



Granville Veterinary Service, LA

Newsletter

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HELLO SPRING!

Your Horses' Annual Exam

By: Dr. Sarah Jensen

It is that time of year again. Time to start thinking about and scheduling your horses' annual exam, vaccinations and Coggins. As such we have a couple of key points to remind our horse owners about. First, minimum recommended equine vaccinations as per the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) for horses in our area includes Rabies, Eastern and Western Encephalitis, Tetanus, and West Nile Virus. For horses that will be traveling, or coming into contact with horses that have been traveling, it is also strongly recommended that they be vaccinated for Rhinopneumonitis and Influenza. Due to recent outbreaks of Equine Herpes Virus many shows/event s are requiring proof of vaccination against EVH, please confirm prior to the event what your specific requirements are so that we can ensure everyone is prepared and protected. Please feel free to call and talk with our staff at any time regarding vaccine requirements; or speak with one of our very knowledgeable veterinarians at the time of your horses' exam.

Bull Breeding Soundness Exams: A Low Cost Insurance Policy

By: Dr. Jason Weinstein

Preparation for the upcoming breeding season is the key to assuring that maximum returns can be achieved on any beef operation. Whether the breeding group on your farm is 10 or 100 cows, failure of females to produce calves while also housing and feeding a sub-fertile breeding bull, can quickly chip away at any potential income.

Although we are still a few months away from the traditional spring bull-turnout, assessment of a bull's breeding potential should begin now. This allows adequate time for any required medical interventions or replacement purchases. The breeding soundness exam is fairly simple and is comprised of three main components: Physical exam, scrotal circumference, and semen evaluation. These measurements allow for an assessment of a bull's general health, sperm concentration and sperm quality. An individual exam takes approximately 10-15 minutes and adequate animal restraint is required to perform the exam safely. This includes a head catch and panels that prevent the bull from swinging sideways. The veterinarian must also be able to access the underside of the bull from the side. Cattle chutes are perfect and work very well, however we have worked in makeshift chutes comprised of a head catch and gates.

After the collection and semen evaluation the bull is classified as pass, fail, or deferment to a later date. A deferment classification is reserved for bulls that do not initially pass all three components of the exam, but have the potential to pass a subsequent exam. It takes approximately 2 months for a bull to replace his semen reserve and therefore most recheck exams are recommended 45-60 days after the initial evaluation. This is one reason why testing early is important.

Although the bull breeding soundness exam is only a single “snap shot” of breeding potential, the information gained can help to significantly reduce losses from reproductive inefficiencies. These inefficiencies will ultimately lead to increased feed costs and reduced return from feeder sales. Give us a call so we can discuss how breeding soundness exams can become an important component of your herd’s reproductive program and help you maximize profit.

Energy Balance and Economics

By Dr. Kyle Bushee

Early in lactation the dairy cow has a hefty transition to make and often times get what is referred to as ketosis. Ketosis is the result of fat being mobilized due to metabolic demands which can't be met by groceries alone. Some deleterious effects can impact your dairy which you may not recognize due to ketosis or more specifically, sub-clinical ketosis. How are you supposed to know its going on if it is not overt? Recently the clinic acquired electronic ketosis measuring devices which allow us to detect ketone levels quantitatively once we take representative blood samples from individual early lactation cows we can determine if that group has a ketosis issue that should be addressed. Implications of subclinical ketosis include, and are not limited to, risk of a displaced abomasum, decreased milk production short & long term, potential immunosuppression and increased risk of leaving the herd. It all boils down to dollars and cents (sense!) Its estimated the economic impact of subclinical ketosis is between 46 and 92 dollars per case! Give us a call if you'd like to learn more and set up protocols to save you money.

EQUINE DENTISTRY * DID YOU KNOW?**

The doctors here at GVS are fully trained and capable of providing both routine, as well as many non-routine dental procedures. Owners may believe that an Equine Dentist/Technician is better trained or more specialized in addressing their horses’ dental problems. Due to the lack of regulation/licensing and standardized education requirements for lay dentists; many equine dentists have limited or no training in the management of equine dental issues. Both Vermont and New York have legislation which limits non-veterinary lay dentists from performing dental operations including the use of power dental equipment, extraction of teeth, and all dental procedures which invade the soft tissue of the mouth. There are also limitations regarding the use of sedation without veterinary supervision. Having your veterinarian perform all aspects of your horses’ care, including dentistry, provides another opportunity to recognize and handle certain conditions associated with the overall health of your animal before they become more severe. Now, fall, is a good time to get your annual dental exam completed.