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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.

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Closed Saturday
Linwood Hours Mon-Fri 8am-5pm & Sat 8am-12pm
Hwy 89 Clinic: Mon-Sat 7am-1 pm

NOTE: BOTH CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
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

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Clinics will be **closed April 19th** to observe Good Friday and there will be no delivery service. Emergency vet services are always available.

We are now serving you from three locations!

- **St. Clements Open Mon-Fri -7am – 5pm Closed Saturday**
- **Linwood (at 3836 Manser Rd. next to the old clinic) Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Saturday 8am-12pm**
- **Mount Forest -Open Mon -Saturday 7am to 1pm**

Bovikalc® Boehringer Ingelheim is offering a \$40 prepaid Mastercard for each case of 24 Bovikalc® boluses purchased between March 1, 2019 and April 30, 2019 for up to 4 cases per farm. Proof of purchase and redemption code (6842) must be submitted by May 31, 2019 at bovikalc.ca

KETOSIS

One of the top things that we see that can cause issues for fresh dairy cows is ketosis. Ketosis can have huge economic impacts. According to data from Cornell University, it can cost \$250-375 USD due to milk loss, reproductive loss, death, labour costs, surgery, treatment costs, and involuntary culling. So, it's important to understand ketosis, and find ways to prevent it in your herd.

What is ketosis and what causes it?

By definition, ketosis is increased ketones in the blood. Ketones are a byproduct made when fat is broken down to be used as energy. There is a buildup of ketones in the blood when energy demands are not being met by the nutrient intakes. Since a dairy cow at the beginning of her lactation has such high energy demands, this is a prime time for ketosis issues.

What are risk factors for ketosis?

There are several factors that can make a cow more prone to getting ketosis.

- Overcrowding
- Overweight or underweight cows
- A long dry period
- 2 year olds
- Other fresh cow problems – dystocia, milk fever, metritis/RP, mastitis, lameness, etc.

How can we tell a cow is ketotic and how do we treat it?

The clinical signs associated with ketosis are as follows:

- Decreased appetite/preference for forage
- Increased ketones
- Harder manure
- Decreased milk production
- Dull hair coat
- Weight loss

We can test for ketones in three ways. The most accurate way is with a blood BHBA monitor. This is a little more expensive than the others but is the best way to monitor ketosis levels in your herd if you are suspecting issues. Ketones are expressed in cow's urine and milk, so these are the other two ways you can test for ketones.

To treat ketosis, we need to correct the negative energy balance. We do this by giving glycol, dextrose, and increasing the cow's dry matter intake. We might also pump the cow with "fresh cow pick-up". If there is a lot of issues with ketosis, the energy in the ration might need to be increased. If we don't successfully treat the ketosis, a cow is prone to further issues. Cows with untreated ketosis will often get a displaced stomach, or it can eventually lead to fatty liver.

Most importantly, how can we prevent ketosis?

As with most things, prevention is extremely important. Here are some key ways to prevent ketosis in your herd. They focus on keeping feed intakes high and minimizing risk factors that predispose cattle to ketosis.

- Raise well grown heifers with a BCS of less than 3.5
- Keep stocking density at 100% or less
- Feed a good quality, energy dense feed that prevents sorting and is pushed up/offered often
- Decrease stress and increase cow comfort
- Provide heat abatement and proper ventilation
- Prevent other fresh cow diseases
- Provide a transition diet to "ramp up" cows to lactating diet