Charmany Dairy Herd Newsletter
Feb. 11th – Feb. 17th

Daily Events

Monday:
Am:
Pm:
- Physical Exam Course – Head and Neck – 1st year students
- Bovine Surgery Elective – Patient Workups – 3rd year students

Tuesday:
Am:
- 4th year Theriogenology rotation Herd Check — Dr. Bosu & 4th yr. students
- 6:30am - 8am: Tail bleeding for blood for Dr. Czuprynski’s lab
Pm:
- Rachel Klos will be bleeding cows and processing their blood for NEFA’s and BHB’s
- Bovine Surgery Elective – Exploratory and Omentopexy Lab – 3rd year students

Wednesday:
Am:
- 6:30am-8am: LAIM student will bleed a cow for Dr. Czuprynski’s lab
Pm:

Thursday:
Am:
Pm:

Friday:
Am:
- rBST injections given to 24 cows
- Management meeting – 7:30 in building 662 at Charmany
Pm:
**Weekly Events**

**Cows due to calve:**
- The next cow to calf is Tootsie, our only 10-year-old cow, on 2/18/02. Drs. Momont and Bosu say it is a heifer. This helps our herdsman Dave to get through the day because we had a run of 15 bulls in a row in the fall semester.
- Give it up for Sara Colopy and Gretchen Glose who with Dave and a calf puller delivered Swish’s calf (a 97# bull calf). Unfortunately, the calf was dead.
- Hats off to Carmi Wallis and Jessica Pagenkopf, who delivered Sheila’s calf (another bull calf) on Tuesday, January 29th. Sheila had been milking for a week prior to calving.

**Production and Milk Quality Summary:**
- Every-day pickup for milk continues since Saturday 11/17/01, and the herd is milking 44 out of 46 cows. We are still averaging close to 86 lbs. per cow per day. Dr Oetzel predicted that we would be at 90lbs per cow per day at the end of February -- it appears he had a good crystal ball!
- Give it up for Dave Gietzel and the students who take care of Red and all those other cows!! The UW Charmany Dairy Teaching Herd has made the Supervised Holstein Top 30 Herds list in production for Dane County with 23,909 lb/cow – 29th out of 230 dairy farms in Dane County and moving up! HOW COOL IS THAT???
- Put your hands together for the Students in PMII last semester who made recommendations that moved the UW Charmany dairy teaching herd to 12th out of 230 herds in Dane County in the Somatic cell count super star list with a count of 120,000.
- Sparkle is the 6th top Holstein 4 year old in cheese yield in Dane county, making over 1100 lbs of fat for the current lactation.
- Matti is the 3rd top Holstein 5 year old in cheese yield in Dane county, making 1250 lbs of fat for the current lactation.
- And last, but not least, our box stall cow Morgan with the bad hamstrings was the 31st top Holstein 5-year-old in cheese yield in Dane county, making 960 lbs of fat for the current lactation.
- Red had 70 lbs for the first time in this lactation (650 days in milk).

**Sick Cows/Treatments/Breedings:**
- Swish had a high NEFA at 0.46 mEq/l. However, the measurement was taken the day before she calved, and since we have no standards for cows that close to calving, we will consider her NEFA result uninterpretable. NEFAs can be difficult to collect and interpret, because we don't know exactly when the cow is going to calve even when we take the sample near the expected calving date. We can only interpret these results if the cow calves 2 - 14 days from the time the NEFA sample is collected. Recent results for both NEFA’s and BHB’s are below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cow Name</th>
<th>Expected Fresh Date</th>
<th>Fresh Date</th>
<th>NEFA (-14 to -2 days) (mEq/l)</th>
<th>Results BHB-1 (3-30 DIM) (mg/dl)</th>
<th>Results BHB-2 (3-30 DIM) (mg/dl)</th>
<th>Results BHB-3 (3-30 DIM) (mg/dl)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sasha</td>
<td>11/26/2001</td>
<td>12/21/2001</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melody</td>
<td>12/18/2001</td>
<td>12/21/2001</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>1/4/2002</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violet</td>
<td>12/19/2001</td>
<td>12/21/2001</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>1/4/2002</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merry</td>
<td>12/30/2001</td>
<td>12/28/2001</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>1/17/2002</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn</td>
<td>1/14/2002</td>
<td>1/12/2002</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>1/17/2002</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ace</td>
<td>1/14/2002</td>
<td>1/12/2002</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>1/17/2002</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swish</td>
<td>1/31/2002</td>
<td>1/27/2002</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheila</td>
<td>2/7/2002</td>
<td>1/30/2002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The NEFA monitoring project continues to be a very helpful management tool in that our pre-fresh cows are getting the proper nutrition in the dry period (thanks to the feeding recommendation made by PMIII Students.) Also, our post-fresh cows are doing well nutritionally (again, thanks to PMIII Students). However, BHB levels were elevated for Violet, Annabelle, Cookie, and Merry – they were treated promptly for subclinical ketosis with propylene glycol, and now all are negative for urine ketones. Rachel Klos has been doing a great job coordinating this project but could use some help. (So e-mail Rachel if you are interested.) Finally, we certainly appreciate both Dr. Gary Oetzel’s financial support and diagnostic interpretation that make this project happen.

