



Pinkeye Note:

Whenever we treat a disease that is not life threatening, it can be hard to determine if the sick animals responded, because we usually treat all the animals in the group. Pinkeye is a great example. How bad would the eyes be if we hadn't treated them? Iowa State did a review of trials back 20 years. They looked at animals naturally infected with pinkeye, and compared those animals that were not treated or treated with water, compared to treated animals, and treatment helped. They could not determine a preferred antibiotic for treatment, and personally I think this varies with the strains from farm to farm. Last summer I had a large group of heifers that responded very favorably to long acting Tetracycline, a very inexpensive treatment option and one that frequently fails. It is important to note is that the producer caught the disease early in the outbreak there by increasing the likelihood of treatment success.

J-5

If you give J-5 once a year for control of clinical Coliform mastitis, now is the time to plan your vaccination schedule. Your goal is to use three doses of whatever brand of vaccine you choose with a minimum of three weeks between each dose, the three doses should be given before the hot, muggy (usually rainy) weather of summer arrives. Ideally, the third dose should be two to three weeks before the summer weather arrives. It's hard to think about 90 degree, 90% humidity days with thunderstorms and sweat dripping down your forehead into your eyes right now, right? Talk to your herd health vet or call one of us if you have vaccine brand questions or want help creative vaccine schedule. If the first dose is April 10, second dose May 1 and third dose May 22, then you're good to go in early June.

Tetanus and castration methodology:

Because we have new clients each year and a few old ones that forget, I like to remind everyone that using rubber bands to castrate bull calves can lead to death of the calf from tetanus. If you insist on using a bander, for castration or docking tails, then ideally you should give Tetanus Toxoid at least two weeks prior to band application. However, I have never seen tetanus in an animal given the Tetanus Toxoid at the time of applying the band. Every year we see cases of tetanus from banding, and we try to treat them, but I've never seen treatment succeed in cattle. In dogs, which are much more resistant, and in humans, they often have to inject the antitoxin directly into the spinal canal, and they often end up on a respirator for some time. Not economical in cattle.

Be careful how you interpret studies:

After 40 years I am the ultimate skeptic, and with good reason. Ask any of the other vets. I've watched the pendulum swing

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back and forth on many issues. I'm listing some recent studies and my thoughts related to the studies.

Routine hoof trimming showed no increase in milk yield on moderately lame cows. I struggle with this paper. First it was done in Spain, although they did include over 5000 cows in two herds. However, we don't know if the hoof trimmers were good, what the environment was really like, nor what they consider moderate lameness. They only monitored milk yield for 6 weeks and didn't consider long term health and reproductive results. It is easy to be skeptical about an article in a magazine that a 5000 cow study showed that you can give up foot trimming to save money and not lose milk yield. I look at papers like this and think 'really'?

A metritis vaccine was given to 140 cows with two or more pregnancies and they were compared to 140 virgin heifers not given any vaccine. There was no difference between the groups with regards to metritis. This is another useless study because comparing heifers to cows kills the significance of the study. Additionally, you cannot find 2 people to define metritis or diagnose metritis the same, nor assess severity. Metritis can be caused by different organisms in different herds, and this study was done in one herd. Most vaccines for bacterial diseases fail, especially the

Vitamin Shortage:

The German chemical company BASF which produces a large chunk of the vitamins A and E used to feed animals had a fire and expects product shortages well into 2018 with corresponding increases in prices or complete shortages.

mixed group of bacteria they included in the vaccine. There is nothing useful for veterinarians or farmers to garner from the study except to become more skeptical of future studies.

A study of the usefulness of genomic wellness traits and their correlation to the predictability of the diseases they were supposed to predict and the transmissibility of the traits. The study used 3400 cows and heifers. There were positive correlations for all the diseases, not super strong, but enough to acknowledge that future veterinarians may be doing less work (a good thing for producers). Actually, this was a study I enjoyed reading. It is readily obvious that disease susceptibility should be inherited to a small degree, but it's nice to see a study support this and it's especially good to know that producers can start selecting for disease resistance and improving this aspect of their herd.

ET Tips & Tricks!

1. Oxytocin use:

Oxytocin reduces follicle ovulation up to 50%. Using oxytocin for milk let-down during or prior to a flush may reduce flush results. Plan on removing oxytocin from use on your donor cow at least 2 weeks before setup.

2. IVF Embryo Transfer:

IVF produced embryos are "older" than conventional flush embryos. The result of using day 7 recipients and IVF embryos is having a progesterone level-embryo

match of decreases er transfer IVF 3. Just a little later.

Spanish Translation Services:

Waupun Vet is offering Spanish translation services to dairy clients and their employees. Dr. Emma deals with different aspects of worker responsibilities. OB work, milker training, calf care, and fresh cow treatments are some of the most common areas addressed, and appointments can be tailored to individual farm needs.

Workers take more initiative and responsibility for the animals when they feel appreciated and invested in.

Having someone bilingual spend time on the farm helps them feel like their duties and roles are valued.

Additionally, it gives workers a chance to voice their concerns and ask questions. Dealing with conflict between employees, or between employees and management, helps improve morale and communication on the farm.

Emma offers off-farm services as well, including protocol and disease definition translations. Feel free to contact the clinic to speak with us about our new service!



We are excited to be expanding our small ruminant services! Whether you have one sheep, one goat, or a whole backyard full of them, we want to keep your animals healthy year-round. We enjoy answering questions about deworming, hoof health, vaccines, reproduction, and nutrition. Additionally, we are now offering advanced reproductive services include laparoscopic AI, embryo transfer, ultrasound using our new small ruminant probe, and breeding soundness exams for rams and bucks. Our in-house blood lab continues to offer blood pregnancy testing (BioPRYN) for sheep and goats, Johne's testing for both, and CAE testing and OPP testing.

Contact the clinic today to speak to one of our vets about our small ruminant services. We are looking forward to working with you!