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## SEPTEMBER 2023 DAIRY NEWSLETTER

Fall is upon us! Here are a couple of things to consider as we recover from a wet summer and head into the colder months.

### Feed Changes

As farms are finishing older feed and starting into fresh forages or recently fermented silage, there is opportunity for cows to experience a “fall slump”. Here are a few things to keep an eye out for in your herd:

- Subacute ruminal acidosis: Can present as decreased feed intake, decreased milk production, butterfat depression, drops in body condition score, or loose manure. Most often caused by high levels of fermentable sugars in fresh forages.
- Decreased reproductive performance: Can present as anovular cows, cystic cows, decreased conception/pregnancy rates, or higher rates of early embryonic loss. Most often caused by diets low in starch, low in energy or with inappropriate protein levels.
- Milk fever/hypocalcaemia: Can be caused by dry cow rations high in potassium (high haylage diets).

As you transition through feeds, test dry matter and nutrient content regularly and consult with your nutritionist and veterinarian.

### Temperature Changes

Rapid temperature changes and extreme fluctuations increase the risk of respiratory disease. As we begin to experience the warm days and cool nights of October, we must be diligent about preventing and monitoring for cases of pneumonia. Ensure that barns have sufficient ventilation and low humidity levels, animals are up-to-date on vaccinations, and stocking densities are not above an optimal threshold.

The thermoneutral zone of calves less than one month of age is 10° to 25°C. Young calves have a high surface area to weight ratio resulting in rapid heat dissipation, have very little fat reserves available for energy, and are not yet extensively ruminating and thus producing heat. Therefore, young calves start to suffer from cold stress as temperatures remain below 5°C. How can we prevent cold stress in calves?

- Increase their caloric intake. Increase the amount of milk, frequency of milk feedings or switch to a milk replacer with a higher fat percentage.
- Provide adequate amounts of dry bedding to help keep calves insulated and off the cold ground. Straw is the best choice of bedding to ensure calves can adequately nest to stay warm.
- Consider using calf coats to provide further insulation and a barrier against cold weather or drafts.

Don't wait for the temperatures to drop, have a winter plan in place to transition calves with ease.

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### Note to Clients from Dr. Janna Pietersma:

For the past 5 years I've been so grateful to work alongside one of the most talented group of cow vets, servicing some of the finest dairies in Southwestern Ontario. Through these years, you have all shown me the sacrifice, dedication and hard work required to be successful at Dairy farming. Now, I'm setting off on a new chapter in life, motivated by the many great people and brilliant farming families I've met along the way. Thank you setting such a good example, for the morning chats and laughs, the successful cases and for letting me be a part of your lives. I will miss you all!

Janna Pietersma, DVM

# What's New at KVC?

## GONAbreed® and estroPLAN®

Our veterinary team and purchasing department are constantly striving to provide you with products of the highest quality, best value, and lowest cost. For these reasons, we will no longer be carrying **Bioestrovet** or **Fertiline**. Instead, we will be carrying **estroPLAN®** and **GONAbreed®**. Why change?

- Lower prices
- Canadian company that values the wants and needs of the Canadian producer
- Proven to be equally effective

**GONAbreed®** is a gonadorelin product (a GnRH analogue) that replaces the formerly available **Fertiline**. Please note the important differences between these 2 products:

- Each mL contains 100 µg of gonadorelin
- Sold in 20 mL (20-dose) and 100 mL (100-dose) bottles
- Administer **1 mL** intramuscularly \*\*
- **Unopened bottles must be refrigerated (2-8°C)**. Once opened, can be stored up to 25°C



*\*\*ask about our 1 mL GONAbreed dosing guns. Available while quantities last\*\**

**estroPLAN®** is a cloprostenol product (a PF2α analogue) that replaces the formerly available **Bioestrovet**. There are no differences between these 2 products.

- Each mL contains 250 µg cloprostenol
- Sold in 50 mL (25-dose) and 100 mL (50-dose) bottles
- Administer 2 mL intramuscularly
- Store at room temperature (20-25°C)



## Metacam® 40 mg/mL

We will still be carrying the standard **Metacam® 20 mg/mL**, but we have expanded our inventory to include the NEW **Metacam® 40 mg/mL**.

- Sold in 100 mL bottles
- Each mL contains 40 mg meloxicam (double that of standard **Metacam®**)
- Administer **1.25 mL/100 kg bodyweight** (half the dosage of standard **Metacam®**)
- Price savings per dose between 6% and 33% \*\*  
*\*\*dependent on bottle size*

