



Word from the Herd

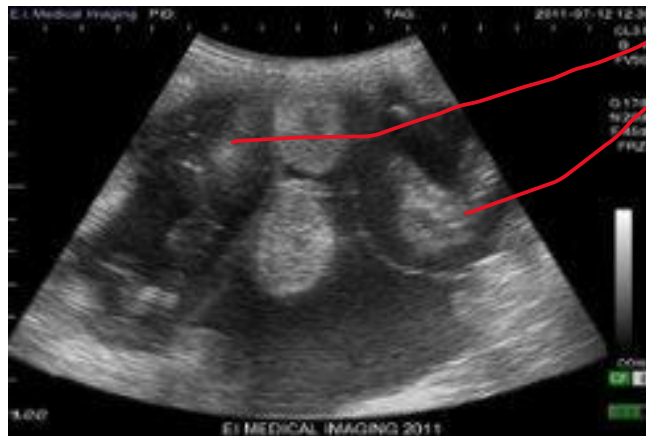
Louisa Veterinary Service

Fall 2018

Are “Ewe” Expecting This Spring?

Fall breeding season is right around the corner... are you planning on getting your ewes/ does diagnosed pregnant?

Normal gestation length for a ewe is 145 days and 150 in a doe-or about 5 months. Pregnancy can be diagnosed in several ways, but the easiest and most accurate way is via portable ultrasound. This can be done any time after 30 days of last breeding. All you need is a small pen to catch the females. Usually the ultrasound is placed against the ewe’s underbelly to check for pregnancy, like the picture below:



Why should I bother?

**Pregnancy check is a great time to check your females’ body condition score up close to identify any thin ewes/does and make sure they can get the proper nutrition they need to support themselves and their babies. This is especially important with winter just around the corner!!

**The ultrasound allows us to tell how far along the ewe/doe is, which gives you a more accurate potential birth date allowing you to be prepared and on top of things!

If we check between 30 and 45 days we can determine the number of fetuses present. This is an important consideration in preventing pregnancy toxemia-A lack of energy and space late in gestation that can be deadly to the mother and babies. Females carrying multiple fetuses are much more likely to develop this disease. So, by knowing, via ultrasound, who will have more than one baby you can manage and monitor them more closely to hopefully prevent this deadly disease.

UPDATE - East Asian Tick aka Long Horned Tick

In the fall of 2017 a disease called Theileria was identified in a beef herd in Albemarle county. This disease is very similar to Anaplasmosis. Clinical signs include: anemia, fever, lethargy and abortion. The newly identified East Asian Ticks can carry Theileria. These ticks are very small as adults, the size of a seed. Their markings are not as distinct as others commonly found in Virginia.

Work is ongoing at the Virginia Tech College of Veterinary Medicine to evaluate the organism, determine its pathogenicity and investigate its distribution in the region. If you think you may have identified the tick and would like confirmation OR you have livestock exhibiting these clinical signs, please call us here at Louisa Veterinary Service to discuss what to do next.



Lucy turns.....

We are pleased to announce Lucy has turned 2 years old and has officially graduated from the UVA Neonatal Intensive Care Unit doctor appointments. Lucy continues to be a smart, fun-loving gal who loves animals!

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Upcoming Events:

Virginia State Fair begins on September 28th – October 7th

Rabies Clinic in Holly Grove on September 29th

****Please note: If anyone is interested in learning how to perform Artificial Insemination, Dr. Melinda is taking names for a future class. Please call the office at 540-967-2974.**



“Pinching Pennies”

Veterinary care for your animals is expensive...but your animals must be healthy to make you money. Also, veterinary care can be a lot less expensive if you are prepared and do your part to make the experience good for the animals and the people.

We are going to give you a few examples of REAL client's experiences and cost using 3 different scenarios. You'll see in black and white the economic savings to you as a producer, and this doesn't even include the decreased stress on the animals which makes them more productive for you!

Producer A

Facilities: Small pen with a 28" wide wooden alleyway and ForMost squeeze chute.

Personnel: Always someone knowledgeable about the animal and the situation to meet the vet

Supplies: Keeps in-date supplies on hand, including at least 2 antibiotic choices and an anti-inflammatory

Preparedness: Almost always has supplies, ear tags, medications near chute, pre-made and ready to go.

Time of Calls: When possible, calls office during business hours or early evening.

Producer B

Facilities: Small pen, old boards, very short, wide alley way with a self-catching head gate not greased.

Personnel: Generally, someone around to help the vet and has gotten the animal into the pen

Supplies: Keeps at least one in-date antibiotic on hand

Preparedness: Usually has supplies needed, not always at the chute.

Time of Calls: When possible, calls office during business hours or early evening.

Producer C

Facilities: No pen, no head gate

Personnel: Usually one person who may or may not know the location of the animal in the field.

Supplies: Keeps no supplies on hand that are in-date

Preparedness: Rarely ever has supplies on hand

Time of calls: Rarely ever calls office during business hours, nearly always in late evening or weekends

Example of Producer A Facilities

Example of Producer B Facilities

Example of Producer C Facilities



Job Description	Producer A	Producer B	Producer C
Delivering a calf from a cow	\$157.55	*\$215.60	*\$573.72
Treating a bull for pinkeye	\$100.00 - Drug choice is BioMycin 200	\$166.50 - Drug choice is Biomycin 200	\$284.33 - Drug choice is Draxxin because unable to retreat
Treating a calf for foot rot	\$155.28— Producer could treat on own & call if no response	\$139.53	\$259.38
Pregnancy with ultrasound on 10 heifers	\$113.00	\$135.00	Not possible to do this job
Suturing a prolapse vagina in a cow	\$129.50	*\$217.74	\$303.00

* After Hours
Emergency Fee

Note: These prices were taken from actual calls. There are natural variations in every case and some differences in things such as mileage fee and drug dosages. These examples are meant to give an idea of general trends.