Jessica’s saga continues, as she was induced this morning (3/1). Our window for keeping her eating, paired with her ability to getup becoming limited, was rapidly closing. Given Jessica’s background, we have been carefully preparing for her calving. For those you who are not yet familiar with Jessica, she has been dry for 11 months(!), and in that time has gotten quite plump (1800 lbs. and a 4.5 BCS). In addition, as she has aged (currently 7 yrs.old), her back has become a problem (in terms of her being able to move laterally, getting into position to urinate and pass manure). Naturally, due to the breakdown of her supporting ligaments in the pelvic area, these difficulties become exasperated the closer she gets to calving time. (It is most likely that is has intervertebral disk disease or spinal arthritis.) The majority challenge with Jessica will be potential metabolic problems from fatty liver and ketosis will be a major challenge as she shifts from being dry to lactating. To help prepare us, we decided to run a large animal panel with electrolytes today. Her values are:

Sodium = 144; Potassium = 3.8; Chloride = 106; Calcium = 8.6; Phosphorus = 6.2; Magnesium = 2.3; Glucose = 56; BUN = 9; Creatinine = .9; Total Protein = 6.5; Albumen = 3.6; Globulin = 2.9; Alkaline Phosphatase = 79; CK = 80; AST = 103; GGTL = 44 (range 12-30); Cholesterol = 93 (range=112-231); Total bilirubin = .5 (range=0.0-.4)

With the exception of the last three tests (depicting only minor deviations), most values are within the reference range. The results of these tests give us the chance to get Jessica through the metabolic problems she will have, leaving her back problem as the most difficult issue to address. Hopefully, given some weight loss, restoration of ligamentous structures after calving, and A LOT of aspirin coupled with TONS of bedding, she will become a productive member of the herd again! Stay tuned.....
Body Condition Scores

Sara Gilbertson has been doing the BCS’s for the herd for about 18 months now. Her monthly scores have been very helpful in monitoring the nutrition of the herd. This month’s values indicated that:

CHAR (2.75) dropped a half score. We have concerns when a cow drops one-half a point over a one month period. In this case, Char is a fresh cow who is producing a lot of milk, and because of Sara’s monitoring we know that in the previous lactation Char maintained a BCS of 2.75. Regardless, she will continue to be monitored in future examinations to make sure she maintains her nutritional status.

LUANN (3.5) is getting a little heavy. This is a heifer that became pregnant late in her lactation being due 8/6/04 and now is 389 days in milk. We lowered her grain and protein values by 50 % to help her maintain her weight/BCS as she probably won’t be dried off until June.

GRIFFEY (3.0) dropped a half score. We have the same concerns for Griffey as we do with Char. The only different, in this case, is that Griffey is one of the highest producing cows in the herd, is producing a lot of milk, and has usually maintained a 3.0 BCS. Nevertheless, we will continue to monitor her to make sure she maintains her nutritional status.

Below is a plot that Sara puts together each month to give us a snap shot in time so that we may assess the cows nutritional status as they go through lactation.

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Poppy finally calved!

If you recall, Poppy is the heifer that was diagnosed with an LDA during the Veterinary Diagnostics and Therapeutics class on January 30th. We decided to induce Poppy Sunday morning (2/29), but she decided to have the calf just a few hours afterward. She gave birth to a heifer calf quite easily, and gave 28 lbs. of milk at her first milking.

For about five days prior to calving, Poppy had been running a high heart rate (90-102 bpm). We believe this was due to inflammation in the peritoneum caused by the abomasum being displaced for so long and floating on the left side of the rumen.

Now, one day post-calving, she is doing fine, so surgery has been scheduled for tomorrow (3/2). She will be placed in dorsal recumbancy, and a para-median incision will be made to provide exposure, and the abomasum will be sutured down to prevent future movement.
Daily Events

**MONDAY**
**AM:** Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring), 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.
- Bleeding opportunity to tail bleed cows for Chuck Czuprynski’s laboratory.
**PM:** 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 and laboratory and exam any sick cows.
**PM:** Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring), pre-vet (Allison Wistrand).

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

**FRIDAY**
**AM:** 7:30am: Management meeting for the teaching herd management team.
**PM:** Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Joe Herring).
- Posilac injections given to eligible cows.

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**
AM: Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief-4th yr (Rachel Klos), 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild)  
PM: Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief-4th yr (Rachel Klos)

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**Upcoming Events**

Since the last Newsletter...

**SEVEN heifer calves!!!**

**TURNER** is 135lbs. at 24 days, which means she has gained 2 lbs. per day!

**PATRICIA** was 79 lbs. at birth.

Cow/Heifer | Due Date / Result  
---|---  
Tina | 2/06 (Heifer - “Turner”)  
Lucy | 2/16 (Heifer - “Lucky”)  
Greta | 2/12 (Heifer - “Gina”)  
Diane | 2/17 (Bull)  
Violet | 2/18 (Bull)  
Julie | 2/21 (Heifer - “Jewel”)  
Poppy | 2/27 (Heifer - “Patricia”)  
Melody | 3/01 (Bull)  
Jessica | 3/01 (Induced...*stay tuned*)  
Katrina | 3/26  
Cookie | 4/02  
Swash (Swoosh’s daughter) | 4/15  
Marie (Morgan’s daughter) | 4/29
Production and Milk Quality Summary
(updated March 1, 2004)

- The herd continues to milk an average of 94 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 46 cows are producing 3975 lbs/day (85 lbs/cow/day). This is approximately 85 lbs per stall—better than our breakeven production level of 68 lbs! (Good job!)
- The herd’s butterfat has averaged 3.56%. The protein has averaged 3.09%.
- Dry Matter intake is at 53 lbs per cow.
- Bulk tank SCC is at 200,000 with a SPC of 1000 for January.

Projects

- See Kerry Hagen for the schedule of cows that need to be vaccinated (J-5 and Scourgard).
- Sara Gilbertson is now doing the body condition scoring and could always use some help.
- Allison Wistrand is taking a 699 directed study on Sick cow physical examinations
- Kerry Hagen is taking a 699 directed study on implementing the OVSYNCH breeding protocol.
- Betsy Welty and Stacy Garves are implementing the calf management system.
- Jodi Woods is editing the newsletter

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.