Blackie aborted twin bull calves on 9/22/04. While it is not that uncommon to either abort or have twins born early, in Blackie’s case she had one calf on her own, and delivery of the other was assisted by Harry Momont and his student crew. Blackie presents some clinically interesting diagnostic challenges that veterinarians face in high-producing herds. They are also challenges that the teaching herd is now facing, as we have a considerable number of cows over 6 years of age.

- Being an older cow (8.5 yrs) and in her 7th lactation, even though she “calved” about 60 days before her due date, Blackie is a good candidate for milk fever.
- She has had numerous cases of mastitis in the past and is a chronic Klebsiella (LR) cow (she is milked on 3 quarters).
- She is a candidate for a retained placenta (RP) with accompanying metritis.
- Because of the possible RP, and the likelihood of her going off feed, she is a candidate for ketosis.
- Depending on the systemic toxic effects of metritis, Blackie could develop other clinical signs including loose manure/diarrhea.

Well...the good news is that it seems we got Blackie past the milk fever threat (she calved with a calcium of 5.9) by drenching her with fresh cow drench containing calcium gluconate, the not so good news is that she is only producing 2 lbs of milk per day, so the milk secretion assessment is on hold. (She was given Posilac (off label) at calving in hopes of stimulating her new lactation.) Also, it seems that Blackie has two retained placentas. a condition which Harry Momont and his student crew have been following. Her uterus is still large, the placentas have not shown themselves, and a small amount of infected material has been squeezed through the cervix. Clearly an infection is brewing, as noted by her persistent 103°F temperature and her elevated heart rate (low 90s). We currently have her on penicillin (40cc, twice daily), while Banamine was used initially to stimulate her appetite and control her temperature.

Blackie has been off feed. Her milk ketones are at 100, and her ruminations have been weak and few (although they have started to increase both in frequency and number as her appetite is gradually increasing—she is at least nibbling).

Another positive note is that Blackie’s manure has improved from watery to very loose. BUT...we have not done a fecal culture to check her for Salmonella because, even if the test was positive, her treatment probably wouldn’t change. Plus, there may be other causes for her having loose manure. Our best guess is toxicity from the metritis.

So . . . no one ever said medicine was easy, especially under these circumstances. Here we have an older cow with chronic problems. It will take time and good monitoring in order to sort through her problems, and prospects for a good lactation are mediocre at best. Still, we are talking about a “fresh cow” here, which is quite expensive to cull. The trick will be to determine whether or not to go ahead with the lactation, or if it is time to cull.
Twins are a curse in the dairy industry and, unfortunately, in our teaching herd twins are quite prevalent. (See Blackie’s dilemma above for how the curse is defined.) Nevertheless, Blackie is not alone in her predicament. Swish, for example, is one of our few cows who went to term with twins, but her calving had to be induced because she developed edema that made her look as though she had "bottlejaw." Poor Swish then had to have reconstructive surgery on her dorsal vagina which had been ripped apart by the size of her calves (ouch)! Here is a summary of how we’ve done this past year with twins:

- **11/17/03:** Snoflake aborted two mummified feti at 180 DCC. She recently freshened (9/17/04) and had a bull calf.
- **12/05/03:** Swish had twins: a heifer (Swoosh2) and a bull. Swish recently had ET and was bred 7 times.
- **7/17/04:** Greta aborted twins at 156 DCC, and she currently is bred.
- **8/16/04:** Grace had twin heifer calves (Gloria and Gemini). She currently is producing 94 lbs milk per day.
- **8/18/04:** Morgan had twin bull calves: one never stood and died 12 hours later; the other bull was euthanized because he was having convulsions, probably from failure of passive transfer of colostrum. Morgan is currently producing 74 lbs. milk per day.
- **8/29/04:** Olive aborted twin heifers at 261 DCC. Both calves were born dead. Olive is currently producing 40 lbs milk per day.
- **9/22/04:** Blackie aborted a bull and a heifer (potentially a freemartin) at 210 DCC: one was found dead and the other died at birth.

Depending on how you look at it, there were 58 freshenings and abortions since 9/29/03. Of those, seven were twinnings (mummified, aborted, and freshened) giving a 12% twinning rate. If you take the abortions, both early embryonic and later, out of the denominator and numerator, you have 48 freshenings and three twinnings, or a twinning rate of 6.25%. Therefore, the range is 6.25% to 12%, which probably captures the normal range of twinning seen in high-producing herds.

What about abortions? We have had nine abortions this year; however three were early embryonic (35-50 days) and four were related to twinnings. Therefore, of 51 freshenings and abortions (seven being removed as twin and early embryonic abortions) since 9/29/03, the remaining two late-term abortions give a rate of 3.92%. If you add back in the four twinning abortions, you get a rate of 10.91% (55 freshenings/6 abortions). The 3.92% is at the low end and the 10.91% is at the high end. The 10.91% abortion rate includes Olive who was at 261 days—certainly in the range of a normal calving date for twins—and taking her out gives a rate of 10.8% (54 freshenings/5 abortions). Any way you look at it our abortion rate is a little higher than we would like. If we could only find some semen that guarantees no twins (and maybe only yields heifers). Hmmm………. 
Red’s Corner

