



# Countryside Veterinary Clinic, LLP

## January 2016 Newsletter



### Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) Update

Peter G. Ostrum, DVM

As challenging weather conditions have finally arrived in northern New York, our clients have been experiencing significant bovine respiratory disease (BRD) outbreaks in many herds. Free stalls, as well as traditional tie stall herds have equally been affected. Furthermore, all age groups of cattle, young stock and adults, appear to be susceptible. Traditionally, more pneumonia is diagnosed during the winter months when barns are harder to ventilate and nutritional demands increase especially in calves. Unfortunately, this year the incidence of cases and the severity of BRD seems to be worse than in previous years.

Affected individuals may have depressed appetites, labored breathing, nasal discharge and elevated temperatures (103-106 degrees). (Andy Lehman) Multiple animals coughing can usually be heard throughout the pen or barn. A physical exam should be performed to rule out other diseases that could mimic BRD such as mastitis or metritis. If multiple animals are affected, the herd is probably experiencing a herd outbreak and corrective action should be quickly taken to control production losses. Morbidity and mortality can be dramatic if one fails to intervene in a timely manner. Your herd veterinarian should be consulted to implement a treatment strategy.

In most herd BRD outbreaks, vaccinating the affected and exposed animals with Inforce 3 intranasal vaccine seems to decrease the number of new cases and reduce the clinical signs of the affected cattle. Although the majority of BRD cases are viral in origin, treating with antibiotics helps to prevent secondary bacterial infections. Excede, Excenel, Agrimycin and Albon are our most therapeutic antibiotics available to treat adult dairy cattle. Young stock are best treated with Draxxin, Resflor or Zuprevo. Micotil has been a popular antibiotic choice for BRD treatment but due to the human health concerns associated with administration of this medication it is our recommendation to replace its use with the newly available Zuprevo. Micotil and Zuprevo are both macrolide antibiotics with the same efficacy against BRD pathogens but Zuprevo is a safer alternative for you and your employees to administer. We will no longer be carrying Micotil in our clinic pharmacy but it will continue to be available for purchase through our drop-ship program. Please direct any questions or concerns to your regular herd veterinarian.

It has also been our experience that a dose of Multimin will help to enhance the immune system and may be beneficial when treating BRD.

Your veterinarian will continue to be your best source of information for farms to successfully treat BRD this winter. Always read the label for specific dosing schedules as well as milk and meat residue withdrawal times. Be aware, many of the antibiotics available to treat dairy replacements are not available for use in female dairy cattle over 20 months of age.

Not only does proper ventilation and good nutrition play a substantial role in preventing BRD, but a sound vaccination program is equally important. As a reminder, all respiratory vaccines (regardless if you're using killed or modified live) require a booster 2-4 weeks following the primary vaccination. In most cases, livestock should be vaccinated twice per year to help prevent BRD. If you feel your herd is experiencing respiratory issues this winter, please contact any of our dairy veterinarians to assist you.

**Winter 2016 Lewis County Rabies Clinics for Dogs & Cats**



**Saturday January 23 at Maple Ridge Center, East Road, Lowville from 12 noon to 2 pm.  
All cats should be in carriers or confined in pillowcases. Dogs must be on a leash.**