LOCOMOTION

We have some information from Becky Mentink’s locomotion scoring project. Her recent results show that we have 38 cows scoring a 1, 14 scoring a 2, 3 scoring a 3 and 1 scoring a 4. I am sure you are asking, “what does this mean?” There is a full description of the scoring system and other useful information about lameness at on the Food Animal Production Medicine website (www.vetmed.wisc.edu/dms/fapm/fapmtools/lameness.htm), but here is a quick breakdown of the scoring. A cow scoring a 1 is not showing any signs of lameness; they walk briskly and normally. We have 38 cows with this score, YAY! A cow scoring a 2 is showing signs of slight lameness, walking more slowly with shorter strides. A cow scoring a 3 is showing signs of moderate lameness, with deliberate short steps and an arched back. Finally, a cow scoring a 4 is showing signs of severe lameness, walking very slowly and not being able stand or walk for an extended period of time. Again for a more detailed description and a video clip showing the different stages visit the above website. According to Becky our herd is within the desired limits (with the exception of poor Susan with a 4, but she is getting better!!). You would like your herd to have at least 60% of the cows scoring a 1 (Teaching herd= 68%) and no more than 30% with a 2 (TH= 25%) and no more than 10% with a 3 (TH= 5%). In other words we need to keep up the good work and try to get Susan at least into the 3 or 2 range. Becky will keep us updated on the lameness status of the herd as time progresses. Thanks Becky. Great job!

Reds Corner

As some of you know eating is one of my favorite past times. Being a cow, there isn’t much else to do during the day besides eat. Thank goodness we get to go outside for a few hours and eat in a different location. I especially like getting to the fines cart (aka candy) before the rest of my cowleagues. And now at night we get our feed in three split courses; hay, then cottonseed and silage, then cottonseed, grain, and protein (this way the PM CREWS can’t leave early and feed everything at once). This feeding schedule also allows me to first use the hay to prepare my rumen for all that high-energy food (this way I can keep a watchful eye on Lucy and Tingle to make sure they don’t steal my silage). Then the silage comes (I don’t get cottonseed for some reason, YAY) and I can gobble it all up. Finally my favorite portion, grain and protein (still, no cotton). And since I don’t get very much, I make sure to eat it fast in fear of losing it to my sneaky neighbors. All in all I would like to end this corner on a positive note. I would like to express my appreciation to all those students who give me extra grain before milking me. It makes having to get up so much more bearable and that makes everyone’s job easier because just remember I’ve been getting up to milk for almost 1800 days straight and 3600 milkings!

Ask Dave . . .

Back upon popular demand is the “Ask Dave” section of the newsletter. Dave is our extremely knowledgeable herdsman and he would love to answer your questions. Please email your questions to Dr. Goodger (wgoodger@wisc.edu) and we will post Dave’s answer in the next newsletter. Now really put some thought into these questions because the best question of the week (determined by Dave) will receive a prize. Lets have some fun and learn about our wonderful herd.
## Susan Update

Susan has had a rough summer and fall but has been doing quite well over the last week since recovering from a 10 day setback. After her surgery to help drain and heal her abscesses, she experienced two spontaneous bloody noses, minor heart arrhythmias and an increased heart rate, apparently caused by an emboli shower from her healing abscesses. Currently, however, she is much improved thanks to excellent care from LAS, Dr. Mike Livesey, and the herd health crew. Her heart rate is back to normal, she is eating well as evidenced by her milk production (67 lbs. per day), and her abscesses are about 85% healed. We also think that having her daughter in the stall next to her is also helping. Sunny is a new heifer and stays inside next to her mother while she gets used to being in the barn. Her stall location is also helping Sunny make her transition. Initially Sunny would bellow when left alone in the barn but now with her mother next to her giving her tips, she is totally quiet.
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. 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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