



# CEDAR GROVE VETERINARY SERVICE NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2017

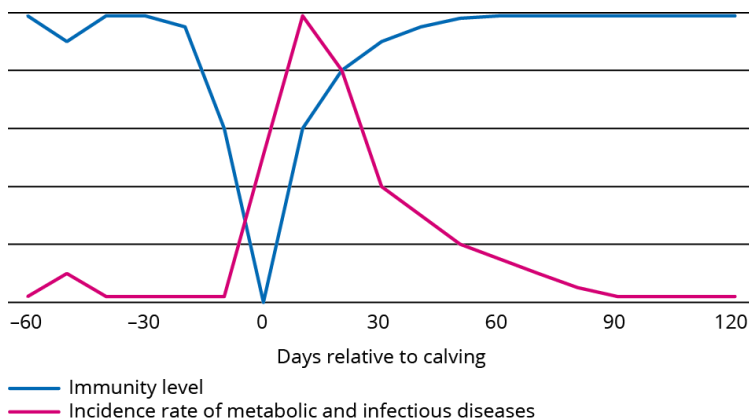
## UPDATE ON TRANSITION COW MANAGEMENT

It has always been apparent to farmers that a healthy start to a cow's lactation is required for good milk production and reproduction. However, the start of lactation is also the point in a cow's life in which she experiences increased incidences of both metabolic and infectious diseases.

The transition period in a cow is associated with immune system suppression due to hormonal changes. Adding insult to injury, increased levels of NEFA and BHBA (both associated with ketosis) can decrease the effect that a cow's white blood cells have on attacking bacteria. This is problematic for a cow that may be battling metritis or

mastitis. Finally, many of the transition cow diseases tend to occur at the same time instead of as isolated events. This stresses the cow's immune system even more, leading to problems that will affect the cow for the rest of her lactation.

The best strategy to help cows during this period is to prevent the immune system suppression (reduction in white blood cell function) before it happens. One strategy is to modify the pre-fresh diet in such a way that it improves the function of white blood cells at the time of calving. Recent studies indicate this can be done by increasing the supplementation of medium chain fatty acids (MCFA) in the dry period.



## DO YOU KNOW YOUR ANTIBIOTICS?

### LA-200/Agrimycin

### 200/Terramycin 200

#### **Use:**

Oxytetracycline (200mg/ml) is on label to treat:

- Bovine respiratory disease and pneumonia due to *P. multocida* and *H. somni*,
- Pinkeye
- Foot Rot
- Calf Diphtheria
- Scours caused by *E. coli*
- Wooden Tongue
- Wound Infections
- Metritis

**Dose:** 4.5cc-5cc per 100lbs body weight SQ.

Treatment should be continued 24-48 hours following remission of disease signs; however, not to exceed a total of 4 consecutive days

#### **Special Notes:**

-96-hour milk withhold; it is also recommended to test milk prior to sale

-28-day meat withhold

A trial looking at the effect of MCFA shows promising results in improving transition cow health. Cows were fed a diet that consisted of 50% corn silage, chopped sugar cane, ground corn, soybean meal, citrus pulp, and minerals. The cows were divided into two groups with the control group receiving no additional nutritional supplementation and the treatment group receiving 40 grams of the MCFA product. Cows were fed their respective diets for 21 days prior to calving and 21 days after calving. 73.4% of the cows in the control group experienced subclinical ketosis while only 6.6% of cows in the treatment group had subclinical ketosis. In the same study, it was also found that milk yield was higher in the group receiving MCFA when compared to the control group at 35-70 days in milk.

Milk fat and protein yields were no different between the two groups, but somatic cell count (SCC) was lower for cows in the trial group as compared to the control group.

Nutritional strategies are always great ways to prevent transition cow disease, but they will not prevent all cases. The disease process of ketosis has had a lot of research in the past few years regarding treatment. Propylene glycol has emerged as an effective way to treat cases of subclinical ketosis. A recent study done by the University of Guelph aimed to determine whether using a product containing butaphosphan-cyanocobalamin (Catasol) combination would also aid in the treatment of ketosis in dairy cows. Additionally, the study looked at the effects that length of propylene glycol has on ketosis treatment. The

results found that cows treated with propylene glycol for 5 days instead of 3 days were 1.7 times more likely to cure from ketosis, especially in more severely affected animals. It was also found that the 5-day propylene glycol treatment and treatment with butaphosphan-cyanocobalamin resulted in increased milk yields in ketotic animals.

New research has provided more strategies for farmers to improve their transition cow management. The data is very promising and can work into many management systems. At the end of the day, a cow's whole lactation can be gained or lost in those first few weeks. At the very least, this new data is worth a discussion with your veterinarian and nutritionist if this is a problematic area on your farm.



## June is Dairy Month!

Support dairy farmers by attending your local dairy breakfast in June



### Washington County June 10

Golden "E" Dairy Farm  
1140 Shalom Drive  
West Bend, WI, 53090

### Sheboygan County June 17

Quonset Farms, LLC  
W3018 Wilson Lima Road  
Oostburg, WI, 53070

### Fond du Lac County June 25

Daane Dairy, LLC  
W11729 Hemp Rd  
Brandon, WI, 53919

### Ozaukee County August 20<sup>th</sup>

Roden Barnyard Adventures  
5545 County Road Y  
West Bend, WI, 53095  
*Will be having "Sundae on the Farm" instead of a breakfast*

**More info about June Dairy Month can be found at:**

**<http://www.dairydaysofsummer.com>**



