

NAVAN VETERINARY SERVICES – NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Our next CQM session, at the clinic, for clients who wish to prepare for their 2012 validation dates will be on November 29, 2:00pm. We will also run a meeting in December. Anyone with dates in March, April or May 2012 should be attending these start-up meetings. YOU must be sure to contact us as we are not supplied with a list of names or dates by the DFO. Even if your date is later you may wish to attend so you can get started over the winter months.

There is an excellent meeting being held in Syracuse on December 1. The subject is “Group Housed Dairy Calf Systems”. This meeting is for producers and advisors. The topics covered are:

- 1) Baby calf and lifetime performance. What is biologically possible and achievable.
- 2) Group housing systems and feeding practice.
- 3) Mastering the calf barn ventilation challenge.
- 4) Group housing economics.
- 5) 2 Panel discussions - first group is veterinarians and the second group is producers.

The cost for this meeting is \$160.00.

For more information go to www.ansci.cornell.edu/prodairy/calcsystems or call the clinic.

As a follow up to the calf meeting in Syracuse is a “Group Housed Dairy Calf System Tour” on December 7-9. On December 7 there are 4 facilities fairly close to us. Watertown, Carthage, Turin and South New Berlin. This tour is free but you need to register ahead to let organizers know which farm(s) you wish to visit. If you are looking for group calf rearing ideas a visit to these farms would be worthwhile. Registration info and tour info are available on the above website also.

Failure of passive transfer (FPT) is caused by inadequate volume of colostrum fed to calves in a timely fashion after birth. I’ve written about this before but as winter and colder temperatures arrive more volume at this first feeding is required to provide calories as well as to help calves combat disease. More energy is required to maintain body temperature so less energy is available to sustain an adequate immune system. Some recent FPT facts that I’ve come across are:

- 1) 50% of calves stay with their mother for greater than 3 hours. Odds of these calves having FPT is twice as high as calves that are taken from their mother and fed 3-4 litres by hand.
- 2) Death rate in calves with FPT is 21% compared to 1.9% for calves receiving adequate colostrum.
- 3) Calves with diarrhea – 70% higher in those with FPT than calves fed enough colostrum.
- 4) Pneumonia is twice as high in calves with FPT.
- 5) Veterinary costs almost double for calves with FPT.
- 6) Less milk production in 1st – 2nd lactations – about 1kg less milk per day than over 2 lactations compared to calves provided enough colostrum.

FPT is easy to test. A blood sample from calves 1-7 days of age. In a group of calves the goal is 8-9 calves out of 10 with adequate protein levels. While we are at herd health visits, get some calves tested. How well do you think you would score?

I am just back from a trip to Italy where I was introduced to the world of “Gelato”. Italian ice cream. Somehow we need to get our consumers to crave gelato. No matter what plaza or square or street we walked, there were gelaterria’s selling ice cream. Often 2-3 shops visible at any one time and shoppers eating ice cream everywhere.

For information sake, gelato is a premium ice cream made with fresh cream, and no air whipped in to make it a softer product. Our ice cream can have as much as 50% air. Their ice cream has lower fat than ours and is very dense so it is sold at a little milder temperature in order to improve scoopability, but yet it doesn’t melt quickly. Google gelato for fun. I am sold!!!

