery: Please call BEFORE 9:30 am for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service call any clinic number 1-800-663-2941 519-698-2610 519-323-9002

June 2017 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Monday July 3, there will be no delivery service on Canada's 150th birthday. Both clinics will be open in the morning. Veterinarians will be on call for emergency services.

Record Keeping- It Is Actually important!

Record keeping isn't just something you do because CQM requires it or because you need to keep track of meat withdrawals in your beef animals. Keeping accurate, easy to understand records with the appropriate information is key to moving your herd forward. Without records, it is hard to have a true understand of disease incidence, milk production, scc, average daily gains and general trends on your farm.

Dairy Record Keeping

There are many options for recording records on your dairy farm. The gold standard if you have a computer is Dairy Comp 305 or Scout. Other options include any of the milking equipment software systems. The best option for paper records is the DHI book. From the perspective of a Veterinarian complete Dairy Comp or DHI records are the best for analyzing herd trends and helping you improve your bottom line. Complete Dairy Comp or DHI records aren't just milk production, SCC, calving dates and reproduction. Don't forget about recording treatment records, cases of clinical mastitis, foot health incidents, deaths and culls (include a reason). You can ask your DHI milk tester to records sickness events and treatments into your DHI file at each herd visit.

Information to record for dairy operations:

- Calving information (birth weight, sex, sire information, premise ID, calving ease, calf vigour)
- Disease incidence
- Treatments
- Deaths & culls (include a reason)
- Mastitis
- Foot Health
- Other information- cow vigour, milking speed, attitude
- SCC, milk production, milk fat and protein should all be automatically recording through milking systems or DHI

- Reproductive information (breedings, ovsynch vs PGF vs natural heats)
- Weaning weights, weights and heights later on in life
- Vaccinations
- Feed fed, feed refusals

All the above information allows your Veterinarian to analyze trends, pick out areas where improvements can be made and also show you areas you are excelling at. We can help you make management decisions to improve your overall herd such as mastitis protocols, vaccination protocols, calf health recommendations, nutritional recommendations, reproduction efficiencies, which cows to keep for future lactations and many other things. For example, analyzing somatic cell data for one of our herds pinpointed a problem in the dry cow period. From this we changed the dry cow protocol, improved the cleanliness and stocking density in the pen and have seen a significant drop in herd SCC since implementing changes. Keeping an eye of trends like those allows us to find problems before they become major issues.

Beef Record Keeping

There are many options for recording records for your beef cattle. Some options to consider would be Cattlemax or an Excel Spreadsheet. If computers aren't your thing you can record all the necessary information on paper- it is just a little harder to analyze the information for trends.

Information to record on the feedlot side of things includes:

- Arrival weights, location of origin
- Processing done, when and what (implants, vaccinations, metaphylactic antibiotics)
- Health data- treatments, diseases, lab results, post mortem results, deaths
- Shipping weights
- Weekly weights or monthly weights of animals on feed.
- Feed costs
- Feed consumed, feed refusals

All this data can be of significant help in analyzing profitability and protocols and making changes to increase efficiency and profitability. For example, we can figure out pneumonia treatment incidence, success of treatment and the cause of the pneumonia. This way we can change treatment and vaccine protocols or look at stocking density, ventilation or other risk factors for pneumonia. Other information we can use would be feed intakes and weights to calculate average daily gains and look at cost of gains and feed efficiencies as feed is the greatest cost to raising cattle.

Information to record for cow-calf operation:

- Birth information- birth weight, vigour, calving ease
- Morbidity, mortality (sickness and death)
- Treatments given
- Overall health and vigour of calves and cattle
- Open vs pregnant
- Foot and udder health of cows
- Cow BCS (at weaning, at pregnancy checking, before calving)
- Weaning weights of calves
- Amount of feed fed (so you can have a good idea of feed costs)

This data for the cow-calf operation allows you to calculate ADG of calves, and subsequently can pin point your best and your worst cows. Morbidity and mortality allows you to compare your calf health from year to year and can drive vaccination and treatment protocols. Feed efficiency and ultimately your cost of production is important- you should know what it costs to raise a calf. Cow health (BCS, lameness, udder health) are important parameters to help with deciding which cows should be culled while still in good shape.