Lameness assessments:

Did you see the article in the February 2002 Edition of the SVM News and Views? In this edition appears a report on the herd entitled “Footloose and Fancy Free: SVM’s Cow Herd has Low Lameness Rate.” Dr. Nigel Cook says that our herd, at a lameness rate of 6.5%, is one of the lowest he has seen in the state of Wisconsin. He attributes this to their regular hoof trimming by Karl Burgi and the fact that they are so comfortable in the barn on the “HumaneMat” with 3 inches of hardwood shavings. This was verified with a video camera, which showed the mean lying time for the four cows filmed was 13 hours 8 minutes (range 11:06 to 14:02, target is >11 hours). Mean lying session time per cow was 56 minutes, and cows had about 13 lying sessions per day. They stood in stalls for 7 hours 45 minutes total each day, although standing session time averaged about 31 minute each.

Feel free to come watch the video sometime and see what cows REALLY do all day!!!!

Projects:

- We give our rBST injections on Friday mornings. If you want to give us a hand (as their can be up to 24 cows to inject) feel free to show up any time between 6:00-7:30am. Come and give Keith Poulsen and Shannon Lacy a hand.
- We have cows to vaccinate (J-5 and Scourgard) — see Erika Langfoss and Ayrika White for the schedule.
- New opportunity in February - Students are going to vaccinate the herd for BVD, IBR, PI3, and BRSV (vaccine provided by Dr. Schultz). Blood will also be taken to assess if the prevalence of BLV has increased in the herd because of palpation. Erika Langfoss will be coordinating this project.

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 top 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.

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
Cellular--608-770-1448
Email: wgoodger@facstaff.wisc.edu

Editor: Jessica Pagenkopf, 2003
Email: jmpagenk@students.wisc.edu

Data, photos, and online newsletter posting: Tom Bennett, Food Animal Production Medicine
Email: tbbennet@facstaff.wisc.edu
Meet this week’s featured cow Sandy, and this week’s featured Charmany Teaching Herd Caretaker, Jessica Pagenkopf!

Sandy

(Test Data from 1/29/02)

Breed: Holstein
Age: 3-10
Lactation: 3
Days In Milk (DIM): 22
Somatic Cell Count (SCC): 2260
Average Number of Pounds per Day: 90
Total Pounds Produced this Lactation: 1730
Lifetime Production Total: 40800
Reproductive Status: Fresh

Pictured Above: Sandy says “Hi!!”

Pictured Left: Sandy does lunch with the girls every day!
When Jessica began working with the herd: “I started working with the Teaching Herd at the end of Spring 2001. I had some dairy experience -- I grew up on a farm, and I did chores and milked cows at the Dairy Cattle Research Center here on campus during my undergraduate education.”

Why Jessica took a job with the herd: “Another person who already worked with the herd got me interested. Once I got out there and started working, I realized how much I really missed being around dairy cows.”

The best part of Jessica’s job: “The best part about my job is knowing that at least one day each week, I can go out to Charmany and not think about school while I’m working. Some days, I learn more from those cows in four hours than I learn all day in class. I really like keeping up on how all the cows are doing, which ones are just cranking out milk, who calved that week, who’s a little under the weather, etc. I also like watching the cows interact with each other – you can usually always find two cows grooming each other over a drinking cup during milking.”

How Jessica’s job enhances her veterinary medical education: “My job with the teaching herd gets me out of those dark, sleepy classrooms and helps me to start putting together everything I’ve learned so far. Also, it gives me the opportunity to see two different perspectives with regard to dairy production and animal health -- that of the producer and that of the veterinarian. In the long run, I hope I can draw on the experiences I’ve gained with the Charmany herd to make more realistic and feasible suggestions and recommendations to future dairy clients.”

Skills Jessica has learned or improved while working with the herd: “Not only have I improved my physical exam and palpation skills, learned how to collect milk samples, given intramammary treatments, etc, but I’ve had the opportunity to do so much more! I’ve helped deliver a calf, administered boluses and propylene glycol to ketotic cows, given an epidural, actually trimmed a few feet, and learned how to pick out a sick cow just by watching how she’s behaving. The best part is that I’ve really developed some confidence in myself and my abilities, and that’s because Dave and Dr. Goodger trust all of us to do things by ourselves and to make decisions when problems arise.

Jessica’s Favorite Cow: “How can I choose just one? They all have their own personalities. Sandy’s one of my favorites, even though she’s got a bit of an attitude. (I think if she were human, she’d totally be a biker chick!) Of course, I’m also quite fond of the cow that shares my name – Jessica (the cow) has been producing 100+ pounds a day for a while now -- a real milk-aholic!! And who could resist those wonderful little (or not so little) heifers, Dimples and Swish? If only every first-calf heifer could be so calm.....”

Jessica’s career interests: “I’ve always wanted to be a dairy practitioner working in a mixed animal practice. I grew up on a farm with all kinds of animals, and I really have a strong appreciation of that kind of lifestyle. The time I
spend at Charmany just makes it more obvious to me that those goals haven’t changed a bit. In fact, I’m more determined than ever to be a cow vet when I grow up.”

Jessica’s recommendations to other students: “There are plenty of job opportunities available through school for students to get more hands-on experience, but you won’t find another one like this. I have learned SO MUCH in the few months I spent working out at Charmany, and I’ve gotten to know some really great people (many of whom will be my colleagues some day). It doesn’t matter what your career goals are, just getting some practical experience in a setting where everyone wants the best for these animals is invaluable.”

Pictured Above: Jessica and Vicky, on the job and hard at work!