

Supporting our Community and the Future of Agriculture

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There is no denying fair season is in full swing. This is an exciting time of year for our clinic staff and doctors who are passionate about supporting youth in agriculture. Many of us at WVS started our career in agriculture through 4-H, FFA and other rural youth organizations. For decades our clinic has taken an active role in supporting these groups. We do it without hesitation as it is part of who we are as a clinic and has become a cornerstone of our brand.

This time of year, you will see us at the surrounding county fair livestock auctions bidding on show animals and other items that support local 4-H members. In partnership with Zoetis, our clinic continues to support 25 different FFA chapters across six counties. We just gave a local school a donation to help start a new FFA chapter. We enjoy supporting June Dairy Month though breakfast on the farm in several counties. Our doctors volunteer clinic time to speak at schools and youth events throughout our community. We support high school and undergraduate students interested in veterinary medicine by having them ride with our mentoring doctors, especially if they are within our practice radius. Dr. Al and his wife Dr. Bev have over 50 cumulative years as volunteer 4-H leaders. The list continues.

Corporate ownership of large animal clinics is happening frequently across rural communities. I challenge you to think about how the businesses you work with support your local community. How are these companies fostering the next generation of farmers, animal caretakers and future veterinarians? We know how pivotal these youth programs are to agriculture and maintaining a healthy rural community. A community our clinic is proud to be a part of. We are thankful for those that came before us, those who offered their support and opportunities that enabled our clinic to be part of this great community. WVS has 9 partners who are committed to an independent business.



WVS vets are passionate about supporting the ag community. The photos pictured are only a handful of the numerous events we attend throughout the year.



Employee Accidentally Killed Heifer Calves

Several of the doctors recently attended a picnic where three non-corporate veterinary clinics got together and socialized.

It was great and we shared stories. The worst story of the evening was a call where heifer calves were dying three days after birth, they never ate, and bull calves were fine.

The vet did a necropsy, and the throat of the calf was necrotic and basically destroyed. It turned out that the farm just gave First Defense to heifer calves and an employee was putting a tube of caustic dehorning paste down the calf's throat rather than the first defense.

Lessons learned - necropsies are valuable, employee training is critical. Employees often can't read English, so drug labeling and drug storage are critical.

Both products were in the calf processing area. Terrible way to kill a calf.

Who to Call With Electric Power Outage

Years ago, electrical companies would take special consideration on helping farmers raising livestock urgently when dealing with power outages. Services have changed over the years.

My power has been out twice for over 18 hours in the last year. I've never had a power outage of more than 8 hours in the 47 years I've lived here.

A bigger issue is that my next-door neighbor has hundreds of heifers in dozens of pens on four sites all on the same electric line. I have a generator, and so does my neighbor, however he has four sites and a history of reliable service.

What has changed is that Alliant used to have representative linesmen that knew where the cattle were and directed the repair crews accordingly. In our area, that connection between animal need and the repair department apparently is gone. Another casualty of fewer people growing up on farms. Alliant seems to look at the number of customers without power and repair based on those numbers, rather than considering the animals in need.

I learned that if a farmer with livestock loses power, they should contact their Alliant (or whoever delivers electricity) agricultural representative, as well as the power outage center.

This should expediate return to service.

Phone Outage Issues Over the Weekend

Again, on a recent Saturday, our phones did not work.

When the phone line does not work it is as frustrating for us as it is for you. Almost every client has a primary veterinarian and has their cell number. If you suspect the clinic line isn't working, try your herd health vet.

However, if you are unable to get through to the clinic line or to your vet, you can also try calling or texting our clinic cell phone at 920-260-8557 during business hours.

The clinic cell phone is not monitored after hours. No one will see your text to this number on Saturday before 7:00 a.m. or after 12:00 p.m. and not at all on Sunday. Continue to try contacting one of the vet's cell phones.

Price Drop on Banamine Transdermal

We dropped the price of Banamine Transdermal both on dropship and through the office.

This occurred on July 1. The prices below are for cash payment after the discount or for charge clients that pay by the 20th and get the discount.

- 100 ml Banamine Transdermal - \$29.55
- 250 ml Banamine Transdermal - \$65.91
- 1,000 ml (1liter) Banamine Transdermal - \$236.37