



Winter 2011

## Teaching Herd Loses an Old Friend

Scarlet, a cow that was a very beloved member of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine Leland Allenstein Dairy Teaching Herd, passed away on November 18, 2010 and will be sorely missed.

Scarlet was the last remaining cow in the herd from the original 52-cow herd that was purchased in 2000 for the program.

"She had a mind of her own," said Herdsman Dave Gietzel of the cow.

Scarlet proved that fact to everyone after she had Sophie. Scarlet refused to take the calcium that is normally administered to all cows after giving birth.

"Jason Loner—who was about as strong as any person I have ever met—could not give Scarlet her second calcium dose because she literally took him down with the power of her neck as he was holding her mouth," Gietzel said "From that point forward, Scarlet never received her second, third, or fourth dose of calcium after calving as all the other cows did."

Scarlet has been one of the most prolific cows in the herd—at the age of 14 she had given birth to seven daughters, had 11 grand daughters, four great grand daughters, three great, great grand daughters and one great, great, great granddaughter. Eighteen of these cows are still in the herd. Furthermore, in the cow family she created, there have been no less than three sets of twin heifers born.

Bill Goodger, who was the program coordinator of the teaching herd before the current coordinator Dr. Nigel Cook, knew Scarlet very well and has fond memories of this remarkable cow.

"We brought [Scarlet] over from the dry pen and left the gate open to the concrete lot while the cows were coming outside to eat," Goodger recalls. "Scarlet immediately went over to the door where the cows were coming outside and would not let any more cows out and began to run the rest inside the barn. Finally, she settled down and let the cows out to eat. She was the boss cow of the herd."

Scarlet and the other teaching herd cows are responsible for much of the hands-on learning SVM students receive in dairy cattle management and medicine. Thanks to cows like Scarlet, students are able to get real world experience by working in a milking herd environment, understanding what it means to work with and care for dairy cows, as well as making and implementing actual clinical decisions.

Scarlet, the boss cow was a good teacher and a prolific mother. She gave us fond memories and we will always have a great deal of respect for her character and abilities. She will forever be remembered as an old friend for those she came in contact with at the School of Veterinary Medicine.



Scarlet

### Support Our Herd

The School of Veterinary Medicine continues to seek private gifts to support the Dr. Leland Allenstein Dairy Teaching Herd. Our goal is to fund a \$1 million endowment where annual interest from the endowment will be used to help support the maintenance and health care costs of the herd.

Checks toward the herd's endowment can be made payable to the UW Foundation, with "Allenstein Teaching Herd" written on the memo line. Mail your donation to:

Dr. Leland Allenstein Dairy Teaching Herd  
UW School of Veterinary Medicine  
2015 Linden Drive—Rm 2170  
Madison, WI 53706

Or, visit [www.vetmed.wisc.edu/giving](http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/giving)  
Questions? Please contact our Office for Advancement at 608/265-9692.

# Scarlet Lineage

