Charmany Dairy Newsletter

Spring 2004, Issue 2 *February 2, 2004*

The teaching herd really is all about the students

2. Students (Allison Wistrand, Kerry Hagen, Diane Rodman, Stacy Garves, Rachel Haak, and Stephanie Greetan) assisted Brit with her calving, having to pull and help deliver the calf after Brit had turned him right side up (yes, it is true that cows do that, too). After the calving the students still has a lot of work to do. They milked Brit so four quarts of colstrum could be given to the calf (which was given with a bottle and a stomach tube in order to get all four quarts into the calf within two hours post calving); drew blood to submit to the lab for calcium determination; to prevent milk fever they gave Brit $CaPO_4$ paste; dipped the navel of the calf with iodine; and yes, Sheila, getting that garbage bag down on Brit's grate! And all of this while Dr.Goodger and Dr. Momont were attending to other tasks! Another job well done by the students!!!

❖

3. During Veterinary Diagnostics and Therapeutics 623-625-LA GI (Instructors McGuirk, Peek, and Riesberg) students detected an LDA (left displaced abomasum) in a heifer which had been in the barn only one hour before the course began. It was an inadvertent examination, since we usually do not touch heifers like this for *at least* 2 days as we are taming them to barn behavior, but nevertheless an early diagnosis of LDA was the result. The course instructors decided (while all of the students qued up to

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An Unexpected Loss in the Herd... Occasionally, things happen on a farm that are rare, random, shocking, and deadly. Melanie, a first calf heifer 60 days in milk, went off feed with no manure Friday morning. Forty minutes later she was dead. The post-mortem identified that she had a severe intestinal torsion.

Management Issues: The Weather Factor

Well, well, well…winter is upon us. This creates new challenges that need to be addressed in order to continue to care for the cows properly, and keep them healthy. Items to keep in mind:

❄ The Barn Cleaner has to have *all* of paddles that remain outside overnight (or during the day) clean of manure so that they will not become frozen down. If you can image, such an event would create quite a catastrophe (barn cleaner chain breaks) if not addressed, OR provide quite a biceps exercise: you, outside in the dark, standing in manure, using a hammer to release the paddles…student are getting very good at this task!

❄ The door to the milk house has to be kept open overnight (to let in heat) when the temperature is below zero. If not, the pipes *will* freeze (we have been as low as 31 degrees and it has taken FIVE MINUTES to get

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Momont, OUR HERO !

The teaching herd would like to thank Dr. Harry Momont for his continued, unconditional support of the herd. Dr. Momont consistently demonstrates his support by his willingness to: show up for a calving at any time of the day or night (and spend the extra time with the students to make sure it is a teaching moment); breed cows any time our management system fails; stretch himself to assist with medical treatments with the cows; do whatever is necessary and required in the herd (he milked the first night we had the herd, although, he has not driven the skid loader just yet); and for his counsel on herd matters—he certainly brings in the voice of experience and calmness.

Students (con't...)

listen to a PING), to take the heifer to the surgery area at Charmany, and roll her while under sedation to correct the LDA. As she had never been handled to walk to the surgery area, she required double halters (which actually she tolerated quite well). The roll procedure worked great. The abomasum was replaced back into the proper position, and the heifer was able to walk back to her stall. And all of this in front of 40 students—quite an audience!

The Weather Factor (con't...)

any water through the pipes on a few mornings)! NOTE: Frozen pipes cannot milk cows!

❄ The silage has frozen into large chunks. This means that one has to use the skid loader to break up the silage before it is hauled into the barn so the cows can eat "proper" silage (as the Brits would say).

❄ To make sure the cows do not slip when going out to the exercise yard (which is concrete) the yard has to be limed. This winter marks the first time in 8 years that we've had to use de-icing salt and the skid loader to break and remove ice!

❄ There have been at least six days that wind chills have prevented us from letting the cows out this winter. (Again, this is the first time we have this number of days.) Besides not eating hay at the bunk (cows don't mind the cold, but they don't like the wind), teat-ends must be taken into consideration in this type of environmental condition. Interestingly, because managing/treating cows is a trade-off (as with everything), due to the break in their routine, the cows go down in dry matter intake, and thus milk production. But, I would say this is a small price to pay for healthy cows, wouldn't you?

❄ Cows—especially the heifers—coming into the barn from the cold, wintery, dry cow barn, need to have an emollient cream (the one we use is from France, *ooh la la*), placed on their teats 30 minutes post milking. This procedure provides the teat-ends with a nice transition as they get used to the dry barn environment, pre and post dipping, as well as the increase in circulation in their teat ends.

Things to look for in future issues:

Herd Photo Contest
&
The "Ask Dave" column is being resurrected

Herd Health Management Rotation

Name	Class
Rachel Klos	2004
Ann Zielinski	2006
Stacy Garves	2006
Dylan Frederickson	2006
Rebecca Morris	2006
Travis Cooper	2006
Joe Herring	2006
Pam Draheim	2007
Travis Kuhlka	2007
Diane Rodman	2007
Amelia Fairchild	2007

Charmany VIPs

Allison Wistrand
Ann Zielinski
Christine Sibigtroth
Gretchen Glose
J.R. Lund
Jason Loner
Jay Elsbernd
Kathryn Natchek
Kerry Hagen
Kristin Kultgen
Lorene Olin
Marisa Hickey
Melissa Maurer
Molly Schroeder
Pam Draheim
Rachael Haak
Rebecca Mentink
Rebecca Morris
Sara Gilbertson
Stacia Volbrecht
Stacy Garves
Stephanie Greetan
Travis Cooper
Amy Hagen

Daily Events

MONDAY

AM:

PM: History, Physical Examination, and Restraint Laboratory-Bovine Restraint—Dr. Bill Goodger, Chris Eisele, Dave Gietzel, Steve Mell, and Dr. Alfonso Lago. Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief- 2nd yr (Stacy Garves) 1st Year (Diane Rodman) and Pre –Vet Allison Wistrand.

