# ProAction: Biosecurity

what’s new at Oxford Bovine?

We are happy to welcome Oxford Bovine’s newest veterinarian, Dr. Eric Perrin. Eric is a 2019 OVC grad with a passion for dairy medicine. He is from northern Ontario and enjoys playing hockey and camping in his spare time.

Dr. Lisa Sharko is off enjoying the spring weather after the birth of her daughter this winter. Lisa will be returning to work in October.

Many of you might have seen Dr. Matt Walker speak in April at the Canadian Dairy XPO. He was on a panel discussing innovative practices used on dairy farms.

Oxford Bovine Veterinary Professional Corporation

**Cow Tails**

Update on proAction’s Biosecurity Section

Biosecurity is the next phase of proAction and compliance starts September 1st, 2019. Leading up to this DFO has received grant funding to facilitate producer training. There are two training opportunities available; classroom sessions and/or on-farm training. Training is NOT required. Producers can attend one, both or neither of the following training options until November 2019.

On Farm Training:  A $162.75 fee is taken off of your milk cheque

(DFO pays for the other half of the training free). Personalized 2 hour on farm training will include:

* Develop biosecurity SOPs
* Update/review existing SOPs and Down cow corrective action plan
* Improve animal based measures (hock, knee, and neck lesions and lameness score).

Classroom training: This is a free (covered by DFO) 2 hour session and will cover the following topics:

* Overview of the biosecurity program
* Animal Care Practices: new animal abuse policies and cull cow decision making
* Antimicrobial Stewardship practices
* proActions changes and updates

Call the clinic to book your on-farm training session. Watch the clinic’s facebook page and for notices in future invoices with upcoming classroom training dates.

As part of the biosecurity section a Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP) will need to be completed during a herd health visit by your veterinarian before the fall. This is a survey of your farm practices to identify areas within your management that can improve the farm’s biosecurity.

# Summer Mastitis

Tips for Preventing Mastitis During the Hot Summer Months

As warmer weather approaches, so does the risk of environmental mastitis.  Every summer somatic cell counts increase and environmental mastitis cases spike because of the warmer weather.  These cases can be difficult to deal with if you do not stop the proliferation and spread of bacteria to the cow's udder.  These bacteria, most commonly identified as E.coli and klebsiella, need warm temperatures, moisture, and a nutrient source to flourish.  Each mastitis case can be expensive, costing between $150 and $375 per case, depending on severity, the amount of milk discarded and treatment costs.  Therefore, the best preventative strategies include:

* Proper stall management - manure removed and new bedding replaced at each and every milking.
* Proper milking procedure - clean dry udders and timeliness.  The entire event should not exceed 1 hour (no extended time in holding areas).
* Transition cow management - most infections occur from the dry period or within the first month of lactation.  Make sure heat abatement and stocking densities are correct. A properly used teat sealant prevents infection of the close-up udder.
* Vaccination - important in preventing and reducing the clinical signs associated with infection.  One common approach is to vaccinate in May for the upcoming July Heat.  Talk to your veterinarian about herd specific vaccination protocols.
* Culture mastitis cases - take a clean milk sample before treatment and drop off or give to your veterinarian.

**Remember, our goal is to have fewer clinical cases and lost cows or quarters which leaves more money in your pocket!!!!!!!!**

what have we been up too?

Dr. Steve Elgersma is still busy attending lots of educational opportunities. He went to Phoenix for the American Association of Bovine Practitioners’ New Grad Conference. He focused his learning on managing replacement heifers and vaccine protocols.

Dr. Dave Carson attend OABP conference this spring where he took a course on using Dairy Comp to help assess and trouble shoot reproductive performance.

Dr. Matt Walker is wrapping up his Dairy Management Certificate Program. Most recently he learned about prevention of calf disease.

Dr. Lisa Sharko, Dave Carson and Steve Elgersma went to a proAction update meeting to be trained in the Biosecurity section.

Kady, our vet tech, attended a conference learning about setting up ketosis testing programs and monitoring for transition cow diseases.