

NAVAN VETERINARY SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

SPRING MEETING

Please mark your calendars for our spring producer meeting on April 11, 2012. This year's speaker will be Dr. Pamela Ruegg. Dr. Ruegg is a well-known vet researcher at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in the Department of Dairy Sciences as a professor and Extension Milk Quality Specialist. Some of us at Navan had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Ruegg this past fall and are very pleased to be able to book her for our producer meeting. Given the reduction in maximum somatic cell count this August to 400,000/ml, we thought it would be timely to have a discussion on practical strategies to achieve and maintain your somatic cell count to these new standards. Details will follow in upcoming newsletters.

CQM

CQM group information sessions are still underway with Brianne and Jennifer. Please check your CQM date and anyone wishing to attend a meeting this month, let us know and we will get a group together. We are trying to keep an inventory of everyone's inspection date so there are no surprises! Please let us know your scheduled date.

RUMENSIN

Many producers are aware of the benefits of Rumensin in transition cow health. Rumensin can improve feed efficiency by shifting the rumen bacteria population towards those that produce propionic acid and away from methane loss production. As offshoot of this is a decrease in lactic acidosis, a marked reduction in subclinical and clinical ketosis and also potentially fewer DA's.

Rumensin/CRC boluses should ideally be given to dry cows 2-3 weeks prefreshening. The change in the design of the Rumensin capsule a couple of years ago was intended to reduce the incidence of the capsule 'head' from coming off and allowing the spring to become free of the bolus. It seems lately that we have been getting more complaints of semi-full capsules being found in mangers and stalls. These capsules are often broken (likely chewed) by the cows on the way out. It seems Elanco engineers need to go back to the drawing board! However, the company continues with its policy of replacing these damaged semi-full boluses with new ones. Please keep the old ones and give them to a vet on your farm for replacement.

Another issue with Rumensin worth mentioning again is its extreme toxicity to dogs and horses. A very small amount of monensin (the active ingredient of Rumensin) will almost surely be lethal to your pet. Half-full Rumensin boluses do not make great chew toys, and should be removed and stored safely to be returned to us for replacement.

Rumensin can be added to protein/mineral mixes, and with this presentation, be aware of not allowing horse's access to the feed. It is thought that a couple of grams of monensin are lethal to the average horse.

JOHNES

A reminder to the Russell, Lanark producers that your Johnes Program test dates run March 11/12 to Apr 21/12. A testing submission form (green sheet) will be mailed to you just prior to your scheduled test date. If you have any questions re how the program works and compensation for testing, ask your friendly vet!

NUTRITION

We have noticed with the extremely cold weeks of mid-January that frozen corn silage is often 'chewed up' so much that the effective fibre is not all that effective anymore. As a consequence, there has been some drop in butterfat concentration in milk. Maintaining adequate levels of effective fibre in your TMR ration will help to maintain butterfat levels. Replacing one kilo of corn silage with 250 grams of chopped straw is a relatively easy fix for the shredded corn silage issue coming out of silos during periods of extremely cold weather.

Don't forget, chop length for adding straw or hay to ration TMR should be approximately 2" in length. Longer cuts could promote sorting and shorter chopping (3/4") reduces the effectiveness of the fibre.