Charmany Dairy Herd Newsletter
April 28th - May 4th

Daily Events

Monday:
AM:

PM:

Tuesday:
AM:
• 4th year Theriogenology rotation Herd Check—Dr. Momont & 4th yr. Students.
• Bleeding opportunity to tail bleed cows for Chuck Czuprynski’s and Gary Splitter’s laboratory.

PM:

Wednesday:
AM:
• LAIM (a.k.a. Laura Lien) will be sending a 4th year student to tail bleed and examine any sick cows and to examine Sasha to recommend management of her abscess.

PM:

Thursday:
AM:
PM:

Friday:
AM:
• 7:30am-Management meeting for Teaching herd management team.
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Weekly Events

Cows due to calve: With the new tie stalls in the box stall room—Morgan and Presto will be spending extra time in the barn before calving. Thus, we finally have a close up area for our pregnant cows!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COW</th>
<th>Calving result/Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Griffey</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>Heifer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tootsie</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merry</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookie</td>
<td>Heifer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violet</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snoflake (Sparkle’s daughter)</td>
<td>Heifer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha (Matti’s daughter)</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra (Sandy’s daughter)</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie (Morgan’s daughter)</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadie (Sarah’s daughter)</td>
<td>Heifer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen (Cindy’s daughter)</td>
<td>Heifer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luann (Sweetlou’s daughter)</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ace</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penny (Pearl’s daughter)</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian (Norman’s daughter)</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>DUE: 5/23/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presto (Swoosh’s daughter)</td>
<td>DUE: 6/1/03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Production and Milk Quality summary:
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 3\textsuperscript{rd} lactation cow at 150 DIM. Approximately 46 cows are producing 3900 lbs/day or 85 lbs/cow/day. This is approximately 85 lbs/stall, which is much better than our breakeven production level of 68 lbs/stall. The herd’s butterfat has averaged 3.7 %, and the protein has averaged 3.0 %. Dry Matter intake is at 53 lbs/cow. Bulk tank SCC is at 190,000 cells/ml with a SPC of 1000 for April.

Sick Cows/Treatments/breedings/Patient Care:
1. Sara Colopy and her crew finished vaccinating the half of the herd who did not receive the 5-way Leptospirosis portion of the vaccine 2 weeks ago. They also re-bled all of the cows for Dr.
Schultzs’ research. Thank you to all students involved – it was a great learning experience for everyone.

2. Red’s sandbox in the boxstall has been completed. This sandbox will increase our flexibility to have a place to handle cows which are calving, injured, or are unable to get up. Also, it will allow us to keep the box stall much cleaner.

3. Another work in progress currently is the construction of 4 tie-stalls, which will increase our flexibility to handle close up cows (close to calving). It will also increase the number of milking cows at various times of the year.

4. *Scarlet*, *Brutus*, and *Dimples* are pregnant!!!!

5. Mycoplasma update—The bulk tank culture is negative following the culling of Martha.

6. *Greta*—Greta has stepped on the hyperkeratotic portion of her LF teat-end. Her CMT has been a 1+ and her culture exhibited 100,000 cfu of E. Coli. Yet, her quarter has not been clinically affected, as noted by palpation following milking. Her teat-end is healing nicely. We know it takes a penetration by bacteria approximately 4 cm into the streak canal to set up an infection, which may have not happened in Greta’s case. We have re-cultured, so stay tuned….

7. *Brian*—has a CNS infection in one quarter. It is producing abnormal milk, with 100,000 cfu/ml and a +2 CMT. She is fresh and not producing much milk. With this bacteria, we can use Pursue “on-label”, and only have to throw milk away for 36 hrs following treatment. It is important to treat fresh cows early before they reach a level of production that makes treatment not economical. In addition, you always want to get a lactation started with minimal complications.

As evidenced by Greta and Brian, there are a lot of competing issues that must be accounted for when treating mastitis.

8. “Ask Dave”- (see the new feature below!) Dave needs to supply the text for his column—so contact him with question!

**Noteworthy items:**

*Flash!* — Bennet Arble has agreed to take over the Newsletter responsibility for the 2003-2004 replacing two able almost 4th years—Sara Colopy and Rachel Klos.

**Projects:**
- We give our Posilac injections on Friday mornings. Come give Keith Poulsen a hand, as their can be up to 24 cows to inject. Feel free to show up any time between 6:00-7:30am.
- We have cows to vaccinate (J-5 and Scourgard)—see Sara Colopy for the schedule.
- Rachel Klos continues to run the Nutrition monitoring project and always needs help.
- Sara Gilbertson is now doing the body condition scoring and always could use some help.
- Sarah Braeske is entering our financial data.
ASK DAVE!

(This week is the first edition of “Ask Dave” – please let us know what you think!!)

1. **DAVE** — “What are the differences between the hay and why does it matter?”
   As with any food or feed-stuff, the nutritional values aren’t always the same even though the feed may look the same. Our hay is tested regularly, (mainly for protein, energy and fiber) those are the big 3 we look at in balancing the ration. We do look at trace minerals and vitamins also. Also our hay grower has a limited amount of hay that he grows, and while he may have one kind we would like to feed all the time, he doesn’t have the supply to give us a whole year’s worth. So the main reason for feeding the different kinds of hay is the nutritional differences, but another is the supply issue, so we aren’t “caught” feeding a lesser quality hay as our only hay because we fed all the “good” hay up.

