



Chesley, On

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August Newsletter

We are collecting empty Ivomec boxes through the Box Back program with Ivomec to support the Desboro-Chatsworth 4H Calf Club. Please drop them by the back office.

For more information visit www.ivomec-boxback.com



Heat Stress

When a producer thinks of summertime and heat stress abatement, the focus is almost always on the lactating herd; mature cows have a lot more work to do than baby calves, after all. But pre-weaning calves feel the heat too and can become stressed even when temperatures are around 20°C, depending on humidity. At any temperature above this level, calves will begin to shift additional energy from growth to maintenance of normal body temperature.

Extreme heat can increase the calf's nutritional and hydration needs by 20 to 30 percent; calves dissipate heat by panting and lose valuable hydration this way. Even a mild dehydration of 1 to 5 percent loss of body weight from water loss can reduce their metabolic efficiency and impair their ability to regulate their body heat. Heat stressed calves will increase water consumption, will exhibit lethargic, lazy behavior, will stand rather than lie, will pant and sweat, will show increased disease incidence, and will reduce feed intake and growth.

It becomes easier to see why it is important to manage heat stress in young calves – we're not asking them to work too hard yet, but they are still affected. Numerous studies indicate that how an animal does in early life influences their future productivity. Calves raised in the summer have a lower average daily gain and weaning bodyweight as a result of reduced starter intake and altered energy priorities (targeting heat abatement rather than growth); this means later breeding ages and first calvings and plays a role in whether or not they will ever join the milking herd. More immediately, their immune systems become compromised, and calves raised during periods with higher ambient temperatures show an increased mortality rate. Transition after weaning is difficult as rumen development is slowed due to reduced grain intake.

There are a few changes that can be made to help young stock navigate the dog days of summer successfully. Housing is critically important. If housed outside, use shade cloths over rows of hutches, and prop up the back end of the hutch to improve air movement and circulation. For calves housed indoors, open windows, lower side curtains, and consider fans – air circulation is key. Bedding retains heat when soiled, so it should be changed more regularly. Water should always be available, and as fresh as possible. Make it difficult for calves to spill starter into water and keep out of direct sunlight to discourage algae growth. In a similar vein, keep calf starter fresh. Add as much as they will eat each day and remove any refusals promptly; this can always be offered to older heifers to avoid waste.

A few simple routine changes can significantly alleviate a lot of stress on young animals. By focusing your heat abatement strategies on pre-weaned calves and not just your milking herd, you can save a lot of trouble and maintain healthy animals from birth through to calving – they will absolutely pay you back for it!

Another summer is passing by quickly. We at B&L Farm Services Ltd. are coming to the end of another business year and would like to thank you for your support this past year.

We need your help. Our accounts receivable must be as current as possible at our year end, August 31st. We would appreciate it if you could help us in this matter by sending in your payment by the 20th of August so we can have all accounts as current as possible. Thank you for your co-operation.

Please Note: The store and feed desk will be closed on September 3th for Labour Day.

Be sure to have bulk and bag feed orders in prior to the weekend for Tuesday delivery.

\$100 OFF NAPOLEON PRESTIGE 500 GRILLS

- 6 burners
- 500 square inches
- Interior lights

For the Month of August Only!!



B&L Peninsula Creep Pellets Deliver:

- Lean growth in calves
- Superior muscle tone
- Superior pellets, which help to prevent scouring and feed waste
- Medicated with Rumensin (standard) or Deccox
- Helps with growth weight stability of first calf heifers
- Contains 16% protein- all natural protein
- Extra 75-100 pounds gain
- Easier weaning onto grower ration when using Peninsula Creep



Tyler's Tips: Don't short change blowing hair dry!! It makes clipping easier.

Garlic in Mineral

Fly pressure and fly borne disease are one of the costliest issues cattle farmers can face. Pink Eye alone costs producers over \$150 million USD per year, and cost per incident can be well over \$100 when considering production losses, time, and expense of treatment. Anecdotally, garlic powder was always considered as a means of relieving fly pressure in grazing animals; and now there is the science to prove it. In a study conducted by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture looking at face, horn, and stable fly pressure, cows fed trace mineral salt containing garlic powder had 52% - 56% less flies on average than controls, and avoidance behaviours were down 20% in test groups compared to controls.

While the mode of action is still not well understood, it is suggested that the smell of garlic comes through the skin of the animals, as it does in humans, changing the smell and the taste of the animal so that the flies might hover, but not attach and bite; because of this, it is also believed it may act as a tick repellent and have a toxic effect on the hatching eggs of mosquitoes. The beef end product is not affected in taste, but garlic powder is not yet recommended for dairy animals because of this.

Cost of garlic is low compared to pour-on insecticides, and a preventative dose is insignificant when compared to the cost of treatment and production losses of fly borne disease. Talk to your B&L representative about their selection of pasture premixes containing garlic powder – easy to feed, does not affect intakes, and reduces fly loads in your herds.

We Sell Silo Covers And Twine Products