All the talk at the bunk lately has been all about the new hay and improved feeding schedule. The new hay Dave found is so delicious that we’ve been trying to chow it all down before the students fork it over to another cow. What has really helped is not having all of our feed presented at once. Dolin’ it out bit by bit means we cows have to waste less time sorting through the other feed to get to that awesome hay. And now we’re getting fed like those high-producing herds we hear about in the North: “cafeteria style” to allow us enough time between feedings to savor all that we smell. I would like to make one teensy little request, however. Please, when I am resting my head on Lucy’s or Tingle’s head, would you please place my feed a little more to the left or right of my tie stall so that I don’t have to move my entire body to eat? You do know that having pretty well-developed neck muscles and a prehensile tongue allows me considerable latitude. Oh, and please don’t tease me, as some do, putting my feed just out of reach so that I have to move or (heaven forbid) get up to eat! - Red

Our Amazing Gals

As we noted in the previous newsletter regarding Tootsie’s passing, it is now up to us to raise these calves, breed the heifers, and bring them along in the herd to maintain the excellent cow status with which we started. So…let’s look at the ME305’s (3rd lactation production projections) of our first lactation heifers, as well as the first lactation ME305’s of the current second lactation heifers (these older cows are not far enough into their 2nd lactation to get an accurate ME305 projection).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>ME305 Production (lbs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marcy</td>
<td>27,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitsy</td>
<td>35,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynette</td>
<td>32,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppy</td>
<td>29,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheila</td>
<td>27,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie</td>
<td>27,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luann</td>
<td>29,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penny</td>
<td>28,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara</td>
<td>32,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadie</td>
<td>30,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthra</td>
<td>27,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>27,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen</td>
<td>34,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presto</td>
<td>33,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophie</td>
<td>31,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>32,310</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to their herd mothers (and maybe the bull) all of these heifers are projected to do well. We were given a great start from the parent herd, and that potential appears to be ongoing in these heifers. It is now up to all of us (faculty, staff, and students) to manage the genetic potential in these heifers.

Production & Milk Quality Summary

- The herd continues to milk an average of 75.6 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 43 cows are producing 3,034 lbs/day (70.2 lbs/cow/day). This is approximately 66 lbs per stall—still struggling post-tornado to hit even our breakeven production level of 68 lbs!
- The herd’s butterfat has averaged 3.55%. The protein has averaged 3.03%.
- Dry matter intake is at 48.6 lbs/cow.
- Bulk tank SCC is at 207,000 with a SPC of 1000 for September.
Week at a Glance

Monday
AM:
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675):

Tuesday
AM: 4th year Theriogenology rotation (623-699) herd check: Harry Momont/Bill Bosu, 4th yr. students.
    ➢ Bleeding opportunity to tail bleed cows for Chuck Czuprynski’s laboratory.
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675):

Wednesday
AM: LAJM (a.k.a. Laura Lien) will be sending a 4th year student to tail bleed for Chuck Czuprynski's and exam any sick cows.
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675):

Thursday
AM:
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675):

Friday
AM: 7:30am: Management meeting for the teaching herd management team.
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675):

Saturday
AM: Health Management-623-675:
PM: Health Management-623-675:

Sunday
AM: Health Management-623-675:
PM: Health Management-623-675:

Dates to Remember

DHIA Tests
Oct 12th (pm)
Nov 9th (am)
Dec 14th (pm)

Veterinary Diagnostics and Therapeutics Laboratory Course Schedule
Bovine palpation: Oct 18 (1-4 pm); Oct 21 (1-4 pm)
Bovine palpation: Nov 1 (1-4 pm); Nov 4 (1-4 pm)
Bovine palpation: Nov 15 (1-4 pm); Nov 18 (1-4 pm)

& More...
Veterinary Immunology (Immunology 703-510):
Oct 27 (3-5 pm); Nov 3 (3-5 pm)

Veterinary Bacteriology (PBS 517): Oct 26 (5-7 pm);
Oct 27 (5-7pm)

Basic skills in Production Medicine (PM1):
Oct 25 (10-12 am)

Recent Calvings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cow</th>
<th>Calf</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 21st</td>
<td>Brian</td>
<td>Noreen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2nd</td>
<td>LuAnn</td>
<td>LuLu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 13th</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>Pheebe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 16th</td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>Gemini &amp; Gloria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 7th</td>
<td>Carmen</td>
<td>Carley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 27th</td>
<td>Bitsy</td>
<td>Buster (bull)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calvings Due Soon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cow</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sadie</td>
<td>Oct 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celeste*</td>
<td>Oct 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balou*</td>
<td>Oct 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star*</td>
<td>Oct 14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merry</td>
<td>Oct 15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel*</td>
<td>Oct 31st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunny*</td>
<td>Nov 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy</td>
<td>Nov 8th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Springing heifer
Projects Around the Barn

- We have cows to vaccinate (J-5 and Scourgard). See Ann Zielinski for the schedule.
- Jason Loner is now doing the body condition scoring and could always use some help.
- Rebecca Mentink is doing locomotion scoring and trying to adapt Dr. Rhoda’s herd plan for identifying and managing lame cows.
- Travis Kulka is taking a 699 Directed Study on implementing the OVSYNCH breeding protocol.

Employment Opportunities

Interested in gaining experience working with dairy cows? Then boy do 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 (608) 770-1448.

One 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 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 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:
William J. Goodger, DVM, PhD
Cell: (608) 770-1448
Email: wgoodger@facstaff.wisc.edu