



## July 2016 NEWSLETTER

### **Dairy Industry update:**

A recent review of the international dairy processing and wholesaling businesses shows that the low prices for products and lower income has caused significant consolidation by international processors. Add to this the Chinese desire to control their food chain, and there is a lot of activity. The top five international players account for only 18% of retail products. Asian firms, including Vietnamese and Chinese firms, have bought into New Zealand and are expanding into Russia because of the western ban on dairy product sales to Russia. Since 2010 there have been 876 consolidation deals worth \$57.3 billion in total. Of note was a quote from a Wells Fargo analyst saying that the dairy industry is "one of the more attractive growth markets from a long term perspective, in terms of per capita consumption." People want to drink more milk and consume more dairy products in the majority of the world and exporting is a huge future growth industry.

### **Tips on Emergency Care:**

As Waupun Veterinary Services covers a larger and larger area, it often takes longer to respond to an emergency. Think about how you might handle...

**Bleeding;** A tail or teat can have a rubber band wrapped around it, wounds can have a clean towel held on them. Major veins like milk veins sometimes can be stopped with a vice grip.

**Bloat:** Fresh cows bloat from milk fever, and just rolling them upright often relieves the bloat. Any hose down a cow's esophagus can also relieve bloat, although it's best to pass the hose through a metal pipe so the cow doesn't bite through the hose. A needle can be inserted on the left side of the cow, (her LEFT side), and the gas released, If fresh green feed is involved a commercial bloat drench is indicated, although several ounces of dish soap and water can also be drenched using a pop bottle.

Everyone should at least have the equipment to IV calcium. If worst comes to worst, use the milk vein, just run the calcium slowly.

If a cow is down in a stall, and can't shift back and forth or it is sitting like a frog, it needs to be shifted to one side. Get the cow out of the stall using a tractor bucket, a stone boat, or a gate, and try to get the cow on a soft surface.

Remember that a dry cow or just fresh cow with her tail up is telling you that there is a problem. She needs a vaginal exam and an assessment. If she is trying to calve, tomorrow is probably going to be a disaster.

### **Coliform Mastitis:**

We are seeing a sudden upturn in the number of hot down mastitis's. The hotter the weather, usually the worse they are. Make sure you are using J-5 vaccine correctly. There are three products that are very similar. Two doses three to four weeks apart gives OK protection, but a third dose another three to four weeks after the second dose peaks protection. The cow can still get infected, when vaccinated, but they don't get as sick. You are vaccinating for the toxin produced by the bacteria when it dies. Most of the time these hot down mastitis events are caused by an E. coli, but occasionally we see a Klebsiella outbreak or some other weird bug. A culture of the quarter can help with understanding how to prevent the infection.

Teats need to be dry when the milker is attached, including the teat end. Wet teats are strongly correlated with increased coliform mastitis.

Every vet seems to have a slightly different treatment protocol, which usually indicates that all the treatment protocols give poor results. Some vets like to treat the quarter, some don't. Some like to give IV antibiotics, some don't. The one area of agreement is that the cows need fluids.

### **Farm Plastic Recycling:**

Revolution Plastics is looking for farms that want to recycle AG plastic. I talked to the representative. They will accept white bale wrap, white silage bunker cover and oxygen trap, and white/black Ag bag plastic. They do not want twine or net-wrap. They provide a designated dumpster. The phone number is

**844-490-7873.**

### Electrolyte Products:

Thirty years ago Re-Sorb® was introduced as an electrolyte product and it has been very successful in rehydrating a lot of calves. Dr. Ralph has been investigating newer products and he feels that Diaque® does a better job with rapid absorption of keep electrolytes and water and so we are going to just handle the single packets of Diaque® in the clinic rather than Re-Sorb®. Re-Sorb® is still available through drop ship.

### Pinkeye:

Although we do see pinkeye outbreaks year round, with fly season upon us the risk is much higher. When first infected a calf incurs a lot of pain, the calf will be sensitive to light, squinting a lot, and there is usually a lot of tears running down the side of the calf's face. These tears are very infective and they draw flies which then spread it to the next calf. Treatment needs to be initiated quickly because the cornea, the clear part of the eye gets an ulcer, and can lead to the rupture of the eye. Also the cornea may become permanently scarred which will impair vision. Recently I had an outbreak that responded very well to just treating every calf with long acting tetracycline, but this is not always the case. There are several different bacteria that cause the disease, but commercial vaccines only carry one of the bacteria in them and unfortunately the bug in the commercial vaccines is rare now days. We do have some other vaccine options available. Again, it is really important to catch this disease early to prevent some animals becoming blind.

### Tail Docking:

The F.A. R. M. program is a nationwide farm certification program that certifies the farms that produce 90% of the nation's fluid milk. Because most of Wisconsin's milk goes to manufacturing, there seems to be less pressure to certify farms. But the standard is being set, and effective January 1, tail docking will not be allowed. This practice is going to disappear soon so decisions on how to adapt need to be thought out now.

### ***Selective Dry Cow Therapy? Is it for you?***

*Want to reduce antibiotic usage and cost on dry cows? A new concept from Dr. Sara Godden from University of Minnesota uses milk cultures to select which quarters to treat when drying off cows. Her research has shown a 30-40% reduction in antibiotic usage on dry cows. Simply put, an on-farm culture system is set up and the producer runs his own cultures. A blood agar plate is divided into four quadrants and each quarter is plated out. Only those quarters which have growth get dry cow antibiotic therapy plus Orbesal. The other quarters get just Orbesal. It is imperative with this technique that milk cultures are collected aseptically or you will get a bunch of contaminated growth which will affect your decision making. A small on farm incubator cost a few hundred dollars and each culture plate would cost 80 cents. A culture cost of a few dollars per cow in blood plate, milk culture tube and labor could potentially save \$16-20 on a cow that doesn't need any quarters treated. This concept would put an economic savings on an old concept of blanket dry cow therapy. If you're interested, let us know and we can get you set up.*

### **Note on ovsync:**

Discussion recently with Dr. Milo Wiltbank, and a couple of his grad students about important components of Ovsync.

The first note is that in most herds: double ovsync is really making a difference in first service conception. It is huge.

Second note is that in second lactation and older animals giving two shots of prostaglandin, the second 12 to 24 hours after the first synchronizes 100% of the cows vs. 80%.

The third note that he said that the second GnRH shot, the one 56 hours after the first lut is absolutely critical. Don't do it, and everything falls apart.

The last note is that from the second GnRH shot, until breeding, don't go over 24 hours. Earlier is OK, even up to breeding, but don't give the GnRH at six in the morning when the breeder comes the next morning at 10. Give the GnRH at six

the night before.