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Welcome to Spring!

The snow has disappeared, the sun feels warm again, and it's reasonable to go outside wearing a t-shirt. Things are starting to grow and it feels like a fresh start to a new year of growth and opportunity. I hope that this newsletter finds you all in good spirits as we emerge from winter hibernation.



I don't know about you, but one thing I've missed over the past year has been going to all-you-can-eat buffets. So, here's a smorgasbord of cow topics to fill you up and hold you over until we can go to those food buffets once again. I've included 3 short topics: diarrhea in adult cows, dry cow drug options, and some udderly entertaining cow jokes.

Diarrhea in Adult Cows

A lot of attention gets paid to scours or diarrhea in calves. For good reason, the loss of fluids can be fatal in young stock and they require supportive care. However, diarrhea in adult cows can sometimes be overlooked. It can be a sign of an underlying health problem for an individual cow, it can affect herd production or, in some cases, calcium loss and down-cows. Diarrhea in adult cows is often broken down into two broad categories: Nutritional causes and Infectious/Inflammatory causes.

Nutritional Causes:

- Grain overload: accidental grain feeding, ration sorting, or slug feeding
- Forage consistency and quality (DM, mouldy, balayage vs. haylage)
- Trace mineral (oversupply or deficiency)
- Water availability and quality (cistern/troughs, bacterial/coliform counts)
- Toxin/Poisoning (toxic plant or chemical)

Infectious/Inflammation Causes:

- Winter Dysentery (bovine coronavirus)
- Johnes (paratuberculosis)
- Salmonella
- Parasites (pastured animals, typically younger animals)
- Peritonitis or Heart Failure (hardware)
- Toxemia/Septicemia (mastitis, metritis, peritonitis)
- Abomasal Ulcers

If you identify an adult cow diarrhea problem in your herd, consult with our veterinarians to identify an appropriate testing and treatment plan.

Dry cow Treatment Drug Options

In our December 2020 newsletter we put a spotlight on the Selective Dry Cow Antibiotic Therapy program. Whether you've decided to try this new program in consultation with your herd vet or you are sticking with the conventional blanket dry-cow treatment plan, you still need some combination of dry cow antibiotics and teat sealants. This month we will touch on a summary of the dry cow drug options. This is especially relevant because in the past year there have been supply chain disruptions with many of our regular options going on and off back-order. The changes in product availability can be frustrating and difficult to keep up with for producers and veterinarians alike. If you've been "moo"-ved to a different product than you're used to, hopefully this helps explain some of the specific differences.

Drug (Availability as of April 1)	Milk withdrawal	Meat WD	Comments
Cefa-dri (available)	30 days after infusion 84 hours after calving	42 days	Longest duration of withdrawal post-calving Peanut oil gel - allergen alert
Dry-clox (May 2021)	30 days after infusion	30 days	Milk withdrawal only if dry period <30 days
Novodry Plus (unknown)	30 days after infusion 72 hours after calving	35 days	Medium duration of withdrawal post-calving
Spectramast DC (unknown)	30 days after infusion	5 days	Category I antibiotic - very high importance in human medicine, reserve use only for when other products are unavailable. Milk withdrawal only if dry period <30 days
Orbeseal (available)	0 hrs	0 days	Teat sealant (not an antibiotic) White paste, first on the market
Lockout (available)	0 hrs	0 days	Teat sealant (not an antibiotic) Blue paste, short tube for small hands

Vet-Prescribed Dose of Laughter To Help You Stay Healthy (You don't want us to have to check your temperature too!)

- Why do cows have hooves instead of feet? – Because they lactose.
- How do you count cows? – With a cowculator.
- What did the cow say to her calf? – It's pasture bed time.
- What do you call a cow that just gave birth? – De-calf-inated.

Enjoy the Sunshine!
John Thaler, DVM





LISTOWEL
#8451 Road 164
Listowel, ON N4W 3G6
1.800.565.2047
T 519.291.2060
F 519.418.2065
E ldclinic@heartlandvets.ca

MOUNT FOREST
322 Main Street, N.
Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L2
1.877.523.4422
T 519.323.4422
F 519.323.4334
E mfclinic@heartlandvets.ca

Upcoming stat holidays

The clinic will be closed Easter Weekend, April 2-4, and Victoria Day Weekend, May 22-24. As always, veterinarians will be available 24-7 for emergency service. The Saturday fee schedule will remain unchanged from non-stat weekends.

Covid-19 protocols

With the increasing presence of Covid-19 in our area, our team is taking additional precautions during our farm visits, as highlighted below, to help mitigate the spread of this disease in our community. Please be aware that as this pandemic develops, we may have to adjust our procedures in response.

Veterinary farm visits

- Once on farm, we will try to maintain a distance of at least six feet from people wherever practically possible
- Care will be taken to wash and disinfect hands and contacted tools and equipment before re-entering our vehicle
- A mask will be worn whenever practically possible, especially in closed air spaces or when physical distancing is not possible. We would like our clients to do the same while we are on farm.

Technician farm visits

- Techs will continue to assist veterinarians as necessary. The same precautions as above will apply
- Technicians will continue to provide services, such as dehorning, but we ask that no farm personnel are in the immediate vicinity during their visit

Clinic procedures

- Our clinic will remain open, but business hours may be subject to change
- Clients will be met at the door by one of our customer care representatives
- Purchases will be set out at the door
- Laboratory samples will be received at the door

If you have experienced any Covid-like symptoms or have had exposure to someone with symptoms, we urge you to please notify us before your next vet visit so we can take the appropriate precautions.

We thank you for assistance in helping us continue to provide veterinary care while considering the health of yourselves and our staff.

Stay healthy!

