

MARIA STEIN ANIMAL CLINIC, INC.

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Annual Forms We need to check each year that we are on the same page. If you took the opportunity to sign the forms at the producer's banquet, great! If that didn't get done, new copies are enclosed for you to review, sign and send back to us. The forms include, Vet of Record (yellow), Flunixin and Ceftiofur (blue-both sides) agreements. Vet of Record forms document our Veterinary Client Patient relationship with a signed agreement. This document is a required part of every audit including F.A.R.M. and Validus. It formalizes the responsibility we have as your veterinarians and your agreement with the provisions of being a client in good standing. A doctor will be assigned as your Vet of Record and they will be responsible for reviewing treatment and vaccination protocols.

The Flunixin agreement makes sure you are aware and have trained your staff that Flunixin must be given intravenously. If Flunixin is given by any other route, the risk of residues is unpredictable and there are chances of a slough of injected tissue. This situation will reach easier compliance as topical Banamine is introduced for calves. This has been widely used in other countries for pain associated with dehorning and other procedures.

The Ceftiofur agreement makes sure you are aware that there is no extra label use of Ceftiofur (Naxel, Ceftioflex, Excenel, or Excede). It must be used only for the diseases indicated (Pneumonia, Metritis, or Foot Rot) and more importantly, Excede must be given in the base of the ear so it is trimmed out at slaughter avoiding months long withholds. These antibiotics have been valuable tools and there was a time that it was threatened that we would lose them due to high percentage of residues and shared class status with human antibiotics.

Drs. King and Hardesty Attend Ohio Dairy Vets

A two day trip to Columbus resulted in some excellent continuing education with Drs. Nigel Cook and Daryl Nydam as the guest educators. Topics included Transition Cow management and Facility Design. Freestall Design and Ventilation and Cooling. Secure Milk Supply was also further discussed.

Secure Milk Supply is a program that helps you develop a traffic plan for your farm in the event of a quarantine situation. The most likely quarantine situation would be the event of a Foot and Mouth (FMD) Outbreak. People that study worldwide disease patterns continue to say that it is not a matter of if, but when FMD comes to the USA again. You can take one of two approaches to FMD. The first is like the last step in Nuclear Drills. (Put your head between your legs and kiss your butt goodbye) or you can take the second, which involves planning a line of separation traffic pattern for your farm. There is funding for this through the end of this year. We can see the advantages for other diseases spread the same way like BVD.

Clostridium Widespread We are seeing many herds with deaths due to Clostridium Type A and a few that are having Blackleg. The Blackleg cases are breaking through Vison 7 or Ultrabac 7 vaccine so we need to upgrade to Alpha 7. The Clostridium Type A sudden deaths are breaking through C & D toxoid. We will have to figure out how to strategically place Novartis Type A in your program. Typically, there is significant milk lost with whole herd Novartis Type A vaccination, but we have still done it. We would have speculated that the increased clostridium issues were due to contamination of silage in the field, but we are now seeing more clostridium issues in calves that are not on silage.

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Time to talk about everyone's favorite subject: Calf Scours!
We have been seeing a slight spike in calf scours cases recently so here are just a few things to keep in mind:
Good colostrum and clean housing is key!

- Cleanliness starts at the maternity pen. Studies have shown that leaving calves with the dam for >1 hour was a major risk factor for them getting Crypto. Also, colostrum needs to be harvested cleanly and then fed or cooled quickly to avoid the growth of bacteria. We also need to make sure that there is adequate passive transfer since calves that have failure of passive transfer are at high risk for all diseases. Monitoring total proteins is the easiest way to manage this.
- Calf housing needs to be clean, dry, have good drainage, and help avoid temperature stress. It is important to try and minimize all stressors to the calves since stress makes them more susceptible to diseases.
- Good nutrition will maximize the calves' immunity. Dr. King talked about this in a previous newsletter. There have been several questions about the chances of calves scouring when we start feeding them more replacer and/or using a higher quality replacer. They should not scour as long as replacer is being mixed and fed appropriately. If you feel like scouring issues may be related to how they are being fed please let us know and we can work with you to make sure the solids content in the milk is not too high.

So you have calves scouring.... What do we do next?

- The first step is oral electrolytes. Start them ASAP. They can be given in between milk feedings (make sure you keep feeding milk). Not all electrolytes are created equal, if you have questions about the type of electrolyte you are using feel free to ask us.
- The clinic has the ability to run a calf scours test that gives us same day results. It tests for Rotavirus, Coronavirus, E. coli and Crypto and the cost is approximately \$20. Depending on results of this test sometimes we choose to send samples in to a diagnostic lab for salmonella testing which can take several days to get results. Knowing what pathogen is causing the scours can help us make treatment and management decisions.
- We also offer hospitalization for calves that are severely dehydrated are are not drinking/responding to electrolytes and other treatments. We can put in an IV and keep them at the clinic and try to nurse them back to health. Hopefully you never need this option, but it is available if you do need it!

If you are experiencing a calf scours outbreak cleanliness almost always plays a huge factor. However, there are some products that can be helpful in managing these calves as well. These include Calf-Guard oral vaccine, First Defense TriShield, several dry cow vaccine options, and a few other products as well. These products are not necessary for every farm, but if you are concerned about your scour issues bring it up at your next herd health visit and we can investigate things further and help come up with a solution.

Dr. Emily