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# JANUARY 2020 DAIRY NEWSLETTER

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### **\*\*\*\*NEW – Clinic Reception Hours\*\*\*\***

Previously our phones at the clinic were turned over from the answering service to the clinic reception at 8:00am and turned back to the answering service at 6:00pm.

Started January 2<sup>nd</sup>, the clinic reception will now be answering the phone in the morning starting at **7:45am**. We hope this will be a more convenient time for our clients to call in cows that are off feed or any other non-emergency farm visits. Having the calls come in early in the day, even if you can only be there for a specific time, allows us to organize and arrive at your farm in a timely and efficient manner.

In the evening, the phone will still be turned over to the service at 6:00pm however we urge you to call in as early in the day as possible for non-emergent cases. *Reminder, there is an increased Call Fee for calls that come in later than 10:00am and are non-emergent.*

As always, for true emergency cases please call at anytime regardless of clinic hours.

Please note, the clinic doors still open at 8:00am, so if you are coming in to pick up medication you are welcome to do so between 8:00am and 6:00pm.

### **\*\*\*\*Corona Virus and Calf Sniffles\*\*\*\***

This winter is on pace for one of the warmer and wetter in recent memory and with that comes respiratory pressure in the barns. It has been very interesting to witness the outbreak in the human herd of the novel coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) originating in Wuhan China. This outbreak is reminiscent of the SARS-CoV outbreak in 2003 which was also a coronavirus. As primary agricultural producers it serves as a good reminder that zoonotic (disease in animals passed to humans) diseases can cause severe problems to naive individuals either in the infecting agents regular form or if it mutates and increases its ability to cause disease. Corona virus is usually present on dairy farms in young calves as either an agent of diarrhea or a more severe respiratory disease. It



usually causes disease in many animals in the group without a high death loss. Winter dysentery in the lactating herd is also largely thought to be caused by a corona virus and again, infects many with a low number of deaths. There are several different strains of bovine corona virus and they constantly change or mutate to become more or less severe. Because there are so many different types it can be very hard to get a diagnosis and, even when it is found it is not always the main causative agent. A prime example would be an outbreak of Cryptosporidium in milk fed calves. Both Rotavirus and Corona virus can be part of the disease process and control of each is included in the management of recovery from the outbreak.

With all the attention to Corona it is still important to note that the most common diagnosis from Animal Health Laboratory in respiratory outbreaks on Ontario farms has still been BRSV (Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus) and the bacteria *Manheimia Hemolytica*. Both these agents can cause severe respiratory outbreaks and both can have a very high mortality rate. The good news is that both have excellent vaccines available to aid in the prevention and reduction of severity of disease caused by either. The use of intranasal vaccination has greatly increased our success in preventing these infections, especially when used on very young calves. Along with colostrum from well vaccinated cows, proper hygiene and great air quality we can drastically reduce the threat of respiratory issues in replacements. If you feel your system is sub-par, or even if you feel calves are doing well, a lung ultrasound of weaning aged calves will reveal the truth of respiratory challenges on your farm.

Respiratory disease is the most limiting on performance in young calves and can cause a great deal of expense and frustration for treatment. Review your system now as we approach one of the most difficult times of year with more fluctuating temperatures and humidity!

## **Dairy Producer Meeting**

**\*\*\*\*March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is the date for our Dairy Producer Meeting\*\*\*\***

### **Speakers and Topics Include:**

Dr. Ray Reynen – Inputs Costs on a Dairy – Are there costs we can cut?

Mark Ross and Chelsea Gordon – Challenges and Opportunities in Tough (Cropping) Years

ProAction Update with Dr. Brooke Gilmer – Troubleshooting the Biosecurity Module

Producer Panel – How to attract and Retain Valuable Employees

Plus: What the new CFIA Transport Regulations mean for Dairy Farmers