



Countryside Veterinary Clinic, LLP

March 2018 Newsletter



Polyflex Shortage

As many of you are already aware, the antibiotic "Polyflex" (ampicillin) is in very short supply nationwide due to manufacturing issues. Because of our limited available inventory, farms will be restricted to purchasing only 2 bottles of Polyflex per week until further notice. According to our pharmaceutical representatives the lag in production may extend into early 2019.

Other antibiotics, such as oxytetracycline (Agrimycin), ceftiofur (Excenel, Naxcel or Excede) and penicillin may be logical alternatives for use in place of Polyflex. (John Beiler) Each of these antibiotics have unique indications for use, specific milk and meat withdrawal times and economic considerations that need to be reviewed prior to use. Your herd veterinarian will be happy to discuss various treatment options while Polyflex availability is limited.

Single Use Needles

For years it has been a common practice on many farms to re-use needles when giving routine injections. Because of the recent uptick in transmissible diseases such as Anaplasmosis (which we have diagnosed in our practice area), USDA federal veterinarians are strongly urging producers and food animal veterinarians **not to reuse needles.**



Research has shown that even if needles are wiped off with alcohol cotton swabs they can still transmit disease. Contaminated needles can also cause muscle abscesses that if identified at slaughter will result in the need for excessive trimming. Remember that not only are new needles clean but they are far sharper making it much easier to give any type of injection. For timed breeding injections many producers have been using new 3cc syringes and needles with good results. The combination syringe and needle costs \$0.16 cents and is very convenient to use.

As the standard of care improves for all livestock, it is our hope that the practice of only using clean new needles will be adopted by both producers and veterinarians alike. For the health and safety of your herd please consider single use needles for all injections.

There have been recent discussions about the importance of biosecurity and reusing needles. Veterinary Services cannot over-emphasize the importance of single-use needles in the diagnosis and treatment of livestock. Needles contaminated with blood or tissue can act as fomites, carrying infectious agents and rapidly transmitting disease through a herd or between herds of animals. Using needles on only one animal and then safely discarding used needles protects the health and well-being of livestock and the customers we serve. Some diseases that may be transmitted with dirty needles include:



- Bovine leukosis;
- Bovine virus diarrhea;
- Bluetongue;
- Anaplasmosis;
- Ringworm;
- Clostridial disease (blackleg);
- Several foreign animal diseases.

2018 Black River Valley Concert Series at Lewis County Historical Society

March 24: ***Boogie Woogie Kid***,
Michigan's leading boogie-woogie pianist plays blues, jazz and ragtime

April 14: ***Lonely Heartstring Band***,
Multi-talented musicians in a classic Bluegrass quintet

"Topnotch instrumentation and a beautiful vocal blend are the cursory reasons to begin forming an allegiance to this band. Their music is addicting, and just like viewing the Grand Canyon, you can't begin to find the words to describe the wonder witnessed." -Bluegrass Unlimited

At the Door: \$20 In Advance: \$18
Student: \$12 Family: \$45

Available at: lewiscountyhistory.org (PayPal), Café Z in Lowville, Dr. Guitar in Watertown, and The Falls Pharmacy in Lyons Fall

All concerts at in the Blue Room of the Lewis County Historical Society

7552 South State St, Lowville NY 7:30 p.m.

Read our newsletters: Remember that if you spot your name in our newsletter and call us within 5 days of the billing date, we will give you a \$10.00 credit on your bill.