MARIE: Dairy Cow and Provider of Knowledge!

Marie was kind enough to provide Betsy Welty, Stacy Garves, and Diane Rodman with a TON O’ clinical experience last Wednesday.

Maria was due to freshen on May 1st, but broke her water bag on Wednesday, April 28th. So, good ‘ol Dr. Momont was called in to hold court on Marie’s delivery. He had Diane assess the status of the calf and the dilation of the cervix. The calf was in position to be delivered using chains, so Diane put a chain on one front leg of the calf and held the chain tense (to do this she had to break the allantoic sac) while Stacy attempted to put a chain on the calf’s other front leg. Stacy encountered a bit of difficulty getting the chain on (it kept slipping off), and in the meantime the other chain slipped off the first front leg (oye)! Harry then asked Diane to check the calf again, which she did, but then had this to say: “I think this calf has 3 front legs!”

Hmmm…with that said, it was time for Dr. Momont to put his golden arm in and palpate Marie. Next thing we knew, Dr. Momont exclaimed “I feel 2 skulls, and I don’t believe this is a 2 headed calf, so it looks like we may have twins!”

At this point Dr. Momont repelled one of the calves into the uterus and turned the other calf to 12 o’clock. Stacy, Diane, and Betsy then delivered the calf in the birth canal using chains on his front legs. Next, the second allantoic sac needed to be broken to allow the chains to stay on the front legs of the second calf (this is why Stacy had trouble getting the chain on the first time). Delivery of the second calf was also uneventful, and both calves weighed close to 90lbs. Now, all of this could not have been done if someone had not held Marie for the near 1 hour it took, as she was too agitated to lay down.

Marie was quite happy to be rid of the boys because as soon as Melvin was delivered she could have cared less about the calves and began eating her grain, hay, and silage, and milked about 35 lbs. of milk!

Thankfully we avoided the embarrassing and potentially damaging situation of having a chain on one of each of the calves front legs, and then attempting to pull them both through the birth canal at the same time—which, of course, wouldn’t work even on a good day!
Calf Report

With the addition of Melvin and Mike, we now have 6 calves in-house. Patricia is weaned, but she needs a partner to go to Bookhout with—good thing Kato will ready to be weaned this week. Hopefully, Kato, Cornelia, and Panda will be dehorned by the end of the week. The plan is to vaccinate Kato and Patricia with TSV-2 (IBR & P13) and move them to Bookhout on May 14th, then Panda and Cornelia will be weaned the last week in May, be vaccinated with TSV-2 on June 1st, and move to Bookhout on June 4th.

Merry’s teat… looking good!

Merry’s story (see last weeks newsletter) has a potentially happy ending. She was sent in to the VMTH to be examined by LAS Drs Mike Livesey and Ryland Edwards last Monday. The assessment confirmed that Merry’s teat sphincter and streak canal were intact. The tissue that was damaged in the ventral teat barrel was debrided by Dr. Livesey, and Merry was sent home with reasonable encouragement that the ventral teat barrel would granulate in around the sphincter and streak canal. We decided to get Merry out of her stall (which she was getting too big for) and send her to the dry cow barn where she could lounge in 6 inches of wheat straw and pasture over the next 5 months where she will have a lot more room for her 1600-1700 lb body to rise, thereby (hopefully) avoiding any more damage to the teat end.

Heat stress

The next management issue our team has to address is figuring out how to put the teaching herd out on pasture each night of the summer (June 15 to Sept 1), and then bring them in to milk at 5am in the morning. In this case ‘figuring out’ means the actual “to dos” for the morning and night crews that will need to get this accomplished with our present crew levels.

Over the last 3 summers we have addressed heat stress in different ways. We’ve used the outside pressure washer over the cows for a 45 minute water misting, and used the air-conditioning in the Charmany recovery area when cows temperatures got over 106°F; but these methods were very labor intensive. Cows returned to the barn pretty wet—which increased the risk for mastitis—and the barn never really lost any heat because the cows were not gone long enough. Also, they didn’t eat all that well outside because it usually took 45 minutes to get them to the bunk once they were outside, and then they returned to the barn 30 minutes later!

Putting them out on pasture went very well last summer. They ate well at the bunk, as Dave introduced a poor man’s TMR (grain, protein, cottonseed, and silage layered (to mix) in the cart then fed outside), and along with hay in the pasture feed wagon, they were free to dine under the stars. In the meantime the milking barn temperature dropped to back down to tolerable levels. If this was done several nights in a row, the barn never became hot and Dr. Nordlund’s ventilation system worked to perfection. Also, this system eliminated the need for the 45 minute power wash misting, and well, if you have ever spent any time observing cows out on pasture I bet you realize that pasture may rates higher than feed to a cow. For humans it would be like a 2-week pre-paid vacation in Tahiti! I think you get the picture, but someday when you are driving down Mineral Point Road this summer, park on Rosa Road and spend some time observing your teaching herd cows lounging.
**Daily Events**

**MONDAY**
**AM:** Physical Examination, and Restraint Laboratory 623-570 Review; Flame Udders; Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr’s (Joe Herring) and (Ann Zielinski).

**PM:**

**TUESDAY**
**AM:** 4th year Theriogenology rotation (623-699) herd check: Harry Momont/Bill Bosu, 4th yr. students, & pre-vet soon to be a first year: Class of 2008 (Kerry Hagen).
- Bleeding opportunity to tail bleed cows for Chuck Czuprynksi’s laboratory.
- Animal Care Committee semi-annual inspection at the Bookhout Facility.
**PM:** Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr’s (Joe Herring) and (Ann Zielinski).

**WEDNESDAY**
**AM:** LAIM (a.k.a. Laura Lien) will be sending a 4th year student to tail bleed for Chuck Czuprynksi’s and laboratory and exam any sick cows.
- Complete Herd hoove trims: Karl Burgi and associates.
- Semi-Annual Inspection: RARC.
**PM:** Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr’s (Joe Herring) and (Ann Zielinski).

**THURSDAY**
**AM:** Go to Stateline Heifers to pickup 3 heifers to go to the Bookhout facility.
**PM:** Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr’s (Joe Herring) and (Ann Zielinski).

**FRIDAY**
**AM:** 7:30am: Management meeting for the teaching herd management team.
- Dehorn 3 calves through LAIM.
- Final examination History, Physical Examination, and Restraint Laboratory 623-570
**PM:** Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr’s (Joe Herring) and (Ann Zielinski).

**SATURDAY**
**AM:**
**PM:**

**SUNDAY**
**AM:**
**PM:**

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**Upcoming / Past Events**

**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 (Bull)
Katrina | 3/26 (Heifer - “Kato”)
Cookie | 4/07 (Heifer - “Cornelia”)
Swash (Swoosh’s daughter) | 4/03 (Heifer - “Panda”)
Marie (Morgan’s daughter) | 4/28 (Twin bull calves)
Production and Milk Quality Summary  
(updated May 3, 2004)

- The herd continues to milk an average of 92 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 48 cows are producing 4050 lbs/day (84 lbs/cow/day). This is approximately 88 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 2.90%.
- Dry Matter intake is at 51 lbs per cow.
- Bulk tank SCC is at 165,000 with a SPC of 1000 for April.

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

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.