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Environmental Mastitis - Are you doing all you can to control it?

- Do you tend to see a spike in SCC in the summer months? Or perhaps get more clinical cases of mastitis? If so, now is a perfect time to implement a mastitis vaccination program on your farm. With warm weather, humidity, heat stress and the pasturing of cattle fast approaching, we begin to anticipate an increase in environmental mastitis issues on some farms. We have a variety of vaccine products available to help in the control of Gram negative bacteria like E. coli and Klebsiella, as well as Staph. aureus and Coagulase Negative Staph or CNS. Cost to vaccinate on a per cow basis ranges between \$10-20 depending on which product is used. Products include: J-Vac, Enviracor, Vetovax and TopVac. Generally speaking, if you can save the life of one cow and/or reduce the severity of disease (ie milk loss) on multiple cows, it is a wise financial investment. Talk to your herd veterinarian about the options available and which product might be right for you.
- Not sure what type of mastitis it is that you are dealing with? Don't forget about our in-clinic milk lab where we can help you to identify the main bacteria you are dealing with within 48 hours and come up with farm specific treatment protocols.



proAction Update

proAction

- The roll out of the next module of proAction, Environmental Sustainability, is coming this September. The requirements include: having a valid (within the last 10 years) Environmental Farm Plan (EFP); having completed a self questionnaire; having appropriate management for waste water and manure storage and finally; making optimal use of fertilizer and nutrients on your land. If you have not completed an Environmental Farm Plan, you will need to participate in a 2 day workshop with Ontario Soil and Crop (no cost) prior to your validation date. Unfortunately COVID has interfered with the scheduling of these courses and how DFO/Lactanet will approach validating this requirement may need to be adjusted to accommodate these issues. We will keep you posted on this!
- Beginning September 1st 2021, the requirement to report Traceability data to the National Database (DairyTrace) will also come into effect. This means that you will need to set up your DairyTrace account either on-line or by phone and begin submitting traceability events such as births, move-ins and tag retirements as they occur.
- Many have asked if you are still allowed to use the "yellow button tags" for animals destined for the beef industry. YES! :) You can continue to use these tags until September 1st, 2023. It is recommended that

DairyTrace



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you order the new WHITE button tags from NLID at Holstein Canada (where you get your double tag sets currently) the next time you need to purchase them.

- **Reminder! Beginning in June, Lactanet will be taking over responsibility for performing proAction farm validations. Your DFO Field Rep will continue to do the Grade A inspections and be available to help you with issues surrounding milk quality and quota. Since all validations were pushed back 3 months, we want to remind you to keep your paperwork up to date (especially your animal health declaration as it is a Grade A requirement) and contact us well in advance of either your proAction self-declaration or on-farm validation if you want to review the requirements or require any assistance in getting ready.**



Attention Beekeepers!



- Heartland now offers bee vet services! Both Chantal and Kelly are able to create an annual vet-client-"hive"-relationship by gathering information from you over the phone and your bees happy and healthy by prescribing antibiotics for the prevention of Foul Brood. No farm visit is required for this service. Anyone who owns bees should have registered and obtained a certificate from OMAFRA indicating your Beekeeper ID. We will be requesting this information from you when we set up your hive account. For more information about how to register your hives, please visit <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/bees/apicultu.html>

Kelly Barratt DVM

Upcoming stat holidays

The clinic will be closed 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.



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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!

