**NAVAN VETERINARY SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER**

TRANSITION COWS

Your transition cow area is the lead in to the next lactation. Everything you do here that reduces stress and improves intakes will benefit your dairy herd.

Your goals should include

* High milk production
* Minimize body score loss
* Minimize fresh cow diseases
* Maintain immune function
* Control days to 1st lactation
* Produce healthy calves

Achievable fresh cow goals include

* Milk fever < 3%
* Twisted stomachs < 3%
* Retained placentas < 10%
* Subclinical ketosis < 15%
* Dry period 40-70 days > 80%
* Cows dead and sold by day 60 DIM < 10%

All the above are related to some of the following

1. Controlling energy in dry cows – 0.6 Mcal/lb or 1.32 Mcal/kg whether feeding one group or two.
2. Providing enough protein – especially metabolizable protein pre calving. Cows overfed in the dry period -
3. Drop in feed intake close to calving
4. Usually sluggish as fresh cows
5. More ketosis and risk of twisted stomachs
6. Feed a TMR that is chopped short enough to minimize sorting
7. Forages should be chopped to < 1.5”
8. Add water if dry matter is > 50%
9. 1.5” chop length is the length of feed when a cow is ready to swallow – so why not start there
10. Minimize overcrowding and mixing heifers and cows if possible. Heifers are different than cows –
11. They eat more minutes per day
12. They eat longer per meal
13. Intake is 2/3 that of a cow per minute
14. Post calving heifers eat ¾ the speed of a cow
15. Give them their own space
16. Manage heat stress – this will yield better calves, and more milk in the next lactation

These notes were taken from Tom Overtons client meeting in December 2018

**NAVAN VETERINARY SERVICES**

**&**

**RIDEAU ST. LAWRENCE VETERINARY SERVICES**

**INVITE YOU TO A**

**JOINT PRODUCER MEETING**

**ON**

**MARCH 22, 2019**

**AT THE**

**WINCHESTER ARENA**

**10:00 A.M.**

*DR. ROB TREMBLAY WILL BE SPEAKING ON*

*VACCINATION PROGRAMS*

*&*

*SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY*

PLEASE RSVP BEFORE MARCH 18 SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TO EXPECT FOR LUNCH!!!!