

Dr. Leland Allenstein Dairy Teaching Herd Newsletter

Fall 2007

First Issue

November 27, 2007

Second Year Students Learning With the Help of the Herd

By: Caitlin Tearney

The Lee Allenstein Dairy Teaching Herd is always providing students opportunities for hands on learning. This semester, the second year veterinary students took a trip to Charmany Instructional Facility as part of the immunology course. They were given the opportunity to practice administering intradermal injections for delayed type hypersensitivity testing. Injections were placed in the caudal fold of the tail of the dairy cows and on the neck to stimulate testing for *Mycobacterium bovis*. These tests are performed initially on the caudal fold of the tail and if positive the test is repeated on the neck as a comparative cervical skin test.

Skin testing is a valuable skill to learn because *M. bovis* is a causative agent of

Tuberculosis in humans. If a cow is indeed found to be positive it is immediately shipped to slaughter and the herd is quarantined until further testing is done. Producers would not appreciate their herd being quarantined due to a false positive because the test was improperly performed.

The students were assisted by Dr. Ron Schultz and Dr. William Goodger, who showed proper technique including how to appropriately restrain the cows and administer the injections. With the dairy herd being managed so well, the cows are very comfortable with students approaching and working with them. This is of great benefit to students without a great deal of experience with large animals.



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.

Student Interview

By: Casey Fitz

Elsa Ludwig is currently in her junior year at UW-Madison. She is pursuing a B.S. in Animal Science. Elsa is one of the student caretakers for the School of Veterinary Medicine's Teaching Herd. The reason she is working with dairy cattle is to gain experience with large animals in order to prepare for her future plans of becoming a large animal veterinarian. She had never worked with cows prior to starting at Charmany and now feels very comfortable standing along side one (as can be seen in the picture taken with her favorite cow Tania). Aside from working with the herd she has been involved in multiple independent studies, the herd health program and is currently running the posilac program. Elsa's favorite thing about working at Charmany is the opportunity to learn something new everyday. She particularly enjoyed a palpation lab that Dr. Goodger had set up during the summer. Elsa also enjoys riding her horse, working at her other jobs and napping. She also takes great pride in the fact that a calf at Charmany was named after her.



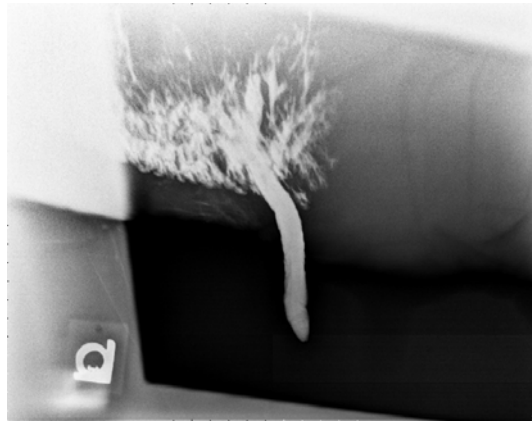
Sofia's Extra Problem

By: Christine Kohlman

Sofia is a heifer that just calved in the beginning of October. She, however, has a unique problem. She had 6 full size teats. There are four teats right next to each other in the front and two that look normal in the back quarters. So the problem is deciding which of the front two teats make the "real" right and left quarters. Additionally, we want to know if both teats are connected to the same gland. Dr. Livesey took on the case, but decided to wait to make a decision until after Sofia calved. After calving, Sofia's milk production was recorded out of all teats. Her morning milk production from each teat was: 2 front=2 lbs, 2 middle=9 lbs, 2 rear=11 lbs. On October 11, Dr. Livesey used a combination of ultrasound and radiographs to determine if the two teats on each side were connected to the same gland or were separate entities.



He used a technique called contrast radiography, where he injected a radio opaque substance into the teats and then made the radiographs. The liquid injected contains iodine, and allowed him to outline the glandular tissues and confirm that there was no communication.



In fact she has 6 separate "quarters" or glands, but what is more important was deciding which ones would continue to be milked. In Sofia's case, the two front teats are smaller and produce less milk. These two teats will be removed. To remove the teats at this stage of her lactation would have been risky. The recommendation by Dr. Livesey is to wait. When Sofia goes dry those two teats will be cut off and the wound edges brought together. If the removal was attempted now, there would be a significant risk of the pressure in the gland forcing milk to leak through the stitches, possible leading to infection and mastitis. So for the time being, Sofia has six teats but only milks on four of them. In the next year or so after the extra teats are removed, she will look like every other cow.

Cow Interview

By: Kevin Joyce

On October 18, 2004 a star was born. Coincidentally, this star came from Star, one of Charmany's dairy cows. As her mother's name implies, she was born to shine. Her name is Six, and she has become one of the best cows Charmany has known. In the last year she spent 300 days in milk, and produced over 100 pounds per day! Not only is she a stellar producer, but Six also brings a lot to the Charmany team. She has provided numerous valuable learning experiences for undergraduates and veterinary medical students alike!

Her precarious disposition has helped students gain a more complete understanding of bovine handling. Due to the large numbers of different people going through the herd each year, the ladies of Charmany are a rather tame herd. This worries Six. She doesn't want this tameness to lead to the students developing an inflated confidence around cows. Six worries that this overconfident attitude could lead to rather serious injuries. So she's



taken it upon herself to "break in" the new workers with frequent swings of her hind legs during milking.

Six also recently freshened (10/29/07), giving birth to a beautiful red and white bull. His name is Spider, and he weighed in at 107 pounds shortly after birth. This happy event, however, turned sour when Six's uterus prolapsed the morning following her freshening. While unfortunate for Six, this event too produced a good learning experience for students. Six is a truly magnificent animal, and Charmany is lucky to have her!