RED’S CORNER

Lately, morning bunk talk has all been about the new hay from near Monticello (Dave’s country) and the improved on-schedule feeding by the weekend a.m. and p.m. students. The new hay Dave found is so “delish” that we try to gobble it up faster than those conscientious students can fork it over to the next cow. We also really appreciate not getting all our feed at the same time: now we don’t have to waste time sorting through the other feed to get to the hay. It’s been great being fed like those high-producing herds Up North that are fed cafeteria-style in the evening; this allows us enough time between feedings to savor what we can smell.

I would like to make one teensy request. Please, when my head is laying on Amanda’s or Merry’s head, kindly place the feed a little to the left or right of my tie stall so I don’t have to move my whole body to eat. May I remind you I have pretty well-developed neck muscles and a prehensile tongue which allow me considerable latitude. Please don’t tease me as some do and put the feed just out of my reach, so I have to get up (much less move) to eat!

Student Projects:
Vaccine Program

By: Marisa Hickey

About two years ago I started working at Charmany, and coming from a suburb outside of the big city of Chicago, I had no idea what I was getting myself involved with. I started putting the milk machines on upside down, I couldn’t push the silage cart onto the scale, and when I walked in one day to find a newborn calf lying in the aisle I called Dr. Goodger about 6 times in a panic. But today I go to work a lot more comfortable and a lot more efficient at my job. Not only am I milking and feeding the cows, but this semester Dr. Goodger gave me the opportunity to be in charge of the vaccination schedule of the herd.

Thanks to Ann Zielinski, I was quickly introduced to the vaccination program. In the office I can read the breeding wheel, which has colored labels for each cow telling me where they are in their lactation cycle. The vaccine J5, used to aid against mastitis, is administered 8 weeks prior, 4 weeks prior, and two weeks after the calving date. Scourgard 3k, used to prevent against rotavirus, coronavirus and E. coli K99 bacterin, three common causes of calf scours, is administered 4 weeks and 2 weeks prior to the expected calving date. As I line the wheel up with a date, I can see which cow should be given what vaccine on that day. I record what vaccines should be given on the whiteboard calendar next to the wheel a couple of weeks in advance. Once the vaccine is administered it is checked off on the board, and I then record this information in the Dairy Comp 305 computer program.

I will not only be entering this data into the computer, but I will also be doing some research on the vaccines. I have recently found that the creator of J5 is trying to create a J6 vaccine, which would be a more effective vaccine. I also hope to interview Ron Schultz, who has played a key role in the development of this vaccination program.

I am extremely grateful that where I was two years ago has been elevated to learning more about dairy cattle and more about veterinary medicine. I’ll try to keep you updated with any exciting research I find.
WORKER PROFILE
Shandy Chapin

Q: What is your home town?
A: Monroe, WI

Q: How long have you been working at Charmany?
A: Since August 2004

Q: What was your previous large animal experience (if any)?
A: I had previously ridden with a large animal veterinarian for 1½ years prior to starting [at Charmany].

Q: Where did you go to undergrad?
A: Illinois State University

Q: What year are you in vet school (or undergrad)?
A: I am not in school, but have applied to vet school.

Q: What was/is your major?
A: Criminal Justice Sciences

Q: What are your plans after school?
A: To work as a large animal vet in a rural area.

Q: Who is your favorite cow?
A: Sheldon, the bull calf

Q: Why did you decide to start working at Charmany?
A: I needed large animal experience to enhance my knowledge and increase my chances of getting into vet school.

Q: What is one cool thing you have learned about cows from working with the herd (assuming you didn’t already know everything there is to know)?
A: They all have their own distinct personalities!

COW PROFILE
Sheila

BIRTHDAY: February 13th, 2000

MOTHER: Shelby

LACTATION: 2nd (pregnant with a heifer!)

DUE DATE: February 18th, 2005

PAST CALVES: Two bulls

HEALTH CONCERNS: After her last calving she had severe ketosis and was drenched and treated with propylene glycol 4 times. She also had a broken tail during this lactation but it healed itself and now she is fine 😊

