

## Electrolytes Improve Calf Health in Hot Weather

Supplementing calves with electrolytes during hot weather will improve calf health, feed intake, and growth.

This is especially true for calves housed in hutches during the hot summer months. As summer temperatures climb, calves can suffer from heat stress due to their natural insulating hair coat. Electrolytes (potassium, sodium & chloride) are lost from sweating and water is lost from panting in extreme temperatures. Not only does it take energy to cool the calf off, but it also takes a lot of water as well.

Dr. Nick recommends mixing electrolytes directly in the water tank that is used to water calves. Some electrolytes have specific mixing instructions on label for heat stress.

Electrolytes also make the water more palatable to the calf which helps increase water consumption.

Nick is not a fan of mixing electrolytes into the calf's milk diet. This can create an overly concentrated solution that further dehydrates calves.

The goal of beating summer heat with your calves is getting more water into them and replacing lost electrolytes. Next time you reach for a Gatorade on a hot summer day, think about how electrolytes can benefit your calves as well.

## Looking For Country Home to Rent

One of our new young vets is looking for a home in the country to rent. If you, or anyone you know in the area, have a country home to rent, please contact the clinic. Dogs must also be allowed, as this vet owns a well-trained dog.



## Cow Contest Winner

We had a total of 23 adorable entries in our WVS Cow Appreciation Contest this month held on Facebook. People from all over entered a photo with their favorite cow. After a week of entries, Dr. Ralph drew a name out of a bucket for the winner. Pictured above is the winner, Natalie Scannell, daughter of Tom and Brenda Scannell of Eden, with her calf Rhubarb. Thanks to all who entered!



## Jesse Joins WVS

Jesse Guenther, of Brandon, has joined the clinic as an assistant in the milk lab helping to process samples.

Jesse is a recent graduate of UW-River Falls with a degree in animal science and equine management. Her minor was in food science technology and processing.

In her free time, she enjoys riding horse with her sister, Amanda, and helping on the farm with her parents, Butch and Judy Guenther.

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*“The one thing about growing crops, especially on a wet year, everyone can compare your crops to everyone else’s. A crop farmer, more than any other job, is right out on public display.” – Dr. Al*

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## Every Choice Matters

One of our doctors was investigating a calf problem and the producer was giving calves free choice water after they drank their milk.

The water was from a tank that collected plate cooler water. Makes sense, right? Warm water, people use it all the time for water coming out of the parlor for cows to drink.

But the veterinarian was just making sure, and he cultured the water and found that it had a heavy growth of pseudomonas.

That is one really nasty bacteria. You never know where nasty bugs are going to hide, but any water that is exposed to air and then sits, is a potential reservoir for bacteria.

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## How Inflation Impacts WVS

One drug company is increasing prices on some products on August 1.

I’ve never seen midyear price increases.

The phone bill just went up for 2-year contracts after the first year. How does that work. Contract?

Many of the labs we use are increasing prices for different testing when their costs go up, sometimes we don’t know about it until we get the bill.

Unfortunately, we will pass on lab fee increases and drug fee increases. So far nothing has increased more than 10%, and most have been in the 5% range.

## Consider Vaccine Risks, Costs in plans

Vaccines can be thought of as an insurance policy, and like insurance there is a cost to vaccinating. The cost isn’t just the price you pay for the vaccine, there are hidden costs. The first hidden cost is vaccine reaction risk.

Allergic reactions can occur to drug or vaccine administered both as an injection or orally. That’s an up-front risk. There is also a yield drag risk. A swine study showed that if you raise totally disease-free pigs, in a disease-free environment, giving them a vaccine for a disease they were guaranteed not to be exposed to, added two days to marketing the same weight hog. That would be over \$10 a hog today, so marketing 1,000 hogs and vaccinating them for a disease they didn’t get exposed to, cost you \$10,000.

The same principle is seen with every vaccine when given to milk cows, with killed vaccines usually creating more of a drop in milk production.

Twenty years ago, there was a massive push in the dairy industry to vaccinate for every disease known to man, the push came from the vaccine industry. That push has relented to some extent, but every producer needs to keep the costs of vaccines in mind.



## Westfield Spartan Fan Club?!

Few may realize we have a fair number of vets who are Michigan State University grads. Those vets are diehard Spartan fans instead of Wisconsin Badger fans. A little handiwork by one of our vets is seen above having fun with one of his clients. Can you guess which vet carries a can of green spray paint in his vet truck and has his own Spartan decal just for decorating his client’s bale wrap?