



CEDAR GROVE VETERINARY SERVICE NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2016

WINTER IS COMING

After a very wet September, most producers are very thankful for the recent change to more autumn-like conditions. However, autumn often gives way to winter very quickly. Usually after a particularly brutal winter, we all swear that next year we will be better prepared. Therefore, this article is your reminder to look ahead to the winter preparations that are needed to reduce some of the stresses that come with snow, ice, cold, and wind.

This is a good time of year to revisit your vaccination program and confirm that animals are up to date on the recommended vaccines for your farm. It is often easy to forget about pneumonia during the summer when animals may have been outside in better ventilation. However, as we move back to cooler weather, barns begin to close and ventilation changes. It is for that reason that the need for proper vaccinations needs to be re-visited.

Another issue to consider is treatment for internal and external parasites. The incidence of lice and mites tend to increase in the winter when animals are housed in closer quarters with less access to pasture or sunlight. When considering the treatment of these parasites, it is

important to also use products that are appropriate for the class of animal. Ivermectin based products are a popular choice for control of parasites. However, many of these products — especially the generic forms — are not approved for use in dairy herds. Additionally, it is important to pay attention to the withdrawals attached to certain products. For injectable ivermectin, the meat withdrawal is 35 days and the pour-on product has a meat withdrawal of 48 days. It may be tempting for some producers to use an off-label generic product on dairy cattle at dry-off since they think they will be clean by the time they calve. That decision is strongly discouraged since the persistence of the chemical in milk is not well researched and dry periods length can vary among animals. Eprinex, when used per label, has no milk or meat withdrawal. It should be the go-to for treatment of lactating dairy cattle.

If your cattle will be housed partially or completely outside for most of the winter, there are special considerations that need to be made to prepare them. All classes of cows — dry cows, bred heifers, calves, milk cows — will need to be nutritionally prepared

DO YOU KNOW YOUR VACCINES?

Cattlemaster Gold 5L5

Use: Killed vaccine that aids in the prevention of abortion caused by infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) virus, by bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) virus Types 1 and 2, disease caused by IBR virus, BVD virus Types 1 and 2, parainfluenza 3 (PI3) virus and bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV) and leptospirosis caused by five *Leptospira* serovars — canicola, grippityphosa, hardjo, icterohaemorrhagiae and pomona.

Dose: 5 mL SQ

Dosing: Healthy cattle should receive an initial 2 doses 3 weeks apart. Annual revaccination with a single dose is recommended

Special Notes: Safe for use in pregnant animals

Calves vaccinated under 6 months of age should be revaccinated after 6 months

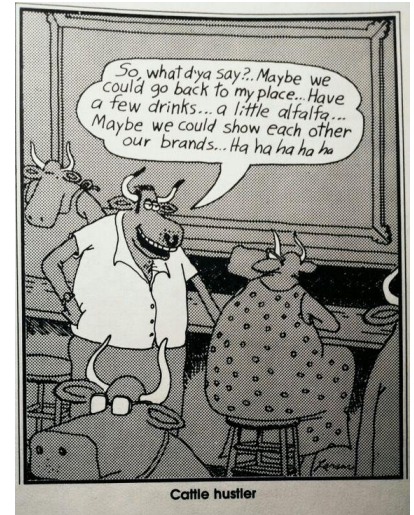
for the winter. Animals that are outside in the cold require more energy to move and keep warm as compared to animals housed in a barn. Most farmers will provide 15-20% more feed to these animals to compensate. The best way to monitor energy expenditure versus nutrition is to keep an eye on the body condition.

Frostbite is also something that can be problematic for milking cows that spend time out in the wind and cold. Frostbite can reduce milk production and lead to mastitis. Different approaches can be taken to limit frostbite in exposed cattle. Any liquid on the teat end can become problematic since it increases the incidence of chapped teat ends which makes them vulnerable to frostbite. A different teat dip with more of an oil-base could be used in the

winter. Your dairy supplier should have some suggestions that would suit your needs. Additionally, some producers will dab the teat ends after 60 seconds of teat-dip contact time to limit chapped teat ends. It is also important to provide a good environment for the outdoor cattle that includes windbreaks which can also reduce teat end damage.

Other things to consider for animals outside is good bedding and consistent access to water sources. Younger animals need deep bedded straw in the cold to stay warm. Cold winters with strong winds can prove to be detrimental on a lot of outdoor water tanks. It is good idea to make sure these tanks are set up to be heated in the winter or that an alternative water source in a heated area is available.

With the current fall harvest well under way, it sometimes can be hard to remember to make all of the necessary preparations for a Wisconsin winter. However, without thinking ahead, the winter can prove to be very long. Take time to consider the needs of your animals this winter and it will hopefully ease some of the burdens that comes with winter.



Reminder: The Veterinary Feed Directive is coming on January 1, 2017

Beginning January 1, 2017, the FDA will require veterinarians to write a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) for a medicated feed additive containing medically important antibiotics. As we approach this date, we understand that there are still many questions to be left answered about what each farmer needs to comply with the new regulations. To help us help you, we would appreciate if each producer would take stock of any antibiotics they currently use, however infrequently, in either a food or water source. Any antibiotics that are fed in the water will still be available, but will require a veterinary prescription at the start of 2017. Any feed based antibiotics of medical importance will need a VFD from a veterinarian that feels comfortable assessing and making decisions about your herd health. If you think you will need a VFD starting in 2017, please talk to your veterinarian early so that the transition in the new year can be as smooth as possible. A few other things to be aware as you look to the future with VFD's:

- Feed-based antibiotics that will be affected by the new rules should start to have transition labels in the next month to alert you to the new changes. None of these products will have a label for growth promotion
- Any feed containing medically important antibiotics that are still present on the farm after the new year can be fed, but will require a VFD from a veterinarian
- A VFD cannot be written for extra-label use. Therefore, the duration of treatment or level of drug given per head of animal can NOT be altered.
- Remember that products such as Rumensin, Bovatc, and Decox will not be affected by these new regulations and can still be fed as they were prior to the new rules.
- If you are still confused, don't be alarmed. This is a very complex issue and will take the efforts of the producer, nutritionist, veterinarian, and feed mill to make sure everything is in proper order. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

ATTENTION!! A buying show is being planned for November. Watch your mailboxes for more info