PRODUCTION: First Lactation = 22,990  
Second Lactation = 27,760
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|     |     |                  |                  |                  |                  |  
| 6   | 7   | 8 Herd Health- PM | 9 Herd Health- PM | 10 Herd Health- PM | 11 Herd Health- PM | 12 Herd Health- AM and PM |
| Herd Health- AM and PM | Herd Health- PM | DHIA Testing | Herd Health- PM |  
|     |     |                  |                  |                  |                  |  
|     |     |                  |                  |                  |                  |  
| 13  | 14  | 15 4th Year Theriogenology | 16 Herd Health- PM | 17 Herd Health- PM | 18 Management Meeting  
| Herd Health- AM and PM | Happy Valentine’s Day  
|                  | Herd Health- PM |                  |                  | Management Meeting  
|                  |                  |                  |                  |  
| 20  | 21  | 22 4th Year Theriogenology | 23 LAIM tail bleeding AM | 24 Herd Health- PM | 25 Management Meeting  
| Herd Health- AM and PM | Herd Health- PM | Herd Health- PM | Herd Health- PM |  
|                  |                  |                  |                  |  
| 27  | 28  | 1 4th Year Theriogenology | 2 LAIM tail bleeding AM | 3 Herd Health- PM | 4 Management Meeting  
| Herd Health- AM and PM | Herd Health- PM | Herd Health- PM | Herd Health- PM |  
|                  |                  |                  |                  |  
| 6   | 7   | 8 Spring Break | 9 Spring Break | 10 Spring Break | 11 Spring Break  
| Herd Health- AM and PM | Herd Health- PM | Herd Health- PM | LAIM tail bleeding AM | Herd Health- PM |  
|                  |                  |                  |                  |  
| 2005 |     |                  |                  |                  |                  |  

1. Large Animal Internal Medicine will be sending a 4th yr student to tail bleed for PBS labs.
2. First year student PE course.
3. Meeting topics: 1st Friday= reproduction, 2nd= production, 3rd= Future issues, and 4th= management decisions
Herd Health:
The Case of the Chilly Calf

By Becky Mentink, VMII

On a very “Wisconsin-in-January” wintry Sunday morning, the milkers walked into the barn to find...a heifer calf! That’s not an uncommon story for any dairy, but the events that followed certainly were a little too exciting.

Scarlet, quite experienced at calving successfully all on her own, delivered the first little black heifer calf of the two she would have that morning an hour or more before help arrived for morning chores. Unfortunately, due to an occupied maternity pen and being locked up in a stanchion, Scarlet was unable to continue with her maternal duties of cleaning up the calf, so Sammi (as she has been named) became more like a Popsicle in the cold barn. When help arrived, Dr. Bill Goodger was called and Scarlet was assisted with the birth of a second heifer calf, Stephanie. Having twice the normal amount of work to do, Dr. Goodger began calling student cell phones for help, and I just happened to answer mine first. When I arrived, Scarlet was examined for uterine tears and was given calcium to make sure this hard-working, heavy-milking mother would not go down with milk fever.

Sammi (80 lbs) and Stephanie (79 lbs) were taken to their newly made up pens and colostrum was collected (enough for both!) from Scarlet. Both calves were fed with an esophageal feeder because they were only 1.5 hours old. Stephanie, the smaller of the twins, was very bright and alert, in contrast to a lethargic and unenthusiastic Sammi. I did a TPR on both calves and found that Sammi had a temperature of only 93º F. A heat lamp, blankets and hot water bags were placed on her, but Sammi was already so hypothermic that she would not shiver. Because of the severity of the hypothermia and the unknown amount of time she had been too cold, the decision was made to rush her in to the VMTH.

Upon arrival, bundled in blankets on the seat of Charmany's pick up truck, Sammi was given a complete physical exam, blood was taken for glucose, CBC and chemistry panel, and a Bair hugger was placed around her to help raise her body temperature. Fluids, including dextrose and plasma, were given IV to help stabilize Sammi. There was great concern that although she had been fed an adequate amount of colostrum, she had not received sufficient passive transfer of immunoglobulins because of the hypothermia and lack of available energy to actively absorb nutrients. Therefore, antibiotics were also administered. Sammi was kept under a heat lamp and intensively monitored for the next 24 hours by the students and staff of the VMTH.

This case of the chilly calf ended with Sammi's uneventful recovery, but it does serve as a reminder that twins do come early, that "warm" barns in winter are still pretty cold, and that when you're dealing with neonates—especially hypothermic ones—time is in short supply and access to good equipment and fast care are essential for their survival.

Hip-Hip-Hooray!

Congratulations to Amy Karon and Nicole Varani who have finished the herd health rotation and did an excellent job with patient care.

Next Issue:

“Ask Dave” answers questions about herd health and management

CONTEST: how many newsletters did you read last semester? Complete the crossword and win an awesome prize!
Milk Results

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Employment Opportunities

Interested in gaining experience working with dairy cows? Then boy do 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 (608) 770-1448.

One 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 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.

*If you need to contact 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
Email: wgoodger@facstaff.wisc.edu