

County Farm Centre Ltd.

September 2013

Picton

38 Cold Storage Rd.
 Store: (613) 476-2171
 Crops: (613) 476-9183
 Fuel: (613) 476-1613

Foxboro

552 Ashley St.
 Store: (613) 962-0769
 Fuel: (613) 961-0731

Madoc

278 Lawrence St. W
 Store: (613) 473-9040
 Fuel: (613)-473-2499

www.countyfarmcentre.com

Agronomy Corner

County Farm Centre - Picton will be hosting an obsolete pesticide collection day on October 25th, 2013

What products will be accepted?

- Obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides (identified with a Pest Control Product number on the label)
- Animal health medications that are used by primary producers in the rearing of animals in an agricultural context (identified with a DIN number, Ser. Number or Pest Control Product number on the label).



Quality Seeds Early Booking Discounts

5% Early Booking Discounts until September 31st

Be sure to talk to the sales staff about additional early pay and volume discounts.



Wheat Seed



2013 Ontario Preliminary Performance Trial Results Area I

Soft Red	
Emmit	105%
Branson	102%
Hard Red	
Wentworth	101%
Soft White	
Ava	101%

Be sure to talk to our sales staff about the lineup of excellent Hyland cereal varieties.

2013 - 2014

WOOD PELLET PRICING



Ambiance Pellets - 40LBS
 100% Hardwood
 \$5.²⁰ each
 \$4.⁹⁵ (50 bags or more)



Northern Pellets - 40LBS
 100% Hardwood
 \$5.⁷⁵ each
 \$5.⁵⁰ (50 bags or more)

Call for delivery pricing

Calving Ease

Feed Section

~ *Expecting the Unexpected* ~

By Sam Leadley of Attica Veterinary Associates



How many times have you been frustrated by tasks “popping up?” Your plans for the morning went down the chute! But, is it possible to plan for the unexpected?

Repeatable Events

Many of our “unexpected” events actually happen repeatedly. The “unexpected” aspect is the unpredictability of exactly when they will happen. It may be possible to predict with the range of a week, month or season of year that an event will occur.

For example, having a down or weak calf (or calves) is a common calf care event. While sometimes these down-calf events seemed to go in cycles other times they just happened. Treatments are usually concentrated in the times shortly after either a feeding.

Another example for me was spraying for flies. The calf operation spraying was done after the contractor finished spraying production-cow barns. Since those barns were sprayed irregularly based on “fly-count” numbers I could never predict when the spray crew would show up. We had to pull out all the feeding equipment, spray, and put all the buckets and feeders back afterwards. Spraying intervals could be anywhere from three to five weeks but only in fly season.

Weather events often caused peak labor demands. Summer thunderstorms often flooded grain feeders. Winter storms can dump snow into feeders. They occur every year but predicting just which week seems impossible.



Peaks in calving are always going to happen. While pregnancy data tell us about when calves are going to be born they are unreliable in predicting daily calvings. We all have lived through a slump for a couple of days followed by an outrageous number the next day.

It may not be worthwhile to actually keep a written log of these events. However, having a heightened awareness of them will imprint them in our memory. That way we begin to plan for many of the bumps in the road.

Thinking Ahead

Most calf enterprises are run on a “labor-tight” basis. If you need 1.2 persons to do the job there may be only 1 person to get the work done. This means there is no “safety margin” built into the system to cover fluctuations in the work load – everyone is already up to or over 100 percent. This means when an “unexpected” event occurs usually other work must be postponed.

This means that the various jobs must be assigned priorities for completion. What will get done first? Some work has to be done everyday at approximately the same time – for example, feeding milk to preweaned calves. Other work, while required daily, can be done as labor is available.

Vaccinating, dehorning, and measuring calves might be scheduled for weekly completion. But, given “unexpected” events the day of the week for the job might be changed. For example, in the case of extremely cold or hot weather I often held off vaccinating until a break in the weather.

Thus, flexibility is one key in adapting to unanticipated events. This usually means having to shift from one plan for the day to another on short notice. You must be able to make needed shifts on one day while remembering to work in the postponed jobs the following day or week. I found in order to do this I had to schedule regular jobs for daily, weekly and monthly completion. Key words? Organization. Scheduling.

Recognize the need for help

It is common to think that if I just work a little bit harder and longer that all the jobs will get done. With unexpected events added to the regular calfcare jobs sometimes this is just not true. If we are going to maintain standards of good quality care there are times when we have to admit that working harder and longer is not going to get us out of crisis mode. I can recall times when postponing regular work did not begin to restore sanity. I had to ask for help – to dig out from a snowstorm, to treat sick calves during a salmonella outbreak, to help feed colostrum when we had four or five times the normal number of calves in one day.

It helps a great deal to have anticipated the eventual need for help. Involving persons that usually do not work in calfcare in cross-training can have huge benefits. This gives you a “backup” person that can warm colostrum, tube a calf, give injections or properly mix milk replacer. Saying, “Let me show you how to just in case you have to do it,” often works.