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W-S FEED & SUPPLIES LIMITED

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DEWORMING - CAN AFFECT BOTTOM LINE PROFITABILITY

Dewormng needs to happen at the correct time to ensure the greatest economic benefit. While individual deworming programs are best, they're not always practical. For dairy cows, planned treatments in the spring, fall and at freshening can help protect milk production.

Fall deworming-control external parasites that become more active in cooler months

Spring deworming—knock down flies and internal parasites going into summer

Freshening—enable your cows to get the most from their nutrition and maximize production

There are many nematodes (or "worms") that affect the gastronintestinal tract of dairy cattle. Nematode eggs are shed in manure and contaminate the environment. Intestinal parasites typically go through four molts and six stages that take place both in the host (cow or heifer) and the environment (pasture, manure). The nematode's life cycle is influenced by hundreds of factors, including things which cannot be controlled; climate and rainfall; and things you can control; animal and pasture management. Many cattle, especially those on pasture, may have some level of parasitic disease that can't be diagnosed by observation. Despite subclinical signs, the level of infestation may have a negative impact on the animal's feed efficiency, nitrogen balance, weight gain, milk production, etc.

Nematodes find creative ways to live off the animal's energy and protein resources. The result is animals, especially those fed on pasture, that use nutrients less efficiently for milk production, weight maintenance or gain, and other essential functions (disease resistance, breeding, and pregnancy). Certain management practices (drugs, pasture rotations, soil health, etc.) will help to either increase or decrease risk of disease and the risk of intestinal parasites growing stronger (resistance methods) despite treatment and with lower infestation levels. It is worthwhile to spend time becoming more knowledgeable about intestinal parasites and the critical impact they can have on a dairy's productivity and bottom line profitability.

W-S Feed & Supplies Ltd. offers Safe-Guard, a product that can help to alleviate internal parasites in cattle (and swine). This product is designed to be fed to livestock and has a zero milk withdrawal. Obtaining a fecal analysis can also be beneficial to producers looking to evaluate and deal proactively with this potential concern. Dealing with parasites can make a difference in productivity and bottom line profitability. This is a good time of year to undertake a program of de-worming livestock. (Dr. Costello)

We will be closed MONDAY MAY 21, 2018 for Victoria Day.

Please order your feed accordingly.

FUTURES MARKET

BEEF

APRIL	113.75
JUNE	102.57
AUGUST	101.47

PORK

APRIL	58.43
JUNE	74.15
JULY	75.35

ORDER DESK

Ways to place your order:

Toll-free: 1.800.265.2203

Fax: 519.655.3505

Email: orders@wsfeeds.ca

Online: www.wsfeeds.ca

GRASS TETANY

Grass tetany is a serious, often fatal metabolic disorder characterized by low levels of magnesium in the blood of cattle (dairy and beef) or other ruminants (sheep, goats, etc) It is also called grass staggers and wheat pasture poisoning, and primarily affects older cows that are nursing calves less than two months old. It may also occur in young or dry cows, and growing calves. The highest risk occurs when cattle are grazing succulent, immature grass and it often affects the best cows in the heard. High nitrogen fertilization reduces magnesium availability, especially on soils high in potassium or aluminum. Grass tetany occurs frequently in the spring, often following a cool period when grass is growing rapidly. It may also be seen in the fall with new growth of cool season grass or wheat pastures.

Typical signs of grass tetany begin with an uncoordinated gait (sometimes accompanied by aggressive behaviour) and terminate with convulsions, coma and death. Animals on pasture are often found dead without any illness having been observed. Evidence of thrashing will usually be apparent around the cow if grass tetany is the cause of death.

The prevention of grass tetany depends largely on avoiding conditions that cause it. Graze less susceptible animals on high risk pastures. Steers, heifers, dry cows and cows with calves over 4 months of age are less likely to develop tetany. The use of dolomite or high magnesium (Mg) limestone on pastures and including legumes in pasture mixes can help to decrease the incidence of tetany in grazing cattle and other ruminants. In areas where tetany may be more common, it is advisable to feed livestock free choice products containing elevated levels of supplemental Mg, along with selenium and other necessary nutrients. Supplementation increases blood magnesium levels and alleviates much of the grass tetany risk. Adequate amounts of magnesium must be consumed on a daily basis. (compiled from numerous articles)

10 STEP GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE SWINE BIOSECURITY PLAN

1. Quarantine replacement stock, or at least ensure that their health status is compatible with the existing herd.
2. Restrict entry to essential personnel and record entry.
3. Provide boots and coveralls for staff and visitors for each farm.
4. Staff should change into dedicated boots and coveralls upon entering each different barn. Clean footbaths may be appropriate within a barn for different rooms.
5. Provide shower facilities for visitors.
6. Minimize entry of equipment, supplies and take appropriate precautions such as disinfection, removal from shipping boxes, etc.
7. Prevent entry by wild animals (rats, birds, insects) or pets (dogs, cats.). Use screens in windows, air inlets, doors etc.
8. Use a semen supplier that routinely tests for PRRS virus and other infectious agents.
9. Ensure that feed and water sources are free from infectious agents.
10. Review your biosecurity plan and herd health program, including vaccination protocols, with your veterinarian on a regular basis. (omafra)

CANADIAN DAIRY XPO
XPO CANADESE
LAITIÈRE ZUIVEL
CANADIENNE XPO

See you the Canadian Dairy Xpo on April 4-5, 2018 at the Stratford Rotary Complex