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Linwood Veterinary Services

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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH - 2024 NEWSLETTER

July and August Holidays

Canada Day will be observed **Monday, July 1**, and the civic holiday will be observed on **Monday, August 5th**. There will be no delivery service on those days. The on-call vet will be available for emergencies. Both clinics will be open only in the mornings (7am – 12pm) on the Saturdays and the holiday Mondays for pick-ups and early residue tests.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Ruth Bowman!

The newest addition to the Linwood Veterinary Services team, Dr. Ruth Bowman grew up on a beef farm just outside of New Dundee, Ontario. She has always loved working with animals and participated in her local 4-H association for many years. She completed her undergraduate degree in Animal Biology with a minor in Molecular Biology & Genetics at the University of Guelph, then attended the Ontario Veterinary College and graduated with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 2024. Ruth lives in Waterloo with her husband and cat, and outside of work she enjoys camping, rock climbing, and playing board games with friends.

Dehydration in calves

As summer is fast approaching, and warmer climates are on the rise, it is an important time of year to discuss hydration status in calves. Easy access to clean water is a requirement for ALL life stages of a dairy cow, even for day old calves. A clean and full water bucket should always be provided in their pen/hutch. Since calves are most prone to diarrheal diseases they are already at increased risk of dehydration; add some heat stress on top of that and you have a recipe for disaster.

There are 5 things you can assess to determine the hydration status of your calves:

- 1.) Behavior: Are they bright, quick to stand up and interested in eating?
- 2.) Suckle Reflex: Place a finger in a calf's mouth; is the suckle reflex strong or weak?
- 3.) Eye Ball Placement: How visually sunken into the socket are the eyeballs? This measurement may be hard to notice and, if you do, likely requires veterinary assistance.
- 4.) Skin Tent: The skin on the side of the neck or above the eyelid can be pinched and tented. The skin should fall back down in less than two seconds in a hydrated calf.
- 5.) Gum Color and Wetness: Gums, also known as mucous membranes, should be pink and moist to the touch. The whiter and drier they are, the poorer the calf's health.

The earlier you notice signs of dehydration in calves and are able to intervene, the better the outcome. For calves with mild dehydration on a hot day, adding an electrolyte feeding could be successful in keeping the calf in proper health. Remember to separate electrolyte feedings at least 2 hours from milk/milk replacer feedings. If the calf does have diarrhea, know that that is an additional loss of fluids and therefore monitoring the calf every few hours is essential. Assistance by a vet may need to be considered. Refer to the following chart and graph for visual reference of hydration status in calves.

Assessing of Hydration Status

Dehydration	Demeanour	Eyeball Recession	Skin Tent Duration (seconds)
<5%	Normal	None	<1
6%–8% (mild)	Slightly depressed	2–4 mm	1–2
8%–10% (moderate)	Depressed	4–6 mm	2–5
10%–12% (severe)	Comatose	6–8 mm	5–10
>12%	<u>Comatosed/dead</u>	8–12 mm	>10

Figure 2: Chart from Journal of Vet Med Constable et al. 1998

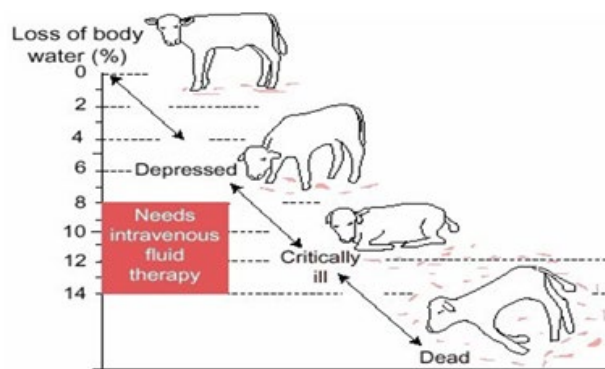


Figure 1: Graph from Pennstate University

If you have concerns about your calves, please feel free to talk with a Linwood Vet about creating an SOP for monitoring hydration status on your farm!

Additional Resources:

<https://extension.psu.edu/electrolytes-for-dairy-calves>

<https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/news/stories/2022/01/cattle-chat-calf-dehydration.html>

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/files/documents/Recognizing%20the%20signs%20of%20calf%20dehydration.pdf>