

## Understanding Corona Viruses:

I was first asked by the office staff to write a facebook article about corona viruses and animal safety. The objective of the article was that animals couldn't get corona virus from humans and we couldn't get corona virus from animals, but that wouldn't be totally accurate. What I can do is give you a better understanding of corona viruses and how they interact with all animals.

- Corona virus is a family of viruses and Covid 19 is just one of many animal corona viruses. Orangutans, Chimpanzees, Gorillas, and humans are all in one family, but we are vastly different (Not too sure about Kolby). Individual species of these viruses cause TGE in pig (a diarrhea) and they cause diarrhea in calves. They can also cause respiratory disease in cattle and in a lot of other species. Even some forms of the common cold are caused by corona viruses.
- A species of corona virus was responsible for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic, a 2002 respiratory disease like Covid 19. It came out of the same wild animal food markets in China that Covid 19 came out of and it probably jumped to humans from wild animals. This is the second time the Chinese, with piles of caged wild animals, have created an epidemic. If President Trump wants to dig at the Chinese and call it the Chinese virus, then so be it. They had their chance to clean up their problem almost 20 years ago.
- MERS virus, or Middle East Respiratory Virus, is a corona virus that jumped to humans from camels. Luckily it doesn't go from human to human very easily because 1/3 of humans infected with MERS die.
- Viruses can be divided into two groups, DNA and RNA viruses. Corona virus is an RNA virus which is important because RNA viruses mutate at 100 times the rate of DNA viruses. Influenza is an RNA virus and the mutation rate is why the disease is different every year and why vaccines are always a little behind the times.

Could this virus jump to animals? The answer is it is possible. But just as humans are exposed to all kinds of animal viruses all the time, it is rare when a virus jumps species and actually causes disease. If you are going to stay up at night and worry about the effects of corona virus, the risk to your animals should be the least of your worries.

In the \$2.2 trillion Covid 19 bill there are \$150 billion allocated to local governments as long as the local government has jurisdiction over at least 500,000 people. In 2010 Fond du Lac County, including the city, had just over 100,000 people. That \$150 billion would give every man, woman and child in Fond du Lac County \$1.5 million, but instead it goes to big cities. When I first read that I got a little worked up and I thought rural America gets screwed again. Then I realized I could move to the city and enjoy part of that \$150 billion, but even for \$1.5 million I couldn't be happy in a big city because I love rural America. So the big cities can rot with their \$150 billion and I'm going to be happy as a country hick.

## WVS COVID 19 OFFICE PROTOCOL

Although most of our clients have experienced our office being shut down to minimize traffic for our employees, this is a quick reminder of the procedure. Please call ahead and let the office know at least 5 to 10 minutes in advance what items or products you need. We will place your order in the gray tote marked "pickup" in front of the rest rooms. If your order requires refrigeration please call when you are in the parking lot and our staff will remove your order from the inside cooler and place it in the pickup tote. If you have lab samples please leave them in the red tote labeled "drop off". Our laboratory submission forms can be found at [www.waupunvet.com](http://www.waupunvet.com). Again, give the office a quick call when you drop off lab samples so staff can bring them into the office. The office remains locked during the day but we are staffed and still working. Lastly, there is an envelope in the tote that you can place your payments in.

Remember, best prices are obtained using our drop ship or web ordering programs. If you are not on drop ship and wish to sign up it is an easy process and we can accommodate you over the phone.

**Blood Lab Concerns:** Because of the Covid 19 crisis and staffing concerns our blood lab processing including BioPRYN testing will not be performed until evenings. Results of testing will therefore be sent out hopefully between 8 and 10 pm. This may be something of an inconvenience for some of our clients and we apologize for any trouble we cause you. We do appreciate your business and we hope life returns to something normal sooner rather than later.

Currently there are about 3 million Holstein beef cross animals butchered annually, half a million Jersey cross beef, and 30 million beef cows producing calves for processing. The dairy producer using beef is having a significant impact on the prime and choice beef market.

- If you have any concerns about whether you have enough fan power in your barns we are happy to come in and assess the ventilation and air speeds in your barn. This is the time of the year to start thinking about your fan belts and cleaning fans so they perform at peak efficiency. We want to be cooling cows efficiently right away once the heat comes. It is best to intervene early because if your cows are breathing at a rate of 60 breaths per minute we've already dropped the ball on cooling our cows.

**"There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace. To avoid the first danger, one should plant a garden, preferably where there is no grocer to confuse the issue."**

Aldo Leopold

