

## Pain Control at Castration

Kansas State University did research on the use of elastrator bands impregnated with lidocaine. They found that production measurements like weight loss and excess lying time were worse without the treated bands.

At the end of the 42 days study, the calves castrated with treated bands were 3 pounds heavier.

A non-treated band costs a couple cents, a treated band is almost \$2. There is a significant up-front cost to using the bands. WVS does not keep the bands in inventory, but they are available through dropship. They are called Lidobands.

There is not much interest from the veterinarians at WVS mainly because we are not fans of using bands for castration. I have seen two main problems with the bands. First, many producers fail to count to 2 when placing the bands. They end up with bulls with a single testicle scarred up against the body wall. The veterinarian is asked to come out and remove the testicle because the calf, which now is large, is riding other steers. Also, because at slaughter there can be a deduction for the carcass still having one testicle.

Secondly, banded calves commonly develop tetanus. Producers end up spending a lot of money on treating the calf with tetanus that almost always fails.

If you are going to use bands instead of open castration, be sure to incorporate tetanus protection prior to banding.



## Happy, Healthy Calves

WVS offers calf ultrasound programs to monitor calfhood pneumonia in young calves. Drs. Wade, Molly and Mike all regularly ultrasound calves looking for those that may need early intervention with antibiotics. This is done ideally before the calf growth and future production potential are reduced. This program also monitors ventilation issues in calf housing. Contact the office if you're interested in these services.

## *Diseases Affecting the Ag Industry*

The world is seeing an influx in diseases that are affecting the agriculture industry. Bird flu is a problem, but we also need to be aware of the threat of Foot and Mouth Disease.

Bird flu is causing damage to dairy farms, especially in California, and it's driving the price of eggs up. Even Donald Trump can't bring egg prices down. But bird flu on dairy farms is nothing compared to the threat of Foot and Mouth disease. Currently there is an outbreak in Germany, the first in over 40 years. As I write this, it looks contained. This was done by stopping all movement of animals and anything having to do with animals. Additionally, an intensive zone was delineated around the affected farm, and all animals of susceptible species, pigs, sheep, and goats were euthanized. So, if you have sheep and your neighbor gets foot and mouth, your sheep are euthanized.

Again, I think the dairy industry is going to see a lot more focus on biosecurity.

# Farmers Can Relate...

We all watched the airplanes and helicopters dump the red and yellow fire retardants on the California fires. Besides the dye, the active ingredient is ammonium phosphate. That's correct... fertilizer.

I don't know how it slows the fires, but I do know that it works good at increasing the grass and brush growth rate so the next fire could possibly be even bigger!

On top of that, the phosphorus, once in a lake, will cause algae and weed excess growth for centuries. I'm surprised that California with all their regulations even allows firefighting.

## Check Washing Fraud

Check washing involves a check stolen somewhere between where it was written and the end receiver, usually it's stolen from the mail. The thief uses solvent to wash out the original recipient and pens in their name. Then they cash it and by the time the person writing the check realizes the theft occurs, the money is gone. The original check writer actually gets the original check back, it was just written with the wrong name on it.

We use a program through our bank that requires us to go online and record the check number, the date, the amount and the recipient of every check we write.

With large numbers of checks we just submit an excel file taken out of our accounting software. (You can also do this with Quickbooks). If a check comes through, even with the wrong date, we are contacted and must verify before it clears.

The system is worth knowing about if you are concerned about check washing.

## Zoetis Supports FFA Through Producers

We want to thank all the producers that purchase Zoetis products either with Drop Ship or through the clinic. Zoetis returns a rebate from those purchases in the form of a donation to local FFA chapters.

Zoetis allows us to pick up to five FFA chapters from the 20 plus school systems our practice works in who will receive the donation.

This year the donations go to Waupun, Dodge Land, Omro, Ripon, and Slinger. Again, thank you to the producers that make this possible.

## ***What is Waupun Veterinary Services?***

Waupun Veterinary Service has been in existence for decades and has 15 veterinarians with over 300 years of total experience treating a variety of farm and companion animals.

WVS has three labs, one that primarily runs blood pregnancy but also tests blood for a variety of specific diseases.

Another lab primarily tests milk samples for mastitis pathogens, but also does culture and blood work in support of the dairy industry.

The third lab tests bedding samples for organic matter levels and bacteria load including bacteria identification.

WVS has continued to provide services as other area practices have disappeared and as many parts of the United States find themselves with no ambulatory veterinary services.

There are 28 people working at WVS including veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and support staff to provide you with the best service we can. We are always open to suggestions about how we can improve that service.

## Wild Animals Are Not Pets

My wife gets the Reader Digest, and you guessed it, it sits on the back of the toilet. I rarely, if ever read it, but one of the headline articles on the front page caught my eye.

I had to scan the article in the issues of October 2024, "My Pet Warthog Tried to Kill ME." Spoiler alert, the author of the article lived but it took him two years to recover. I only had two thoughts when I read it.

First, I hope the author hasn't reproduced. Second, what did you expect? From chipmunks transmitting bubonic plague, to the tiger trying to bite off the head of Roy of the famous magician duo Siegfried and Roy, wild animals are wild animals. There are all kinds of domesticated animals that will fit every person's needs, and if all else fails, get a goldfish.

Wild animals in captivity can't be trusted.