

Salt Poisoning in Cattle...

Acupuncture and Dr. Emma to the Rescue!

Last month I discussed salt toxicity or the danger of cattle drinking too much water after a period when access to water is prevented. We had a case of this recently, but Dr. Emma found a new way to treat it.

With salt poisoning the cattle will drink so much that their brains swell. They act like nervous ketosis or some other brain disease and they will die. This doesn't occur unless water deprivation is over a day or two, especially when it's hot. Two of the animals I wrote about last month were down for several days and it was suggested Dr. Emma try acupuncture.

This past year, Dr. Emma spent several long weekends in Florida, studying and taking online classes. She is now performing acupuncture as part of our practice services.

She performed the acupuncture procedure on both down heifers that were diagnosed with salt toxicity. Pictured below on the left is the process of the acupuncture and on the right is the heifer that got up almost immediately after the procedure. The second heifer also got up, and after several days was returned to the group of heifers they came from.



To learn more about acupuncture in cattle, sheep or horses and the services Dr. Emma offers, please contact the clinic.

Anaplasmosis is Becoming More Common

Anaplasmosis is a disease that you should be aware of because it's going to be more and more common. It's transmitted by ticks in the beef world and using the same needle between animals in beef and dairy.

Once infected, an animal is always infected and there's no affordable cure. If the animal is infected when it is young, it probably won't show symptoms. You will never know it's infected without a test. Every infected animal is a source to other animals.

So a normal appearing infected animal gets a dose of vaccine or reproductive drug and then an uninfected animal gets a dose with the same needle and a few days later we have a sick animal. Older animals frequently die if not treated. Treatment is cheap. Tetracycline is the medication to use but you just have to catch it early. Infected animals are first pale, then appear yellow (jaundice) and their urine is often dark brown. We see it occasionally and it is probably missed more frequently. Just be aware of it, there's no effective vaccine and treated animals are still infected for life and a risk for other animals.

More Crazy CO2 Ideas...

Basically, 90% of the excess CO2 in the atmosphere comes from burning hydrocarbons stored in the earth including coal, oil, and natural gasses. Another 10 percent of the total comes from making cement when limestone (CaCO3) is converted to lime (CaO) and CO2 is released. Everything else is a cycle of CO2 release and then plants converting that back to hydrocarbons. Cow farts, wood burning stoves, and buffalo are all part of the cycle, and trees and fields of crops are the other part of the cycle (with the exception of using natural gas to produce nitrogen for crops).

Now someone has come up with the idea that we should start digging big deep holes and putting piles of wood, actually logs, into the holes. This is to trap CO2 that's in a tree. The term is wood vaults. Why not do it right and put piles of lumber on rockets and shoot the lumber to the moon. Can you believe these people have college degrees?

Beef Farm Statistics Over 5 Years

Here are some statistics on farms with beef cows in the United States from 2017-2022 taken from an article in Drovers magazine. This is a great magazine. Check it out sometime.

- Number of farms with beef cows decreased from 729,046 to 622,126, which is a 14% reduction.
- Beef cow numbers decreased from 31.7 million to 29.2 million.
- Average herd size is very different from dairy and decreased from 47 cows to 43.5 cows.
- Feedlots with over 5,000 head increased from 549 to 571, but the number of animals total sold from all the over 5,000 head feedlots was flat.

Internship Program a Success

Waupun Veterinary Services introduced an internship program to our practice this past summer and we would like to thank all of our clients that interacted with the students.

We typically have senior veterinary students for one to two weeks doing externship rotations scattered throughout the year. The new internship program was four weeks in duration and included a project with a presentation to the veterinarians. The projects were based on subjects that both the students and the vets felt were relevant to our dairy farms.

Katelyn Belding and Brock Roy were our interns and were both excellent. With the shortage of veterinarians that want to live in a rural community, we hope to influence future veterinarians.

Pictured above, Brock Roy ultrasounds the calf's lungs to look for any signs of pneumonia.



Dr. Al on Life in Detroit, Compared to Life in Waupun

I grew up just north of Detroit. Our house was broken into when I was a kid. Every house in my neighborhood was broken into when I was a kid. My first stereo went out the broken back door less than a year after it arrived as a Christmas present. Most, not all, of our guns were well hidden, although the ammunition wasn't, which must have been a frustration to the robbers. One of Dad's pistols was returned by the police 30 years later, a rusty relic. Everyone in our community locked their doors. Everyone locked their car doors, and that was 50 years ago.

So, when I see kids with nice pickup trucks pull up to Kwik Trip and head inside with windows down and vehicles running, I think of three things. First, if thugs from Detroit ever move here, those trucks will be gone like my stereo. Second, if you are dumb enough to leave your car running with the window down, is it a crime for someone to borrow it for a week, and then leave it minus the tires, battery, and catalytic converter on blocks in front of an abandoned building?

And third, where do you get your gasoline, because I have to pay money for mine and leaving my truck idling in 70 degrees weather gets me 0 miles per gallon.