2. **DAVE**—“What is a dry cow/heifer/fresh cow/cow?”
   Technically any bovine female that has had a calf is a cow, and any bovine female that hasn’t had a calf is a heifer. But most of the time any bovine female that has had only one calf and/or is milking in her first lactation, i.e. Snowflake, Luann etc are first calf heifers. But there is an exception to every rule, Red is still milking in her first lactation but in no way would I refer to her as a heifer! A dry cow is a cow who has milked in the past but is not producing milk at this time. Most generally dry cows are pregnant cows that are within 60 days of their due date. A springer/springing cow/springing heifer is a cow/heifer who is within 2-3 weeks of her due date. Her udder is starting “spring up”, getting ready for parturition. A fresh cow/heifer is one that has calved recently, usually within 3 weeks.

3. **DAVE**—“What is the milk pick up schedule? How does the bulk tank get tested to see if a treated cow has been milked into the tank?”
   Our bulk tank is considered an 800 gallon tank, or approximately 6900 lbs. Right now we are shipping about 3900 lbs of milk per day and are on everyday pick up. When our production per day falls below approximately 3450 lbs per day we will go back on every other day pick up. We are a somewhat seasonal calving herd, which means that we have most of our cows calving between August and February. Therefore as we progress through the year and get into the summer, a lot of our cows have been milking for a while and are getting ready to be dried up, that is why we don’t ship about the same amount of milk every day of the year.

   Every time the milk hauler picks up our milk he takes a sample of the bulk tank. Once the load of milk arrives at the plant, a sample of the whole truck is taken. If this turn out positive for antibiotics, the individual samples from the farms are tested to determine the culprit.
We also have what is called a “Charm test” here at charmany to test our milk also, if we think a treated cow has been milked in the tank or if we want to see if a treated cow has cleared of antibiotic residue. We can also send a sample in with the milk hauler for the plant to test.

4. **DAVE—** “What is all that information above the cows posted on their signs? “Milk” “Days” “Protein”? What is considered good or bad?”

On the sign there is the cows name, her ID #s, her birth date, her dams ID, her sire (father) name and ID, age at calving, lactation #, # of days milked in the lactation, lbs of milk produced, % fat, lbs fat, % protein, lbs protein. The sign contains, pretty much, all the pertinent info for the cow. Obviously the higher the milk, fat and protein production the better. Days or Days in milk, should be 365 or less, and age should increase by 12-14 months from one lactation to the next, this indicates the cow was bred back in a timely manner.

5. **DAVE—** “How do I read the breeding wheel? Where does the semen come from that we use to breed and how do we decide what semen to use with each cow?”

The wheel is set up to be 365 days around it. When a cow calves, her blue sticker is placed at the “6:00 position” on the bottom of the wheel, this is also today’s date. Then as she progresses through her lactation you can follow the days post partum along the outside of the wheel. That is, until she starts to be bred and eventually confirmed pregnant. On the day she is bred her blue sticker is changed to red and is placed at the square marked “BD” (breeding date). You then can follow her days post breeding until it is determined that she is pregnant or not. If she is confirmed pregnant then her sticker becomes green and she continues around the wheel until she calves. If it is determined she is open, more than likely she will start on the ovsync protocol and her sticker will remain red and be placed at the “GnRH 1” location on the left side of the wheel. If she comes back into heat, she will be inseminated and her red sticker placed back at the “BD” location. When a cow is dried up her sticker changes to yellow until she freshens (calves) when the sticker is changed to blue.

The semen that we use to breed our cows comes from Genex Co-op in Shawano, WI. (I hope I don’t have to go into the whole daddy and mommy cow thing). Each of our cows is evaluated for her phenotypical (physical) traits regarding milk production. These traits were determined to be important to maximize milk production and longevity, i.e. feet and legs, udder, body capacity, dairyness and so on. Each of the bulls that we use, have data on their daughters phenotypical traits. So our cows weaknesses are compared to the bulls strengths and a corrective (at least theoretically) mating is made.

6. **DAVE—** “Why do cows get cottonseed?”

Cottonseed, for the most part is fed to provide a source of fiber. Fiber is very important in a dairy cows diet for maintaining digestive health and percent butter fat in the milk.
7. **DAVE--- “How long is a lactation?”**
Ideally, a dairy cow will calve on a certain day, milk for about 315 days, be dried up for about 50 days and then calve again on the same day one year later. Like I said that would be ideal. If you can get cows freshen (calve) back every 13 or 14 months, with production levels where they are now, would be very acceptable.

8. **DAVE— “Why do we put cows over in the dry cow area? How long are they over there for?”**
Dry cows are normally segregated from the milking herd because their nutritional needs are considerably less than that of the lactating cow. So they are easier to feed if they are by themselves. Also on farms that have an abundance of cows, farmers would keep their stalls full of lactating cows, thus maximizing income from the number stalls they have. Our dry cows come back into the barn approximately 3 weeks before their due date. This is done mainly to start them slowly on the milking cow ration.

9. **DAVE— “Where do the calves go? When do the heifers come back?”**

![Calves in a barn](image)

The heifers go to Stateline heifers, in Clinton, WI, to be raised and come back here approximately 60 days prior to their due date

**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% of our expenses for student salaries—about $20,000 per year if student apply for work study which about 90% of veterinary students are probably eligible for. These added funds would allow more students access to the herd but would also provide support for clinics, projects, and clinical upgrades to our facility that 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:
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