Wisconsin Veterinary School’s Dairy Teaching Herd to be Named
After Dr. Allenstein

MADISON - The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine has initiated a campaign to raise $1 million to endow its dairy teaching herd in Dr. Leland Allenstein’s name. “Dr. Lee Allenstein’s influence on students and veterinarians is legendary,” notes Dr. Sheila McGuirk, large animal veterinarian at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

His long-standing reputation as a healer, dairy expert, and advocate for the dairy industry makes Dr. Allenstein an ideal namesake for a dairy herd whose primary mission is to provide a hands-on opportunity to spark students’ interest in dairy cows and large animal practice.

Many remember the prominent dairy practitioner from Whitewater, Wis. as THE veterinarian for World Dairy Expo - a position he held for over 25 years. His reputation and compassion as a veterinarian was so great that competitors brought cows from as far away as Canada and Vermont, not to show, but so that Dr. Allenstein could take a look at them.

He also wrote columns for Hoard’s Dairyman for 30 years, served on the national American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) board, and received numerous honors and awards, including AABP Practitioner of the Year in 1982.

Yet, Dr. Allenstein said, “My greatest enjoyment in life has been teaching at the School of Veterinary Medicine.”

He loved sharing his knowledge. His kind demeanor during patient care inspired not just students, but all who came into contact with him, to a new
level of care when a cow needed attention. Endowing the dairy teaching herd in his name effectively carries on the legacy.

Financing the herd has been an ongoing challenge. The herd is charged with supporting itself, but milk sales don’t stretch to cover all expenses because the herd’s teaching mission sets it apart from a private dairy. For example, the herd is used for 28 different courses; 88 students have provided clinical service during their herd health course; and 350 students have been hired to work with the herd since its inception in 2000, plus a replacement herd has been established.

An endowment to fund the herd in perpetuity therefore not only honors Dr. Allenstein, it becomes an investment in the future of the dairy industry. It ensures that veterinary medical students continue to gain positive experience that may influence them to choose a career in large animal practice.

“Every day I see students learning and growing through their involvement in the herd,” notes Dr. William Goodger, one of the herd’s managers.

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.

RED’S CORNER

Now that I have officially retired from milking after 1,830 days in the milking barn (that’s a little over 5 years), I can reflect on my new role as the “feature” cow (just like an NFL feature player) for the dry cow herd. I will be doing this over the next several newsletters since I have a lot of time to contemplate.

To bring my new student fans up to date, I have been barren since April 20, 2000. This means I’ve had to watch other cows in nearby stanchions experience the “joy” of giving birth to calves. Also, they get to experience AI and I do not (but we won’t go there). The coolest thing about being in the dry cow lot with some of my old cowleagues and heifers from Bookhout and Stateline is that I get to hold “court” and fill them in on what’s new and pass along cow gossip. Specifically (and this is where we come to my expertise), I hold a course on how to be more efficient at eating. But I will pursue that topic in the next newsletter, so now let me digress...

Turner, a new pregnant heifer arrived from Bookhout last week. That in itself is not so remarkable, but what is interesting is that she too is red and white. And believe it or not, she has been paying a lot of attention to me. I’ve taken it upon myself to introduce her to our cowleagues; show her where the best laying spots are; model eating at the wagon without getting pushed away by cows like Gretel; teach her how to drink from the automatic waterer; and
make sure she can negotiate the turns to cross the road. I am thrilled that human visitors to Charmany see us together and say, "Look at the mother and her daughter together": it makes me feel so much more significant. In fact I myself am beginning to pretend (I can't believe I am going to say this) that she is my heifer. This might upset Tina, but someone has to look after her daughter, and who better than another red & white cow? It’s a well kept secret that I was pretty bummed out sometimes in the milking barn because I had never experienced being a "mom". I feel so rejuvenated having Turner around that I have lost some weight (maybe 150 lbs), and I don't miss the silage and grain as much as I thought I would.

So next time you come out to the herd, you can find me in the dry cow herd in the big pasture. We are friendly to humans who come up to the fence and visit with us. See you then!

