



Summer Issues

1. **Cows bunching.** This is a learned response usually to flies, but also to heat, or a hot area in the barn or pasture. If your cows learn to bunch to reduce the biting from flies and you spray the flies, the cows will still bunch for some time, at least several days. If the flies come back the cows just continue bunching. Fly control is a continual ongoing issue and selection of proper residual or daily knockdown products is part of the equation. Don't expect daily knockdown to have any residual. Daily is the key phrase. Also, remember that the flies are coming from wet feed and manure. This is an exceptional year for wet, so try to keep all organic matter cleaned up or as fast as you kill them the flies will hatch and return. If the cows learn one area of the pen is hot with no sprinklers working, they aren't going back there the next day just because the sprinklers suddenly are back on. The cows will learn the coolest part of the pen and go there even if the sprinklers are on. Staying ahead of the issue is your best choice for success.
2. **Maggots in calves.** Dehorning, diarrhea or any injury this time of year can result in maggots infecting the tissue of your calves, so be aware! Be proactive in using insecticide spray at dehorning and again several days later and recheck the calves. For diarrhea, preventative spraying of the rear legs and around the anus is a great idea.
3. **Water availability to down cows.** There are two reasons to make sure there is ready access to water for down cows in the summer, especially if they are outside. First, dehydration makes the cows weaker, they are already down, and they aren't going to recover if they are dehydrated. Second, even if you take water out to the animal several times a day, the image of the animal without water is not good. You don't want pictures circulating on the internet of a down cow, on its side, holes dug where it paddled and no water anywhere. Taking care of down animals is a lot of work, if you don't have time, call dead stock. The animal only gets better with a lot of tender loving care.
4. **Shade for down cows.** This is similar to above, temps are above 70° June, July, August, and September and the cow suffers without shade.

Rabies Risk: Remember Rabies is a constant threat to any animal that has access to the outdoors. Horses and cattle are curious and sick skunks will elicit their curiosity. The problem is that the exposed horse or bovine doesn't show the disease for weeks and by then the offending skunk or bat is long gone and forgotten. Every skunk and every bat should be considered rabid, as well as raccoons that appear friendly. We had a rabid skunk walk into a dairy tie-stall barn once and stumble down a feed manger. Always think rabies when an animal exhibits neurological problems.

Mark Your Calendar: December 12 we have financial planners from Ascent Financial, an agricultural firm in Minnesota, discussing farm transition and planning tools for farm families. This has nothing to do with animal health, but everything to do with you and the next generation's financial health.

****Orbeseal Producer Program Special**** Buy 5 pails of Orbeseal get the 6th pail free. This program runs from July 1, 2019-Dec. 31, 2019. Pails can be purchased when you need them (you don't have to order all 6 at one time). Call the clinic with any questions.

Cryptorchid:

This is a condition in which one or both testicles don't descend out of the body cavity during fetal development. There may be an inherited component, which is why male animals with this condition should not be used for breeding. In cattle, the condition can be a problem when castrating steers. When presented with a cryptorchid that you want to castrate, there are several decisions to make. Some producers choose to remove one testicle and leave the animal essentially male, in the case of cattle the animal is a bull. Sometimes the bull will be sterile, but that is not always the case. I've seen a cryptorchid breed a pen full of heifers.

Many times the testicle can be found under the skin of the abdomen way up under the leg, right where the cord from the testicle goes into the belly. It is best to have a veterinarian search and remove these. The challenge is that often producers remove the testicle they find, then can't find the second one, then wait for several weeks until the veterinarian shows up, and then requests the veterinarian search for the missing testicle. The first question from the vet is which side of the animal is the missing testicle on and the answer is always "I don't remember."

My suggestion is that when castrating, first identify two testicles, before any cutting is performed. If a testicle is missing, it's not going to suddenly appear after the first one is removed, they're not stacked up like shotgun shells in a tube. Stop and decide, what am I going to do with this animal? If you want it to be a steer, before there is any blood, call for veterinary help. If you forget and remove one testicle, try to decide which side it was on and notch the calf ear on that side so at least the vet can minimize the search. Probably three quarters of cryptorchid bulls can be castrated without opening the abdomen. In pigs, almost all cryptorchids require abdominal surgery.

Another option, especially for Holsteins, is to sell the calf for veal, they aren't castrated anyway. It's also important to realize that in Europe they raise and butcher bulls instead of steers, so you could keep the animal as a bull for beef, but never for breeding.

Calf Health Review:

- What happens this month with your calves won't affect your bottom line for two years. However, you can't reverse the damage you do to your calves this month.
- The faster a calf grows the more milk it produces as an adult.
- Disease problems like diarrhea and certainly pneumonia create a lasting decrease in milk production as an adult.
- It all starts with a lot of colostrum. Real colostrum has all kinds of things that freezing and pasteurizing damage or destroy. Sometimes freezing and pasteurizing are a necessary decision, but fresh high quality colostrum from a single cow is the best.
- The gut health of a calf along with the diversity of bacteria is a big deal. Any antibiotics given orally can have a lasting detrimental effect on calf health and cow production. There are times antibiotics are called for, but those times require a proper diagnosis, or a reason to use the antibiotics. Don't feed antibiotics indiscriminately. If they are needed for a disease problem, change management so you don't need the antibiotics. It's a short term solution and long term loss for you.
- Gut health is why people are recommending not to use milk from antibiotic treated cows to feed calves. This is especially true for the first feeding after a cow is treated in the quarter for mastitis.
- Try to mimic Mother Nature. Calves nurse frequently and are always hungry. Watch a calf on a beef cow once, every time mom becomes inattentive the calf dives in for a drink.

Return Policy at Waupun Veterinary Services: We cannot take any returns of vaccines ever. This is an issue with how the product is handled because of refrigeration; we can never be assured that product was handled correctly. Most other injectable products are not returnable. We have to be concerned with the next producer using the product. If there is a question or an issue you need to contact us immediately.