



Drug Shortage:

Ampicillin and Penicillin are both off the market. There is no allotment, neither product is available: period. Basically there are four antibiotic molecules that you can use in lactating dairy cattle; Penicillin, Ampicillin, Ceftiofur, and tetracycline. Sulfadimethoxine is a fifth molecule with a very limited use per FDA rules. So we are currently left with tetracycline and Ceftiofur.

Ceftiofur is what is in Naxcel, Excenel, and Excede. They are the same drug, just different forms of delivery. Ceftiofur is expensive but has a short meat withdrawal, and if used per label a Zero milk withdrawal unless the mastitis tubes are used. Tetracycline is inexpensive, but has a long meat and milk with-hold. As we are trying to select between the two, we need to balance the risk of long with-hold with high cost.

We've seen these types of shortages in the past. They come because a molecule becomes generic, very inexpensive to produce the base drug, and the result is a single factory in the world producing the product. We went through this some years ago with pig iron, with oxytocin, and with lidocaine.

Euthanasia Solution:

We can no longer use euthanasia solution on animals that are going to be rendered. This is because the chemical carries through into the pet food or mink food that is produced from the rendered animal. The method we use to euthanize animals that are going to be rendered is to stun them or shoot them in the head with a gun or captive bolt, and then administer a large dose of potassium chloride which stops the heart.

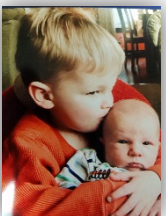
If you want an animal euthanized you need to plan on either burying it or putting it in a landfill. For a companion like a horse there is a huge cost to burying but few other options. Of note, Wisconsin law requires that dead animals be disposed of within 24 hours during April through November, and 48 hours December through March. I have personally been involved in animal welfare issues with county law enforcement that use this law aggressively because it is clear cut. It is also illegal to place an animal out on a stone pile for the crows.

Clinic News:

We are reorganizing the clinic. Buchholz Law has moved to the far East suite in our building where our blood lab was, and we are combining the previous suite with the law office suite. It required basically a complete gutting of the law office. When we are finished, both the blood and milk labs will be in close proximity, the office staff will be better organized and we will have better storage and access to files. The small animal clinic will gain a new surgery suite as well. Please bare with us as we work through the changes. Also, because of the disorganization created by the remodeling we are pushing back our appreciation picnic until later in the summer.

Killed hoof trimmer at Iowa State:

A foot trimming chute fell off a trailer at Iowa State and killed the foot trimmer. The story as told to me was that a cotter pin was lost and wire was used as a replacement, the wire fatigued and the chute fell on the trimmer. When I think about all the close calls I've seen on farms through the years I just want to admonish everyone to be careful.



Dr Cass is Back! After a long extensive maternity leave she has returned and trying to get back up to speed. We hope that within the next year she will be back to her prior productivity. Congratulations on your baby boy, Emmett!

Anaplasmosis: This is a rare disease in Wisconsin, but not in the southern half of the United States. In adult animals it causes the rupture of red blood cells at a rapid rate and causes weak animals. A very important component is that white areas of the animal will turn yellow, a condition called Jaundice. The disease is usually brought into Wisconsin via infected cattle with heifers grown out west or down south for example. The disease is transmitted mainly with the use of common needles. Important, if you have a sick animal that looks yellow, it should be tested for Anaplasmosis, you want to know. If the eyes, vulva, or muzzle of an animal looks yellow, it will go in the tank at slaughter. We have seen this disease in our practice.

Probiotics and Prebiotics:

These two terms almost sound the same and they are both associated with gut health but probiotics are live bacteria, prebiotics are structured carbohydrates. I like to think of probiotics as adding good bacteria to the gut and prebiotics as nutritional supplement for the good bacteria. They are different concepts with the goal being better GI health.

Important points include research showing the products improve health or gain is important. With calves, probiotics pass through the stomach pretty easily and colonize the lower gut. But as animals get older, the acids in the stomach become important in destroying many of the Probiotics marketed today, which is why the few really good products are patented. They have research to show they work.

The greatest benefit seen with probiotics was calves on milk. As they get older and eat more dry feed, health benefits are not as pronounced. Studies have shown that probiotics improved growth in calves fed milk replacer, but not whole milk. This may be due to antibiotic residue in most commercial feed waste milk antibiotics will still be effective after pasteurization, and can kill the probiotics. Calves with diarrhea may benefit the most from probiotics to help repopulate the intestines with good bacteria. If you do give probiotics to sick calves make sure you don't use the tube form, because you end up using it on multiple different sick calves, spreading diseases with the tube - Probiotics are live bacteria (the good bugs), so handling them carefully as to not kill them is really important. Make sure you don't use past expiration dates, allow them to get too hot or cold, and don't pasteurize them.

Foot Lesions: Lamé cows are 50% as likely to conceive when compared to healthy, walking cows. Cows that are lame also take an extra 40 days to conceive, compared to healthy cows in the herd. In donors, this means lame cows produce less fertile embryos (if any at all). In embryo recipients, this means less embryos become pregnant. Plan on 30 to 60 days on either side of a donor or recipient being lame before considering them in a flush program.



We had 3 embryos
lamb born alive &
healthy!

From Dr Kolby-

A few weeks ago I traveled to New York for a seminar on mastitis. Part of the talk focused on how to properly manage a pen of Staph aureus and Mycoplasma cows. In the Midwest and Pacific northwest, dairy producers have adopted a zero tolerance policy for these highly contagious and costly mastitis bugs. We find a cow with Staph aureus, the cow is culled and there is no chance she will spread it to anyone else in the herd. Wisconsin dairy farmers have done an excellent job of minimizing contagious mastitis, and are way ahead of those farms in New York