



Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Spring 2024

USDA Grant Update

As you all know, LVS received a Rural Practice Enhancement Grant from the USDA. The funding started near the end of 2023 and since that time we are happy to report that we got the new Toyota pickup truck outfitted with its vet box and it is on the road!



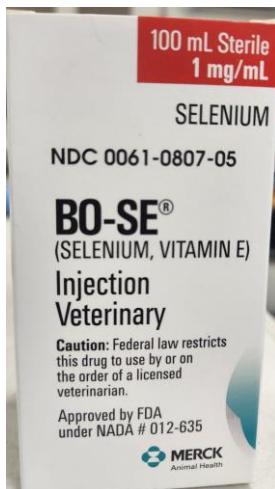
Dr. Melinda and Dr. Katie have collectively talked to 3 high school groups and 1 middle school group about careers with animals and agriculture. Dr. Katie, in conjunction with Virginia Cooperative Extension, gave a talk via Zoom to poultry producers in several counties.

Dr. Katie has completed one extensive poultry continuing education course and a Recent Graduate Conference hosted by the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.

We are grateful to be the recipients of this grant and we are going to strive to do our best to serve the area well.



Backorder Updates



- Bo-Se is now OFF of back order, so if you need more, please call the office.
 - Triangle 10 is slowly being replenished just in time for Spring cattle working!
 - Covexin 8 and Cavalry 9 are still on backorder. We do have BarVac CD&T, which can be given in conjunction with a 7-way to replace these backordered items.
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Remember to schedule your Spring herd work SOON!



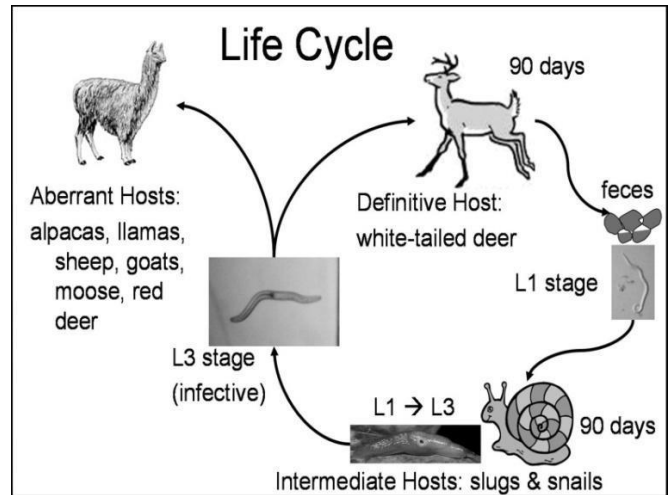
Our calendar is filling up quickly. Also, remember to let us know if you will need us to bring our portable cattle chute!

If you need a Spring herd work planner (Spring 2022 Newsletter <https://www.louisavetservice.com/newsletter>), please call the office at 540-967-2974 or email us at louisavet@gmail.com.

Meningeal Worm in Alpacas, Llamas, and Small Ruminants

Parellophastrongylus tenuis is a little roundworm that causes big problems. They depend primarily on deer, slugs, and snails which do not tend to be affected by the Meningeal Worm's lifecycle.

However, other susceptible animals experience inflammation and spinal cord damage due to the Meningeal Worm not being adapted to their biological differences.



Clinical signs can be subtle to extreme:

- back leg weakness and/or forelimb weakness
- stumbling
- paralysis
- tremors
- seizure

After ruling out other neurologic diseases, the following treatment may be started:

- Safeguard or Panacur at 5 times the dose for 5 days
- Banamine for 3 days followed by Meloxicam for several weeks
- Vitamin B complex for 5 days
- Dectomax for 2 days
- Physical Therapy and cleaning daily as needed to prevent urine scald/bed sores.

Many alpaca owners decrease the incidence in their herd through:

- Monthly Dectomax preventative – only for Camelids (Alpacas and Llamas) and keeping parasite resistance in mind
- deer proof fencing to reduce contact
- decreased wet environment to reduce slug and snail populations

Prompt **diagnosis** and **treatment** can decrease the amount of permanent damage. Diagnosis is based on the presence of clinical signs. Frequent review of your herd, noting any odd behaviors that come and go seemingly without cause, is cause to call your vet for a wellness check. Don't delay. This will not improve on its own.

Beware of Arsenic Around Livestock



Recently, I helped a vet buddy solve a mysterious case in which a group of cows were accidentally exposed to a burn pile. This group of cows also just happened to be hungry for mineral, mostly salt. So, about 4-5 days after the cattle were exposed to the burn pile several cattle started to fall ill and a few days later a large percentage of them died. After the toxicology reports came in it became clear the cause of the deaths was arsenic toxicity.

Here are a few tips about arsenic toxicity in livestock I'd like to share with you because we really can't treat it or reverse it, so **prevention is KEY!**

Common sources of arsenic include arsenic trioxide, which is found in herbicides and insecticides. Organic arsenic can be found in contaminated soils near mining sites and most commonly in **burn piles where treated lumber** has been burned and turned to ash.

Symptoms of arsenic toxicity include: **severe GI irritation**; abdominal pain; watery, hemorrhagic diarrhea; and depression. Depending on the amount ingested an animal might recover or get worse and die.

General LVS Updates

- Effective February 1, 2024 you may notice an increase in what you are paying for service. We raised our Professional Fees and adjusted our mileage charges at that time to more accurately reflect our costs of providing service. Also, as usual, the drug companies raised their prices after the first of the year.
- If you are purchasing antibiotics or other products from the on-line pharmacies, we charge \$10 for processing the prescription. If there are several products you want to purchase, you can save money on this processing fee by grouping them in one order.
- Please remember to **contact the office (540-967-2974)** for any of your veterinary needs. The doctor you text/call directly may not be the on-call doctor and may not even be in the area. The office staff is trained to triage calls and will get someone out to you as soon as possible.