TUESDAY

AM: 4th year Theriogenology rotation Herd Check: Harry Momont & 4th yr. students, + pre-vet Kerry Hagen (623-699).

- Bleeding opportunity to tail bleed cows for Chuck Czuprynski's and Gary Splitter's laboratory.

PM: Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief-2nd yr (Stacy Garves) 1st Year (Diane Rodman) and Pre –Vet Allison Wistrand.

WEDNESDAY

AM: LAIM (a.k.a. Laura Lien) will be sending a 4th year student to tail bleed for Chuck Czuprynski's and laboratory and exam any sick cows.

WEDNESDAY con't...

PM: Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief- 2nd yr (Stacy Garves) 1st Year (Diane Rodman) and Pre –Vet Allison Wistrand.

THURSDAY

AM:

PM: Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief-2nd yr (Stacy Garves) 1st Year (Diane Rodman) and Pre –Vet Allison Wistrand.

FRIDAY

AM: 7:30am-Management meeting for Teaching herd management team .

PM: Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief- 2nd yr (Stacy Garves) and Pre –Vet Allison Wistrand.

- Posilac injections given to eligible cows.

SATURDAY

Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief-2nd yr (Stacy Garves) 1st Year (Dylan Frederickson).

SUNDAY

Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief-2nd yr (Stacy Garves) 1st Year (Dylan Frederickson).

What's with all the Bull?

Cows and heifers that are due in the next month: **Bull, Bull, & Bull… *D A V E !*** How long can this go on??? Two heifers in the last thirteen calvings! Have you crunched those numbers yet? A total of 89 bulls (.56) and 69 heifer calves(.43) have been born since we began this herd in September 2000.

Upcoming Events

Cows and heifers due in the next month

Cow/Heifer	Calving result / due date
Tingle	2/1 (bull)
Tina	2/6
Char	2/6 (bull)
Brit	2/6 (bull)
Lucy	2/16
Greta	2/16
Diane	2/16
Violet	2/23
Julie	2/23
Melody	3/1
Jessica	3/1

Projects

- See **Kerry Hagen** for the schedule of cows that need to be vaccinated (J-5 and Scourgard).
- **Sara Gilbertson** is now doing the body condition scoring and could always use some help.
- **Allison Wistrand** is taking a 699 directed study on Sick cow physical examinations
- **Kerry Hagen** is taking a 699 directed study on implementing the OVSYNCH breeding protocol.

Production and Milk Quality Summary

- The herd continues to milk an average of 86 lbs/cow of Adjusted Corrected Milk (ACM).
  (ACM is a calculation that standardizes milk to 3.5% fat content, produced by a 3rd lactation cow at 150 DIM.)
- Approximately 42 cows are producing 3327 lbs/day (79 lbs/cow/day). This is approximately 72 lbs per stall—better than our breakeven production level of 68 lbs! (Good job!)
- The herd's butterfat has averaged 3.75%. The protein has averaged 3.05%.
- Dry Matter intake is at 52 lbs per cow.
- Bulk tank SCC is at 208,000 with a SPC of 1000 for January.

***If you need to reach someone at the UW-SVM Teaching Herd Barn, call* (608) 265-3558**

Please direct correspondence regarding the Charmany Teaching Herd or the newsletter to:

William J. Goodger, DVM, PhD
Cell: (608) 770-1448
wgoodger@facstaff.wisc.edu

Employment Opportunities

- If you are interested in gaining experience with dairy cows, we have the opportunity for you. You can join the milking crew at the Charmany Teaching Facility and work the AM or PM milking shifts. Weekday shifts are from 5:00 am to 7:00 am and from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Weekend shifts are from 5:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Interested students should contact Dr. Bill Goodger at 770-1448.
- Further note on employment is that we can save 50% in student salary expenses (about $20,000 per year) if students apply for work study (about 90% of veterinary students are probably eligible). These added funds would not only allow more students to access to the herd, but would also provide support for clinics, projects, and clinical upgrades to our facility which would enhance the experience for all students. Below is information about work study from the CAMPUS work study office in financial aid.

** The **Work-Study Program** does not determine where you work. It is up to you to determine where you'd like to work and what type of work you'd be interested in. The Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP) employee's will be glad to discuss with you what your interests are and what employment options are available to you but you will need to contact the employers directly to inquire about job availabilities.

Having accepted Work-Study will benefit you primarily in two ways: first, since employers only pay .50 cents of every dollar earned by a student, work-study students are highly sought after employees and second, any work-study monies earned are not counted and considered as earned income when you apply for next year's financial aid. Normally a student's earnings are considered as earned income and your next year's financial aid award is reduced by that amount.

If you decide to work On-Campus, **ANY** job at the UW automatically qualifies as a work-study position. You should always let a UW-employer know that you have accepted a work-study award, because again, it makes you an even more desirable hire to them. Having said this, some UW employers require that you have work-study. These listing can be found under the "UWWR" section.