Almost half the cows in our milking barn (23 out of 50) are six years or older—fifteen of the 23 being in their fifth lactation or above (remember that one cow in this list is in her first lactation). We have found that when cows get to be six years old, and especially when they enter their fifth lactation, the health management necessary to maintain their production and welfare really stretches the clinical staff of the SVM in the theriogenology, LAIM, LAS, and FAPM departments. And yet even with the many years of experience we and our clinicians have to draw upon, sometimes we’re confronted with clinical issues that we haven’t faced before:

- **Jessica** (7 years old, 5th lactation) is a high producing cow who aborted, had ET, was dried for 11 months, and was treated preventively for fatty liver, ketosis and milk fever. She is now having a reasonable lactation (projected milk = 22,000 at 196 days).
- **Sparkle, Sammi, Kristyn**, and **Eve** were all high producing cows over six years old who were euthanized due to feet and leg problems in the last two years. Their feet and leg problems severely cut short their productive life in the herd.
- **Morgan** (8th lactation) and **Olive** (5th lactation) recently had twins. Olive aborted her twins 18 days early, did not eat well early even though she was drenched, did not give much milk, and developed a DA. She looks like she’s aged about two lactations when she comes from the outside bunk. One of Morgan’s calves died within 12 hours, and the other died a week later from passive transfer problems. Morgan still has not regained her former appetite and seems very tired. She was also drenched and slowly seems to be returning to her old self.

As we evaluate the productivity of our aging herd, the following question looms: Are our protocols good enough for metritis, milk fever, ketosis, mastitis and other metabolic diseases (low phosphorus, potassium and magnesium) that occur around calving with these older cows, or do we need to update our protocols for the older cows? This question bears immediate consideration. In November, **Ace** (nine years old, seventh lactation) is calving; in December, **Anna** (eight years old, sixth lactation) is calving; and how do we prepare for Scarlet’s twin heifers expected in January considering she will be seven years old and in her sixth lactation?!?
The teaching herd has been struggling to put together a preventive program for lameness. It turns out that Dr. Nigel Cook is a few weeks ahead of us! He is already putting together such a program for herds in Wisconsin. According to our current program, we assign a locomotion score to identify lame cows and their degree of lameness (Becky Mentink has agreed to do this for us this semester as part of her Herd Health rotation). We use that score to get ready for Karl Burgi’s bi-annual trimming of all our cows. Cows that score a 3 or 4 receive quarterly trimming.

However, Nigel might be onto a better method. Using the hoof trimmer’s evaluation form assessing each cow’s foot, we would identify each cow with abnormal results with a diagnosis (e.g., sole ulcer). These diagnoses get put into a flow chart being developed by Nigel which directs the course of action—trim, chronic, lame. We would then enter the diagnoses into Dairy Comp 305 which could generate task lists for the trimmer. Luckily, Dave Rhoda already has a system for doing this in Dairy Comp 305.
Sore Feet...Ouch!

Feet and legs have become a very important health management issue in the teaching herd since our facility was damaged by the tornado in June. We are now experiencing the long-term effects such a traumatic event can have on herd health. In early August, six weeks after the tornado, we were still seeing cows with feet problems. Early on the damage caused by the tornado was obvious because we had to treat the cows for bloody milk and for lacerations in every conceivable spot on their bodies. It soon became clear how traumatized the cows were when they wouldn't enter the large pasture and instead stood at the gate bellowing!

Griffey is one example of the foot problems the cows have been developing since the tornado. On September 7th she was lame and had a block put on her left front lateral digit because of hemorrhage and laminitis in her medial digit. The very next week we had to remove the block because there was hemorrhage beneath, and a plastic shoe was put on. Then last week she was lame on the right rear and had a white line abscess on the right rear outer claw! Dr Cook trimmed and blocked her, and he reports that her prognosis is good. Feet and leg problems are the reason older cows can’t hold up in a stanchion stall barn. This issue is probably our number one reason for culling cows older than six years old.

ANNOUNCEMENT
Anyone interested in working in the herd this fall should contact Dr. Goodger. Only 3 positions left!

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 **45 cows** are producing 3,250 lbs/day (72 lbs/cow/day). This is approximately 71 lbs per stall—still struggling post-tornado to hit even our breakeven production level of 68 lbs!
- The herd’s **butterfat** has averaged 3.56%. The **protein** has averaged 3.04%.
- **Dry matter intake** is at 49.4 lbs/cow.
- **Bulk tank SCC** is at 195,000 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:** 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):

**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:**
**PM:** Health Management-623-675:

**SUNDAY**
**AM:** Herd Health Management-623-675:
**PM:** Herd Health Management-623-675:

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**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)

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**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>August 2nd</td>
<td>LuAnn</td>
<td>LuLu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 13th</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>Phoebe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 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
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 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:

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