Hardware disease results in the loss of a beloved cow

Sandy, one of our beloved cows, recently fell victim to Hardware Disease (pericarditis caused by an ingested piece of wire).

Although Sandy did have a magnet, it seems it was no longer functional given the fact that the wire migrated from the reticulum and punctured the pericardial sac. An infection and subsequent fibrosis of the pericardium ensued, and when Sandys heart no longer had room to expand, she went into cardiac failure.

Sandy was euthanized at the VMTH after a fowl smelling fluid was drawn from the pericardial cavity. Necropsy revealed the path the wire took, and both the epicardium and pericardium were discolored with a thick fibrous covering.

It’s hard to tell how long the fatal wire was there—it is thought that it may have been a remnant from the tornado wreckage. We are all keeping our fingers crossed that there are no other hidden hardware problems in the herd, but only time will tell.

Reds Corner

Whew! I have been feeling so-o good lately, my production went up 16 lbs. to 46 lbs. in November! Now my dear Dr. Bill can stop worrying about my production and body condition score (speaking of which, I still believe JASON is being mean and rounding up to a 4).

Now, back to me feeling so good. I figure it is because the students have shown so much respect for my (our) daily care. I notice a lot of things that happen around here from my stall, and I’ve been so pleased and proud of the students I’d like to mention them here to you now:

First, when the rain came last week students started putting down lime by the door between the barn and the yard, and in the walkway leading to the middle alley in the barn, so we wouldn’t slip. This has particularly helped Lynette who has had trouble coming inside ever since her feet were trimmed.

Also, I have noticed that some students have been taking the time to remove hay from our water cups which has allowed us to drink a bit easier without letting so much spill over—which I know makes Dave mad.

Yet another thing I have seen is that some of the students have been careful when closing our feed alley gates so that Amanda and Katrina don’t get their head bumped!

Oh, and I couldn’t possibly forget to mention that when the refusal is fed outside the students who are forking refusal have been very careful not to get the prongs near any of my colleagues eyes!

And as long as we’re on the topic of feed…the students getting the silage have been very careful to remove all the moldy silage. This means we get more total silage, which, as you might guess, is really important for those of us who like silage—as well as for those cows producing more than 80 lbs. of milk.

Lastly, although I mentioned this in a previous Newsletter, it bears repeating: ‘thank you’ to those students who not only have been keeping the grates clean, but also take care to watch out for our udders and tails when cleaning off the grates with the rake turned up.

The care the students have taken with the herd this semester has been fantastic, and all us gals are super thankful. — RED
Shortly after Merry gave birth on October 17th, Betsy Welty (2005), Abbey Butler (2006), and Jennifer Nemec (2006), began treating her nightly for mastitis, ketosis and milk fever (Ca++=6.1).

First, let’s talk about Merry’s mastitis. Cultures from Merry’s left front and right rear quarters came back positive for alpha-hemolytic strep/enterococcus. She had been treated with Pirsue (pirilomycin), but switched to Cefalak (a 1st generation cephalosporin) when it became clear the Pirsue wasn’t working. However, when her mastitis still had not resolved with the Cefalak, Merry’s quarters were re-cultured the morning of October 24th—thus giving Megan Swab (2007) and Stacy Garves (2006) an opportunity to wrestle with Merry (quite literally—there was kicking and stomping!). Given the results of the culture they continued treating with Cefalak, which finally appeared to be reducing the CMT.

Unfortunately, the teat Merry had stepped on (right front) needed to be cannulated by Stacy Garves (2006) and Dr. Goodger, which Merry was not particularly happy about. They tried switching to a larger bore liner to make milking easier, and eventually, before each milking, students injected a tiny bit of Cefalak up the right front teat to try to break through the scar tissue. Although Merry really disliked this procedure, it seemed to help. After milking Cefalak was administered to the infected quarters.

Now, let’s talk about Merry’s ketosis. On Saturday, October 23rd, Merry was off-feed and had a fever of 103.5°F. She did not look well, had watery diarrhea, and her ketones were 200. The thought was that the persistent mastitis may have been causing a slight endotoxemia, resulting in her fever. It followed that because Merry didn’t feel good, she stopped eating, which resulted in her becoming ketotic because she had to mobilize fat reserves. With this, Betsey, Abbey and Jennifer treated her with propylene glycol (8 oz. PO), and also gave an IM injection of Banamine (Flunixin meglumine). The Banamine was administered to help correct the underlying endotoxemia and positively affect her ketosis.

Merry’s case provided the students working in the barn and on the herd health rotation many valuable lessons. By following protocol to diagnose and monitor Merry, a successful outcome resulted.

This case also illustrates the inherent value of the herd health rotation. By following routine cases from their inception to their conclusion, students are faced with diseases in which they must rely upon their own knowledge, experience—as well as the experience of others—to help guide them through the steps of diagnosis and therapy required to achieve a successful conclusion.

Thank you to Stacy Garves, Jen Nemec, and Heidi Leder for completing the Herd Health Rotation and doing such an excellent job! — RED
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1. Veterinary Diagnostics and Therapeutics Laboratory Course Schedule
2. Opportunity to bleed cows for Chuck Czuprynski's laboratory in the AM
3. Large Animal Internal Medicine will be sending a 4th yr student to tail bleed for Chuck Czuprynski's laboratory and exam any sick cows
**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.

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**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.

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**Charmany Dairy Newsletter**

**Production Team**

- **Dr. Bill Goodger**
  - The Big Moo

- **Tom Bennett**
  - He Who Gets IT Done

- **Jodi Woods (‘06)**
  - Production & Layout

- **Kim Everson (‘07)**
  - Decryption & Editing

- **Kerry Hagen (‘08)**
  - Photography, Events & Calendar

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**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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Cell: (608) 770-1448
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