

## The Remarkable Story of a Cow named Six

By: Caitlin Tearney

Last issue we introduced you to the champion cow at Charmany named Six. This girl milked over 100 pounds of milk a day for 300 days. She freshened on October 29th and gave birth to a bull calf weighing 107 pounds. The calf was pulled, but otherwise the birth was not out of the ordinary. When the student workers arrived at Charmany the following morning, they saw Six lying down with her uterus prolapsed laying on the grates.



Dr. Harry Momont, UW's theriogenologist, arrived at Charmany shortly after. Step number one was to try to get Six to stand. All attempts at getting her to stand she refused. Six's uterus was covered with sand and manure, and the sand proved difficult to clean from the uterus (like a day at the beach). Dr. Momont started trying to put the uterus back inside Six. On first attempts, the weight of her abdominal

organs shoved every try back outside her body. They were making no progress.

Finally, Six decided to stand up and free some space in her pelvic cavity. Very slowly, Dr. Momont was able to make progress and get the uterus back inside.

While replacing the uterus, they did their best to clean it of the sand but it still stuck in many locations.

Dr. Keith Poulsen, large animal internal medicine resident, arrived on scene at this time. His exam found Six's heart rate to be 140, respiration rate at 60, and her mucous membranes were white. She had clearly lost a great deal of blood from injuries to her uterus. Because she did lose so much blood, in addition to the fact that Six is a high producing cow, the decision was made to transfuse her with a gallon of blood from the donor cow at the VMTH, a very expensive endeavor. She also received 20 liters of normal saline IV. Remarkably, Six was eating a few hours after the transfusion. Dr. Momont placed a purse-string suture in Six's vulva but this was removed the following day because of edema accumulating at the site. She was started on Penicillin and Excenel for 7 days. To date, both Six and calf are doing well. It is unclear whether it will be possible to breed Six again due to the sand in her uterus and complications this may have caused. The first attempt to breed her back will be around 73 days in milk.

## Wisconsin Veterinary School's Dairy Teaching Herd Named After Dr. Allenstein

To help endow the Dr. Leland Allenstein Dairy Teaching Herd, please contact the veterinary school's Office for Advancement at 608/265-9692 or e-mail them at [giving@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:giving@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu).

### Mindy Sue Wesely

By: Casey Fitz

Mindy Sue Wesely has been working at Charmany with the Teaching Herd since August of 2005. She is in her senior year of undergraduate study at UW-Madison. Her area of study is Animal Sciences/Natural Sciences. Mindy's future plans include attending Veterinary Medical School, possibly getting a PhD and maybe even becoming a professor.

Mindy had very little experience working with large animals prior to starting at Charmany but, now would like to specialize in Food Animal Production Medicine. Mindy is currently the student manager at the barn. She is in charge of all the records including vaccinations, hay monitoring, treatment records, and persistency reports. Mindy enjoys spoiling the cows at Charmany. She also likes to watch a clinical case progress from start to finish.



Mindy is the President of the Pre-Vet Club and also works in a research lab at the Veterinary Medical School with Dr. Susan West. In addition, Mindy is a waitress, a tutor, and a teaching assistant for Intro to Animal Sciences and Reproductive Physiology. She likes to play with her dog, Moses, and collect 1/64 scale farm sets.

If you are out at Charmany and have any questions the herd, Mindy is an excellent resource and always willing to help. She is pictured with her favorite cow Penny.

## **Katrina the Survivor**

By: Jacy Suk

Katrina, one of the most productive cows in the dairy herd at Charmany, is also the source of much frustration for milkers, students on herd health rotation, and every veterinarian that she meets. This 11 year-old cow has given a lot, in pounds of milk as well as number of calves. Most recently, she delivered twin heifers. Unfortunately, only one of the calves survived, but that calf, Kendra, is doing very well and is soon going to be weaned. She will surely be a great addition to the herd once she is bred, has a calf of her own, and starts producing milk. Soon after giving birth to Kendra, Katrina developed a fever that waxed and waned over the next few weeks, and eventually was brought in to the VMTH to be looked at. She was treated with antibiotics, given a very complete physical exam, blood work was done, ultrasounds were performed, and still, nothing was found to explain her fever! But Katrina, being her reliable, sturdy self, kept producing a large amount of milk, kept up her appetite, and never showed any other clinical signs of illness. The mystery as to the cause of Katrina's fever may never be discovered, but she is a trooper and as of now she is doing quite well and her fever seems to have subsided on its own.



Katrina



Kendra