RED’S CORNER

The students this spring semester have done a great job of cleaning manure from the rear of the stalls before milking. I have mentioned how pleasant it is to be clean to many of my good cowfriends (Lucy, Amanda, Merry, and now Sunny and Snoflake) and they agree. We talk about this subject a lot at the bunk: we get quite embarrassed when we are soiled (after all, our rear ends are exposed to the students quite bit!) I am not sure if slovenly cows like Pamela and Diane have caught on yet, but they make better neighbors when they’re clean too.

Students have also been removing manure from the walkway behind us. Now students are less likely to slip and hurt themselves, which would be terrible because then Dr. Bill might have to work! Also, thanks for removing manure and shavings from the grates (those shavings sure tend to accumulate, especially at night when they’re pushed into the gutter after the barn cleaner has been run). We can tell Dave appreciates how clean the grates are when he arrives the next morning. Dave has more time to milk us and, more importantly, he doesn’t mind so much when we accidentally kick the milker off as we strain to get at out-of-reach grain. I must say, all of the extra effort on the part of the students is great because now I can really lie in my stall, get my butt out over the end of the grate and stretch my legs!!!! Ahhhhhhhhh.........

“ASK DAVE”

Hey student workers! Ever wondered why you do the things you do at Charmany? We decided to get the skinny on some Charmany procedures straight from the horse’s mouth (or cow’s)! We hope this “Ask Dave” column will become a regular feature of the newsletter. Herdsman Dave welcomes questions from readers. Please e-mail your questions to Kerry Hagen at kehagen@wisc.edu.

Q: Why do we feed hay first all of the time? Is there any reason for waiting between feeding the hay and then the cottonseed, grain, and protein?

A: We feed hay first to add some “fill” to the rumen. This is meant to help prevent acidosis resulting from ingesting too much grain on an “empty” stomach. Waiting allows the cows to eat the hay. If you fed the cottonseed, grain and protein at the same time as the hay, they would probably eat all the grain first!

Q: Why do we have to put the grain on top of the cottonseed?

A: For a lot of the cows, the cottonseed isn't palatable. We just try to hide it with the grain and protein.

Q: Why is it important that the feed and the mangers are dry when feeding?

A: Feed that is too wet is less palatable. Less palatable means less intake. Less intake means less milk.

Q: What are some problems that could result from incorrect feeding?

A: The main problem resulting from incorrect feeding is rumen acidosis, which could lead to depressed butterfat percent and a variety of feet problems. Other incorrect feeding problems could lead to DA's in fresh cows. And, obviously, incorrect feed leads to lower production.
WORKER PROFILE
Toby Pinn

Q: What is your home town?
A: Old Lyme, Connecticut

Q: How long have you been working at Charmany?
A: 2 months

Q: What was your previous large animal experience (if any)?
A: Worked on a dairy farm in Lyme, CT for 3 months. Also lots of equine experience: grew up horseback riding, worked for equine vets, and wrangled in Montana.

Q: Where did you go to undergrad?
A: Bates College in Lewiston, MZ

Q: What year are you in vet school (or undergrad)?
A: First Year

Q: What was/is your major?
A: Biology

Q: What are your plans after school?
A: Hopefully to join a mixed (bovine/equine) practice

Q: Who is your favorite cow?
A: Poppy

Q: Why did you decide to start working at Charmany?
A: To gain more bovine experience

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: That cows have a dental pad

COW PROFILE
Brian

BIRTHDAY: May 5th, 2001
DAME: Norma
LACTATION: 2nd
DUE DATE: June 3rd, 2006
PAST CALVES: Norene born 6/23/04

HEALTH CONCERNS: She injured her udder during the tornado last summer but made a full recovery 😊

PRODUCTION: 1st Lactation= 17,370
Clinical Insight:

Cracker's benign progressive convergent strabismus

Cracker’s benign progressive convergent strabismus

Clinical Insight:

**Ophtho at Charmanany**

By Kathryn A. Diehl, DVM, MS

A recent ophthalmic exam of Crackers suggests she has benign progressive convergent strabismus. Esotropia, or bilateral convergent strabismus +/- exophthalmia (cross-eyed) occurs as an inherited condition in Jersey and some other cattle breeds. It also occurs in Holsteins as an idiopathic condition with progressive exophthalmia and esotropia until maturity. Nystagmus as well as a neurologic component may be present (neither were observed in Crackers). Vision may be compromised. For example, because Crackers has pathologically accommodated for near vision due to her esotropia, she may have poor distance vision, a narrower field of view and thus posterior and lateral "relative blind spots." Clinically, these deficits may cause her to "get lost" out in the field by herself and/or spook when approached by surprise from the back or sides, as Dave described she has done. These deficits should not, however, pose problems for which she and you cannot accommodate by keeping her with other cattle and speaking to and touching her when approaching (as you've already been doing).

