



BioPRYN: Just a quick update on our blood pregnancy test and ways people use it. The test requires a red top tube so the blood clots, and the small red top tubes work. The blood must be in our lab by 4:30pm for next day results, Monday through Thursday. The blood test works in virgin heifers at 25 days after breeding; all other animals at 28 days. With heifers, if they have been pregnant and aborted then 28 days since last breeding must be observed. Many producers use the test as a confirmation of pregnancy at five to seven months to gestation. The blood test will not tell you what to do with an open animal, where in the cycle the animal is, or if there is a problem that is treatable. You need an ultrasound and good veterinarian to solve those issues. However, BioPRYN test is convenient and easy for the producer to run when a veterinarian isn't handy.

Vaccines- Do You Want to Know More??

What are vaccines really good for? What diseases do they work best for? When do vaccines fail and why? Often, producers have greater expectations for a vaccine than are warranted. An example is calf pneumonia caused by crowding, poor ventilation, and continuous flow housing. At other times, producers don't realize the potential risk of a disease outbreak such as IBR or BVD because vaccines have protected their farm for decades.

Please join us **Friday, March 4th** at **11:30** at the **Pizza Ranch in Waupun** for a meeting covering vaccine strategies. Dr. Dick Wallace will be covering the types of vaccines, their pluses and minuses, the diseases commonly and uncommonly vaccinated for, and vaccine routes of administration. Dr. Wallace will speak from 11:30 until lunch, we will eat and entertain discussion. After lunch we would like you to bring in your vaccine protocols so we can discuss them either as a group or one- on- one with our veterinarians.



Congratulations to Dr. Cassandra Gewiss for becoming a partner with Waupun Veterinary Services. Cass is due to have a baby boy in less than a month. She plans on taking 8 weeks maternity leave, after which she plans to return to doing herd checks. This is of course subject to change based on her recovery. If Cass does a routine herd check for you and you have not yet been contacted about how we hope to provide service during her leave, please give her or the office a call ASAP.



Zoonotic Diseases; Zika Virus?

Zoonotic Diseases: This is a term for diseases that can spread from animals to people. The classic example is Rabies, which spreads from direct contact, mainly a bite. However, there are many diseases which will infect people where the original infection is from animals. The reason milk was originally pasteurized was to prevent people from being infected by Brucellosis (Bangs) and Tuberculosis (TB). Now days, the biggest risk for TB is other people, and the biggest risk for Bangs is wild pigs.

Salmonella from poultry products probably infects more people in the country today than any other zoonotic disease, even though there are hundreds of others.

The current outbreak of Zika virus in South America, which is working its way up into the United States is spread by a bite from a mosquito. Originally identified in Africa in rhesus monkeys in 1947, it is spreading around the world. The virus causes a rash, with a death rate around 1%, but it has been linked to birth defects in pregnant women. There is no vaccine and it will probably be ten years before one is developed.

Right now the focus is on vaccine and mosquito control, but my guess is that there will be an animal reservoir and this disease will probably be a zoonotic disease. Humans live in close proximity with animals, using them for companionship, work, and food, and that will never change. As world travel and trade becomes more common and faster, in essence the world gets smaller, and weird diseases are going to take advantage of these interactions.

Just a Reminder:

If you would like our newsletter delivered to you or other members of your production team via email, send a note with the email address to Pat at 'office@waupunvet.com', or text Al with a note at 920.210.9902

Lice:

They're back in full force. These nasty little insects aren't very tough and are beaten to low numbers during the summer due to fly sprays and sunlight. As the winter carries on, long hair, little sun, and no fly control allows these buggers to explode in numbers. The eggs hatch two weeks after they are laid. Lice cause little physical harm unless large numbers of the blood sucking variety are on your animals. However, they itch and cause cattle to be restless. I've always felt that they caused stepped on teats in conventional barns because cattle were uncomfortable. Any pour-on insecticide (Ultra Boss or similar products) will devastate the numbers, something which should always be on your February to-do list.



There is a new law in Wisconsin that most of you are probably totally unaware of, but if you sell a vehicle to a private party, any truck or car, you have thirty days to report it on line at the DMV website. It's a little tough to find the right tab but it's called seller notify and it actually protects the seller.