



### Evolution of a Large Animal Vet's time:

30 years ago, a large animal vet ran emergency calls first thing in the morning, did a couple herd checks on fifty cow herds, and then started running routine calls at 9:00 in the morning. Emergencies were thrown in throughout the day and evening and because most calls were short, getting to an emergency was quick and easy. But a lot has changed;

- Farms are a lot bigger and herd checks take large blocks of time, often half a day.
- With Ovsync systems, a lot of farms want herd checks on Monday or Tuesday mornings. If we had 20 vets, they would all be busy at 8:00 on Monday or Tuesday, this is incredibly precious time.
- Farmers rightfully want us on time because often there are several hired people involved with the herd check, which is a problem with emergencies.
- Our practice area is huge with drive times well over an hour from one side of the practice to other side.
- Milking is often continuous and sick cows are often first identified at milking.
- Farms do fresh cow checks at different times of the day, not always first thing in the morning, which means sick cows are found at different times of the day.
- We still need to organize our day so that we are spending as much time on the farm and the least time in the truck.

So... **we really need your help** to allow us to better help you and the rest of our clients.

- Please use the phone and communicate as much as possible, and we will try to do the same. We need cell phone numbers where we can reach you or herd personnel.
- If you have to cancel a herd check, please let us know as much in advance as possible so that we can better utilize the time that was allotted to you.
- Realize that a canceled herd check often can't be made up at an ideal time; someone else is already scheduled.
- Please call before 10:00 for routine calls. Although it is often in the afternoon that we get to sick cows, we start at the nearest farm when our scheduled work is done. Scheduled work and routine calls made before ten in the morning get a better rate because it allows us to be more efficient with our time.
- If at all possible, learn basic first aid techniques like treating a milk fever or relieving a bloat. Or ask for a phone call with tips on how to intervene.
- Be aggressive in seeing sick cows early. Check cows you're not sure about. A dry cow with a tail up probably has a problem, and tomorrow is going to be worse. Equipment can wait a day for repairs, animals can't.

**Our success is dependent on Your success and we want our clients to be the most successful farmers in the world.**

### Facebook:

For those of you that enjoy the social media interaction, you can like and follow us on Facebook. Cass tries to post some educational topics with interesting pictures and some humor to brighten your day (unless the pictures are from your dead cow).

### **ATTENTION!!**

*Isaac Loomans from Solutions Cow Floating & Dairy Services has purchased Gilletts-Priority Cow Floating services. Isaac can be reached at: 920-948-2770*



Crazy!! US imports corn: From the Wall Street Journal, April 13, 2016. During this past winter, it has been cheaper for hog and poultry farmers in the southeast 'think North Carolina', to import corn from Brazil and Argentina by ship, than to purchase and ship corn by rail from Illinois or Iowa. USDA projects imports of 50 million bushels, a 56% increase from 2015. The reason, rail costs were 80 cents to 1.50 a bushel, ocean shipping was 35 to 50 cents a bushel.



**Road Construction:**



If you are coming into Waupun from the east and want to get to the clinic the quickest with all the construction, head south two blocks to Brown street and head west. Brown turns into a one way at Madison street, fortunately the one way is towards our clinic. Head past the prison on your left and the library on your right, over the railroad where they have installed the biggest meanest speed bump ever, do not go over 5mph with a trailer, maybe less with cattle in the trailer. You continue on Brown past the hospital, over 68, and all the way to Harris, which only goes to your right {north} and this takes you to the clinic parking lot. At some point there should be a sign at the Harris street-Brown street intersection directing you to turn for our business, along with all the other businesses. When you leave the clinic, good luck if you want to go east because of the one way traffic on Brown, just plan on a longer and frustrating tour of the residential parts of Waupun.

From the West, no problem until they start tearing up 49 in front of the clinic, then go all the way to the barricade at County Park road, turn south past the Purina mill, got to Brown, turn back east one block and you will be at Harris.

**Note:** Worldwide rabies kills about 60,000 people every year. That's why it is always something vets are concerned with. Rabies is an interesting virus in that it will reside in bats, skunks and raccoons and be passed from mother to offspring without the animals showing symptoms, and then suddenly it wakes up and the skunk or bat or raccoon gets sick and transmits the disease. This unique feature keeps us from eliminating the virus from the wild animal population.

*Flies:*

*If you are planning on using a feed with larvacide this summer, plan now and make sure that all the animals on the farm get the product. It works very well. If using premise sprays, start early. In every case, minimize wet sloppy areas where the flies can breed. The larvacide keeps the flies out of the manure, that just leaves wet feed and rotting vegetation. One study I read found one million flies coming from one rotting round bale in a pasture.*

**BSE exam: 'Breeding Soundness Exam for bulls.'** Abbie and Cass have both done a lot of these exams for producers selling bulls to enhance the value of the bull to the buyer. They also do them for herd bulls before they're turned out to increase the probability that the bulls will do their job. The procedure takes about 15 to 20 minutes to collect and examine the bull, if a producer has good handling facilities; which means a chute and good help. The cost is a call charge and time, which is why good help is important to minimize costs. Then after semen is collected there is another 15 to 20 minutes to examine the semen under a scope. Total evaluation is testicular size, rectal palpation for normal support structures, penile exam, and semen morphology and motility. Although commonly done in the beef industry, the dairy industry could certainly get a return on their investment from doing this procedure. The reason that more of these weren't done in our practice is that the rest of us plain and simply dropped the ball. It's a service we should have provided and didn't.