The pathophysiology of this disease has not been fully determined but likely involves a deficit of Cranial Nerve VI which innervates the lateral rectus and retractor bulbi muscles. Denervation to these structures would result in medial strabismus and exophthalmia as seen with benign progressive convergent strabismus: the lateral rectus pulls the globe laterally and the retractor bulbi retracts the globe and keeps it in the orbit (and not exophthalmic). Alternatively, the disease may involve muscle disease, where the medial rectus is overly strong (due to hypertrophy or fibrosis) or the lateral rectus is overly weak (congenitally or degeneratively). To address this issue in a given patient, forced duction tests could be performed. These involve rotating the globe with forceps to differentiate restrictive (muscle) from paralytic (nerve) orbital/extraocular muscle disease.

Differential diagnoses include other processes which affect the orbit, including space occupying masses (e.g., lymphosarcoma, other neoplasia, infectious-abscess, listeriosis, polioencephalomalacia, non-infectious inflammatory) affecting cranial nerves or the extraocular muscles themselves, and trauma to cranial nerves or extraocular muscles. However, these differentials are neither likely to occur in the absence of other signs nor present so symmetrically.

There is no treatment for the condition and, as the name implies, it may worsen, typically through maturity. Because the globe is deviated medially, normally the lid-covered lateral bulbar conjunctiva becomes exposed and may pigment (as seen in Crackers), or become irritated (exposure conjunctivitis). If the exophthalmia progresses to result in an incomplete blink reflex (lagophthalmos), it may result in exposure keratitis. Both of these issues may be treated with topical lubrication if indicated by clinical signs (not present at this time). We are happy to re-evaluate Crackers’ condition at any time, especially if any other problems develop.

Because the disease is not fully understood or described, if Crackers were to be euthanized, we would be interested in getting biopsies of her extraocular muscles and possibly globes and cranial nerves for evaluation.
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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
CROSSWORD CONTEST-
Complete this crossword (using last semester’s articles) and place it in my (Kerry Hagen, Class of 2008) mailbox. I will randomly pick a name from the completed crosswords to win a stylish SVM fleece from the school store!!! WHAT A DEAL, good luck!

Across:
4. Within the first three milkings after calving you get, __________
5. The basis of Charmany’s breeding program.
7. Her problems were laminitis, abscesses, and blood emboli.
8. How many cases of twins has the heard had since November of 2003?
9. Heifer that went down with milk fever.
10. The talented group that takes care of the herd’s every medical need during the semester.
13. Who assisted in Mary’s calving?
15. The column from a cow’s perspective. scoring system for the herd?

Down:
1. The herd’s wonderful hoof trimmer.
2. The Big Moo
3. What type of bacterial infection plagued Blackie’s LR quarter?
4. Celeste’s calf
6. The age when cows at Charmany begin to require special attention from the clinical staff.
8. Latest victim of hardware disease, probably from the tornado.
11. June 2004
12. Who is running the body conditioning
14. Ask.....
Herd Health: 
**Snoball’s Sad Story**

By Kristin Kultgen, VMIII

When I came in for herd health at 5 p.m. (along with first year vet students Becky Dallwig and Liz Martin), Snoball was in right lateral recumbency and very bloated. Since she was due in a few days, my first concern was uterine torsion. The milkers reported that her TPR was normal so I did a rectal palpation and thought I felt two legs (I'm still a pretty inexperienced palpator), but I couldn't determine if they were the front or hind legs. When Dr. Goodger got there, he did a vaginal palpation and felt the calf's hind legs. He determined that the calf was breached. Dr. Momont was called, and when he arrived, he and Dr. Goodger determined that Snoball had milk fever. While Dr. Goodger and Liz began treating the cow for milk fever with SQ calcium, Dr. Momont, Becky, and I started pulling out the heifer calf. When we started, the calf was alive, but unfortunately, we could not pull her out in time, and the calf did not survive. Dr. Momont and Liz then gave IV calcium to Snoball. On a positive note, Snoball recovered after calcium was given. However, herd health is still taking care of her because of vaginal tears incurred during parturition and a possible floating DA.

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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 availability.

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