Hip-Hip-Hooray!

Thank you to Toby Pinn, Kerry Hagen, Matt Schaefer for finishing the herd health rotation!!

Clinical Insights:

Calf Scours and Diarrhea: A Significant and Costly Health Problem
By Alexandra McSloy, DVM

‘Lil Griff’ was a 3-month-old calf, who had been born at Charmany to Greta and was then moved to our calf-rearing facility. She was in a small group of calves and doing fine when she suddenly developed severe bloody diarrhea and became very depressed. She was brought into the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, as an emergency, for treatment. She was very weak and depressed, with profuse bloody diarrhea and was suffering from dehydration. She also had a low blood glucose contributing to her weakness.
Calf scours causes major economic losses to cow-calf producers. Diarrhea is a clinical sign of a disease which has many causes. The intestine becomes damaged so that it can no longer absorb fluid and fluid secretion into the intestine may also be increased. This causes the calf to lose large amounts of fluid through the diarrhea causing rapid dehydration. The calf also loses electrolytes and protein which can lead to changes in body pH, which along with dehydration, can lead to death. The causes of calf diarrhea are numerous and include infectious as well as non-infectious causes. Diagnosis is important, especially when dealing with a herd outbreak, to figure out how to bring the problem under control.

Infectious causes can be divided into bacterial and viral scours. Causative viral agents include rotavirus, coronavirus and bovine virus diarrhea (BVD). These were all possible in a calf Lil Griff’s age. However, fecal samples sent for electron microscopy to look for rota and corona virus were negative. She later had an ear notch test performed to look for BVD antigen present in persistently infected animals: this was also negative. Causative bacterial agents include *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella* and *Clostridium perfringens* which produce harmful toxins. The latter often causes bloody diarrhea and can be associated with feed changes, which we later learned had been a problem at the calf-rearing facility. Clostridial infection can be a very severe disease causing rapid death. Lil Griff was treated with Clostridial antitoxin under her skin very soon after arriving at the hospital. Her feces were cultured on consecutive days to look for a bacterial cause, but no bacteria were ever grown. Another cause of scours is coccidiosis, typically found in older calves about her age. It is an infectious parasite that can cause bloody diarrhea. There are two main types associated with clinical disease in cattle: *Eimeria zurnii* and *bovis* and *Cryptosporidium parvum*. Lil Griff was treated for coccidiosis with amprolium orally for five days even though no evidence of oocysts were seen on fecal smears. Non-infectious causes of calf diarrhea include nutritional changes.

Treatment for scours consists mainly of supportive therapy, correcting the dehydration, electrolyte and protein losses as well as any body pH imbalances. In addition to being dehydrated, Lil Griff had very low protein levels (specifically albumin), so she received two liters of plasma IV to correct this before she received crystalloid IV fluids to replace her deficit and to keep up with ongoing losses. We withheld food for 24 hours to give Lil Griff’s intestines a chance to recover; therefore, she was placed on IV dextrose to keep her blood glucose levels up. Over the first few days of hospitalization her diarrhea became less bloody and profuse, and she was slowly reintroduced to milk replacer and oral electrolyte solution. She was weaned off the IV fluids as the diarrhea resolved and she began
to drink more. Lil Griff returned to Charmany for intensive monitoring where she was isolated until all the bacterial cultures came back negative. Under intensive care from Dr. Goodger and Dave she continued to do very well and gained weight. She has now returned to the calf-rearing facility. We look forward to Lil Griff coming back as a strong heifer.

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

Note from the Editor:
I am truly sorry that I haven’t gotten this newsletter out earlier in the semester. Thanks for your patients! I hope you enjoyed it and are as excited about the newly named Dr. Leland Allenstein Dairy Teaching Herd as I am. Special thanks to my counterpart Kim Everson for making all the articles look nice 😊
Sincerely your editor,
Kerry Hagen
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1. Veterinary Diagnostics and therapeutics lab course from 1-5 PM
2. 4\textsuperscript{th} year theriogenology rotation with either Dr. Momont or Dr. Bosu