
DAIRY NEWSLETTER

****NEW** Calf Health Monitoring Program**

Kirkton Vet Clinic is starting a calf health monitoring program to aid in improving the health of the calves in your herd.

It is common on all farms to run into “outbreaks” of disease at certain times. Very often during these outbreak investigations we are told “nothing has changed” and yet inevitably something always has! This is what is called protocol drift, and when it affects calf health the effects can be devastating. Treating sick calves is not only the biggest morale killer on dairy farms, it also costs the producer in terms of treatments, labour and reduced future productivity of those calves. Many studies suggest that calves treated two or more times will not be productive members of the lactating herd.

The goal of our program is to “head off” these outbreaks before they occur. In addition to this, it should also improve the overall health and gain of the calf herd. This in turn will translate into more milk in your tank down the road. There is also the added benefit of getting certain tasks done, dehorning for example, on a regular and timely basis when there are less side effects on the calf.

To participate in this program you do not need to access all of the services listed below. There is a Minimum Package that allows us to collect a usable data set (see below) and then based on discussions with your herd veterinarian you can add on additional services. All collections will be done by our bovine technicians and will be billed at our technician rate.

Cost will be a monthly fee based on estimated time on farm to collect or perform the minimum services. The additional services will be added again on an estimated time to collect. Reports and data analysis are no cost.

Desired Goal:

Improve calf health on dairy farms by systematic monitoring of various calf health parameters. Data will be compiled and monthly trends as well as in-depth quarterly reports will be generated and delivered by the herd health veterinarian.

Program Outline:

A Veterinary Technician will visit the participating farms on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis dependant on herd size. The producer is not obligated to attend the visit with the technician. At the herd visit the technicians are available to perform these procedures:

Minimum Package:

- Collect blood for routine Total Protein/Serum IgG/Colostrum IgG sampling
- Record calf weights (tape or scale) week 1, week 4, weaning, one month post-wean



May 2019

- Umbilical assessment for infection or hernias
- Equipment cleanliness monitoring (luminometer and culture) of feeding equipment and colostrum collection equipment
- Collection of farm data (brix if used, vigour score, treatments)

Additional Services:

- Perform dehorning with all necessary medication administration, ProAction compliant records and extra teat removal
- Lung scoring using Ultrasound for respiratory disease (to be used as a herd level diagnostic and identify chronic calves not needing additional treatments)
- Colostrum and Whole Milk culturing
- Total solids of milk replacer evaluation and monitoring
- Fecal scores

Herd Veterinarian responsibilities: (included in the Minimum Package)

- Provide training for staff on proper dosing, treatments/decision trees, administration and protocol compliance
- Data analysis from farm data and DHI records
- Monthly report of trends brought to the herd health visit
- Quarterly reports describing areas for improvement and discussion with producer on desired goals
- Provide feasible and tangible recommendations for improvement
- Tailoring program and monitoring based on results over time

Producer Responsibilities:

- Record required information either on the provided KVC forms or in the farm software
 - Treatments and diseases treated (required for ProAction) eg diarrhea or pneumonia
 - Colostrum (volume, timing, source, Brix score)
 - Volume of milk fed up to weaning (provide protocol to technician)
 - Inform technician or veterinarian of changes (milk replacer, colostrum, calf starter, etc)
 - Age at weaning
- Make staff available for training on proper techniques (dosing, administration, weighing, etc)
 - To be done at the initial visit with the herd veterinarian and bi-annually thereafter at minimum, or as needed
- Purchase and maintain a weigh scale capable of weighing newborn and calves at weaning (Recommended)
- Implement at least one recommendation per year
- Attend quarterly meeting with herd veterinarian to discuss results and future direction

If you think this program may benefit you or if you have any interest or questions please discuss with your herd veterinarian at your next Herd Health visit!

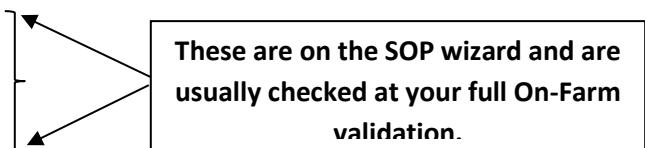


ProAction Biosecurity Update:

Starting this **September (2019)** all farms will need:

1. A **Sign** posted at the main access point stating “Biosecurity” in place. We have included these in the ProAction packages with your prescription renewals
2. A **Hand and boot washing station** (the milkhouse is acceptable) for visitors including service personnel
3. **Visitors need to wear** either:
 - a. Plastic or cloth “overboots” provided by the farm or by themselves (sales-people) →
the farm will need to provide a specific disposal site for these
 - b. Washed and sanitized boots of their own (veterinarians and breeders)
 - c. Rubber Boots provided by the farm

The other Biosecurity requirements are:

4. **Biosecurity RAMP** done during the year of full validation, to be done with your herd veterinarian
 5. **SOPs** for:
 - Vaccinations for the whole herd
 - New Cattle to your herd
 - Returning Cattle to your herd
 - Visitors and biosecurity risks to the herd
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- These are on the SOP wizard and are usually checked at your full On-Farm validation.**

**In class Biosecurity training sessions are running twice per month until November.
All sessions are 1:00 pm upstairs at the St Marys Veterinary Clinic.**

The next sessions are:

June 19th

June 27th

July 18th



May 2019

New, Economical Dairy Tech Pasteurizer – The Matilda!

Meet Matilda, the newest member of Dairy Tech's Perfect Udder herd. She is specifically engineered to maximize the efficiency of our Perfect Udder bags using our proven protocols. At half the price of any competitive product on the market, pasteurizing and warming your colostrum has never been easier or more cost effective.

SHE'S PETITE: A modest 31in x 22in x 25in

SHE'S EASY TO HANDLE: Her easy-to-use touch screen control makes operation simple.

Select your program and she takes care of the rest!

SHE'S A GREAT COMMUNICATOR: Bluetooth connectivity allows you to program from your phone and she delivers system information back the same way.

SHE'S AN EASY KEEPER: Matilda's Self Diagnoses Technology monitors her motor, heating elements and other common issues for notification of repairs or system errors available with remote monitoring from Dairy Tech.

SHE TRAVELS WELL: Matilda ships via ground UPS or FedEx for fast delivery right to the door. Hook her up to water and power and she's ready to go to work for you and your calves.

SHE WORKS HARD: Matilda can process up to 8L of colostrum at a time in Perfect Udder Colostrum Management Bags.

SHE'S AFFORDABLE: Even smaller scale dairies can afford her.

If you are interested in learning more about Matilda, call Mac at the Kirkton Vet Clinic today!