



Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Winter 2023

LVS Gets a New Ride

As part of the recent USDA Rural Practice Enhancement Grant, Louisa Veterinary Service was able to purchase a new Toyota pick-up truck and a 6 foot veterinary box. This truck is much more fuel efficient than the other trucks and it should be able to get around well in mud and snow. We each drive about 50,000 miles per year doing veterinary calls, so the 2014 GMC with her 364,000 miles and her 18 year old vet box is being retired from our practice. Big Red served us well and we are grateful for that, but excited to be starting a new chapter with a smaller truck.



Reminder on the Theileria/Anaplasmosis Front

Since we have changed seasons, this is a reminder to discontinue your medicated mineral for the winter months. We would advise you to start feeding medicated mineral again in the spring in the March/April timeframe. Each VFD (prescription) is only good for **6 months**, which means if you started feeding the mineral in April, the prescription would last you through October. We recommend stopping the medicated mineral in the fall to help prevent antibiotic resistance since the ticks aren't nearly as active during the winter months.



Upcoming Meetings...

(Insert Upcoming Meetings here)

December 6th 6-8 PM. Fluvanna County Extension Office - The topic will be Planning Your Year for the Farm.

December 11th 6-8 PM. Young Farmer's Gathering at Rhett's- this meeting is geared toward farmer's in their 20's and 30's. The topic will be Planning Your Year for the Farm. Call the office 540-967-2974 for more information and to RSVP. Space is limited.

If there are any particular meeting topics you'd like to see LVS do in the future, please email us at louisavet@gmail.com with your ideas. We have a yearly planning meeting every January, so please aim to have them in by that time. Education is very important to the mission of our practice, so please feel free to share your ideas with us.

A Lousy Topic...All You Ever Wanted to Know and More about LICE!

What types of lice are there?



Cattle biting louse Longnosed sucking louse

There are two types of lice; biting lice and sucking lice. **Sucking** lice **feed on blood** while biting lice feed on dead skin cells, hair and oil secretions. Biting cattle lice are highly mobile (as they move when the hair is parted). Sucking lice are grey or blue grey and have a pointed head which tends to remain fixed to the skin. Good lighting and a magnifying glass will also help to see lice.

The louse lifecycle spans between 3-6 weeks. They live about 42 days with the female laying up to 50 eggs in her lifetime.

What do lice look like on animals?

The presence of lice can be confirmed by close examination of the hair and skin of visibly affected animals. Frequently, lice eggs are more readily seen than lice themselves. Eggs are white in color and are cemented to the shafts of hairs in clumps.

What seasons do you typically see lice?

Typically in the winter months.

What are symptoms of a lice infestation?

Lice can be suspected when animals show signs of rubbing/scratching. Rubbing causes hair loss which is commonly seen on the neck, shoulders and rump areas and is generally more severe than seasonal shedding of winter coat.

Who do they get on and how badly do they hurt animals?

Animals in good body condition are generally less affected by lice because adequate dietary energy is available to be channeled to the immune system. Animals in poorer body condition, receiving maintenance nutrition, will not have the energy reserves to partition to the immune system and consequently lice burdens are able to build up. Animals that are down, anemic, or have a musculoskeletal injury are also prone to lice infestations. In calves, **moderate-to-heavy lice infestation has led to a 0.21 pounds/day reduced weight gain**, according to a University of Nebraska-Lincoln study.

How do you prevent lice?

Factors promoting lice infestations are crowding, reduced light intensity, malnutrition, weather and decreased immune system response. Therefore, it is important to maintain good cattle health through a high plane of **nutrition**, adequate body conditions, appropriate **mineral** supplementation and vaccination protocols. Cattle in good health are more resistant to lice infestation and will have lower lice numbers.

It is important to remember that using dewormers to prevent lice can cause resistance to build up in the parasite population.

There are a number of products labeled to help prevent lice, such as Ultra Boss, which is a pour-on. It can be used on many species of animals.

Another versatile product for external parasites, including lice is Permethrin CDS. It comes in a pour-on, spray, and can be mixed up in back rubbers. It can also be used on many species.

How do you kill lice?

There is one product called Clean Up II that is labeled to kill both biting and sucking lice. It is a pour-on product and works quickly to get a lice problem under control.

Can humans get lice from animals?

No. Generally, lice of any type are pretty species specific.



We're Opening Up Our Locked Jaws About Tetanus

What causes Tetanus? A bacteria called Clostridium tetani.

Where does Tetanus live? In the soil.

What makes something prone to tetanus? An open wound.

What are symptoms of tetanus? Rigid muscles, 3rd eyelid prolapse, erect ears, drooling, and/or "saw horse" stance.



Why do animals die from Tetanus? Suffocation because of diaphragm paralysis.

How do you treat Tetanus? Penicillin, sedation, a dark, padded stall, and Tetanus anti-toxin. Once an animal is severely affected, they usually die, despite treatment.

How do you prevent Tetanus? Vaccination with a tetanus **toxoid**, with a booster shot in 3-4 weeks. Some common brands are BarVac CD&T (especially good for small ruminants), and Covexin 8 (includes Blackleg strains for cattle).

Be **SURE** to vaccinate animals 2-4 weeks ahead of an invasive procedure, for example castration (especially with a band), or dehorning. Give the booster shot at the time of the procedure for full protection.

When is Tetanus anti-toxin used? Antitoxin neutralizes free neurotoxins in the body. It should be used in medical emergencies, when short term protection is required, i.e. castrating an unvaccinated animal, injuries with an open wound, or when symptoms tetanus are present.

- **Moral of the story:** The best chance of surviving Tetanus is **PREVENTION**.



- Sandwich bags or grocery bags under socks to keep dry in the snow
- Vaseline or Aquaphor on face in frozen conditions or wind to stop windburn
- Pool noodle as a short hose to fill buckets at the spigot
- Quality headlamp for emergencies
- Hand sanitizer on a key before turning in a frozen lock, isopropyl alcohol lowers freezing point
- Need traction quickly on ice spots on your sidewalks or porches? Use coffee grounds sprinkled over the icy patch



Best gifts to give to the Farmer in your life!!!

Laura Ashley: Bundle of Alfalfa will do

Angelica Edwards: Round Bales

Allison Williams: Tractor Supply gift card

Susan Swales: Take care of the farm and send the farmer on vacation

Joe Giaccotto: Sugar to go with the dewormer

Bom Harris: #drivinghomenaked

Mary Goodwin: Cross Five cooler with vaccine gun holster

Melina McCall: Boot Warmer

Michelle Sandness: A Maid



Help Wanted:

Do you do web site design, or do you know someone who is good at it? We are looking for someone to help us update our website. The final design needs to be easily maintained by the office staff and would ideally run on Wix. If you are interested, please contact the office at 540-967-2974.