

Rumen Cannulation: Is it Right for Your farm?

By Dr. Wade Weber

Everyone has one or two old cows hanging around that maybe couldn't get bred or just aren't producing milk like they used to. Some may have more of those cows than they like to admit. These cows, while not making milk may still have something to offer your farm, not necessarily to make money for your farm, but to save your farm money. If you want to keep one of these old cows around for longer, it may be advantageous to think about talking with a vet about cannulizing one of these cows or putting a "window" on her left side into her rumen.

Having a cannulated cow on your farm can have several benefits including giving rumen fluid in a pump mixture to cow that is off feed and not getting better from just getting pumped. Many of us turn to Probios or Celmanax to get an off-feed cow back on track, but rumen fluid taken from a healthy cow on your herd has the perfect blend of bacteria that's already adjusted to your farm. Some are even looking into if rumen fluid has any use in the calf barn. This may not be a useful approach for every dairy, but it may be worth a conversation with your herd veterinarian to see if it would be right for you.



Meet Chops!

Dr. Emma adopted a lamb this month. Pictured above she puts a cast on a calf at a farm while her little bottle lamb named, "Chops," sits nearby.

New Product to Help Cattle be more 'Green'

By Dr. Monty Belmer

ArkeaBio is producing a vaccine to reduce methane production in ruminates. It's a vaccine against the bacteria that produce methane in a ruminant. And even though it is targeting bacteria in the rumen, which is basically a 40-gallon tank in the middle of a cow, it supposedly works to reduce methane. Some of us are a bit skeptical.

Rumensin works similarly by inhibiting the bacteria that produce methane. Methane production rather than CO₂ production doesn't mean there is less carbon released. Methane and CO₂ produced from digestion have exactly the same amount of carbon release. But methane still has energy left in the molecule, so methane production is a sign of lost energy that could go towards the cow's production.

Methane is a more potent greenhouse gas, but over 10 to 15 years it converts to CO₂. Again, and don't ever let anyone tell you different, in the end there is exactly the same amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. We know that Rumensin increases production, we don't know yet whether the vaccine will increase production or whether there will be an additive effect when used with Rumensin.

There is also a systemic cost, think of it as a yield drag, to every vaccine given. It takes energy for an animal to react to a vaccine so there is a systemic cost to this vaccine. There is also a new feed additive coming that is being used in Europe that reduces methane, I'm not sure how that will factor into the whole green scheme.



How to Park Your Vet Truck?

There are 9 parking spots behind the office in Waupun. When we have business meetings or afternoon rounds, the vets always manage to park so that only 6 vehicles can fit in the parking lot. The vet colleges teach this the first year of vet school, how to park in the most inconvenient way possible.

New Product Spotlight

Two of our current products are now stocked in bigger sizes to save you money.

Replenish M is an oral buffered electrolyte providing hydration support for scouring calves.

Save \$6.38 per gallon when you purchase a 6-gallon pail of Replenish M versus 6 individual gallons.

Calf Octane, now with a new improved formula, is a dietary supplement designed specifically for calves. The supplement contains a blend of electrolytes, including sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium, which help to restore and maintain the proper balance of fluids in the body.

We now have 7- and 22-pound pails as well as the 4 oz packets. The pail sizes offer a savings of \$10.61-\$11.66 per pound compared to the 4 oz individual packets. For more information, feel free to reach out to the clinic and learn more about these options.



Cattle Disease Outbreak in Texas said to be Bird Flu

By Dr. Al Martens

The disease outbreak in Texas, New Mexico and Kansas has been found to be caused by Bird Flu.

The primary symptoms were off feed of cows later in lactation. Most veterinarians are a little skeptical that it is as simple as the influenza virus because most viruses hit immune compromised animals, fresh cows or younger calves the hardest, not the least stressed animals.

The highly pathogenic influenza virus that was identified is taking a toll on poultry producers, it's driving egg prices up in grocery stores.

Wild birds transmit it, but it also can be carried by the wind between close buildings and of course on items like employee's clothing. We are a week in as I write this and there's no new news, hopefully the disease has died out.

The take home is that the dairy industry does a terrible job with biosecurity, especially with cattle movement and our industry is at high risk.

Vet Looking for Rental Home!

We have a new vet joining us in June and she is in need of a home to rent! If you, or anyone you know, may be looking for a dependable renter, please give the clinic a call!