Taking one for the team!

Our cows take their job very seriously. Sure they provide us with milk to pay the bills, but what really drives them is the opportunity to help students gain knowledge and experience by providing the perfect laboratory setting. Equally, the students have been very caring and careful with the cows in the teaching herd, and have shown great respect for their mission.

During the past four years, we have had very few accidents involving students participating in the teaching laboratories—a fact that supports the premise that both the faculty and students have done an excellent job in minimizing the risk of accidents. Unfortunately, accidents do happen.

Following the freshman restraint laboratory, we noticed Katrina was having difficulty swallowing and eating. She was salivating excessively and had a slight expiratory cough (more than just clearing the throat). We examined her oral cavity (as much as you can in a cow), and observed an abrasion the size of a balling gun, located on the roof of her mouth behind her last left molar (the direction a balling gun would have gone if it was somewhat forced). Based upon the timing, location, and site of the injury, it is reasonable to conclude that it happened at the balling gun station during the freshman restraint laboratory.

This incident serves to remind us of the laboratory setting of this commercial herd, and does well to point out that there are risks involved. The faculty is reminded that we have to be more supervisory, and the students are reminded of their responsibility to exercise care and caution when working with the cows.

I only wish we could have addressed the prevention and treatment of a mouth injury such as this during the laboratory, as this will certainly happen to students when they become veterinarians and are in practice. To have the experience to both prevent and handle accidents like this before you enter practice can be a real bonus.

The good news in all of this is that it was a treatable accident. We have administered anti-inflammatory and antibiotic therapy, and Katrina appears to be doing much better—apart from her frustration in not being able to clean up all the feed in front her before you get by her with the feed cart!

Can a herd be a herd without Dr. Sheila McGuirk?

Many moo’s go out to Dr. Sheila McGuirk, who has been a phenomenal ally of the herd. In addition to providing the diagnostic and monitoring systems used in the herd, Dr. McGuirk continually looks for ways to improve the student experience by being flexible and willing to make adjustments (as needed) in how the herd is used in her rotations. She is always available for medical consultations (providing an exceptional level of management and health care); and for those of us with emergency medicine backgrounds, she has taught us patience—as our ways don’t always work with the cows. Overall, Dr. McGuirk continually sets the bar in patient care of the teaching herd at a level that both students and faculty can continue to work towards; after all, that is what clinical medicine is all about.

Experience and age equals one heck of a cow!

Our second oldest cow, Tina (10 years old), calved last Friday night (her due date) and had a red and white heifer, much to our pleasurable surprise! Tina’s mammary gland milk development occurred very quickly, beginning in the am, and by the afternoon her ligaments started to soften. So, we trusted her judgment and drew a blood sample at 6:30pm to check her calcium level (which was 7.4). She calved at 10pm, gave 20 lbs. of milk (so 4 quarts of colostrum was no problem), passed her afterbirth a few hours later, liked her stomach tube and drench, and what’d ya know? 48 hrs later she is up to 80 lbs. of milk! There is a lot to be said for an older cow that knows what to do and how to do it!
Jessica is Back!

Well, well, well…after 11 months Jessica is back in the barn; and as Dave would say, “she is back and bigger than ever!” How big? Approximately 1800 lbs and 61 inches at the withers! You couldn’t possibly miss her in the box stall. The challenge here will be to get her through her calving, and start her lactation off in a positive direction with no health issues (such as milk fever, ketosis, fatty liver, or metritis). Fortunately, she has had an abomasalpexy. In light of all of this, her treatment requirements are indicated in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>How much?</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>When?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Niacin</td>
<td>5 grams</td>
<td>2x daily</td>
<td>3 weeks before calving to 4 wks post calving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rumen protected choline</td>
<td>2 ounces</td>
<td>1x daily</td>
<td>3 weeks before calving to 3 weeks post calving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propylene glycol</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>1x daily</td>
<td>2 weeks before due date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh cow drench</td>
<td>1 bag</td>
<td>4x’s over 3 dys</td>
<td>Just before AND just after calving, then daily for 2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk ketones</td>
<td>1 strip</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>30 days post calving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: this is in addition to the calving and fresh cow protocol. (Watch out herd health students, I’d say your going to be busy!)

For those of you don’t know, Jessica aborted a heifer back in the summer of 2002. We had trouble breeding her back, so to increase her fertility, she was dried up in the spring 2003. She received an embryo this past June, and in late July she was diagnosed pregnant. If you’re wondering why we went through all of this trouble with her, Jessica’s ME 305 in the summer of 2002 was 36,500, so we had to give her a second chance!

Things to look for in future issues:

Herd Photo Contest
&
The “Ask Dave” column is being resurrected
Daily Events

MONDAY
AM:  
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring), 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild), pre-vet (Allison Wistrand).

TUESDAY
AM: 4th year Theriogenology rotation (623-699) herd check: Harry Momont/Bill Bosu, 4th yr. students, & pre-vet Kerry Hagen.
PM: Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) monthly testing.
    Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring), 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild), 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 laboratory.
PM:  

WEDNESDAY con’t...
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring), 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild), pre-vet (Allison Wistrand).

THURSDAY
AM:  
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring), 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild), pre-vet (Allison Wistrand).

FRIDAY
AM: 7:30am: Management meeting for the teaching herd management team .
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring), 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild), pre-vet (Allison Wistrand).
    Posilac injections given to eligible cows.

SATURDAY
Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring) 1st Year (Amelia Fairchild) and Pre –Vet Allison Wistrand.

SUNDAY
Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring) 1st Year (Amelia Fairchild) and Pre –Vet Allison Wistrand.

Upcoming Events
Cows and heifers due in the next month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cow/Heifer</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tina</td>
<td>2/6 (heifer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Char</td>
<td>2/6 (bull)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brit</td>
<td>2/6 (bull)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy</td>
<td>2/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greta</td>
<td>2/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane</td>
<td>2/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violet</td>
<td>2/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>2/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melody</td>
<td>3/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica</td>
<td>3/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katrina</td>
<td>3/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookie</td>
<td>4/02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No more bull!

It FINALLY happened! Tina had a heifer calf...
&
she is red and white!
Her name?
“Turner”!
Production and Milk Quality Summary
(updated Feb. 9, 2004)

- 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 3460 lbs/day (82 lbs/cow/day). This is approximately 75 lbs per stall—better than our breakeven production level of 68 lbs! (Good job!)
- The herd’s butterfat has averaged 3.57%. The protein has averaged 3.09%.
- Dry Matter intake is at 53 lbs per cow.
- Bulk tank SCC is at 208,000 with a SPC of 1000 for January.

A Round of Applause is in Order

We should all put our hands together for Allison Wistrand and Kerry Hagen. Allison has added a number of protocols to the protocol binder for vaccinations, Ovsynch, Pre-Synch, Resynch, and probably the kitchen sink. She has done an excellent job in providing a source for you to reference to find out everything you need to know about vaccinating the herd and managing the Ovsynch protocols, but were afraid to ask.

Kerry has implemented a new record system for diagnosing medical conditions. The system is based on a scoring developed by Dr. McGuirk, and includes a monitoring system that will allow faculty and students to follow diagnostic and treatment protocols much easier. She has replaced the yellow binder with a new, more appropriate RED binder! So, next time your out working in the herd or in a rotation that uses the herd, check out the new protocols and record system.

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.