

Plan Ahead for Testing!



TB tests require some planning. For the test, two stops are needed at your farm 72 hours apart, so we try not to do them on Wednesdays and especially not on Thursdays. The TB tests have an additional caveat. We must get permission from the state veterinarian to run them because if the test is a suspect (about 5% are) the state veterinarian has to be available for a follow-up test that also requires two stops at your farm. The state veterinarian tells us when we can test. Additionally, with the outbreak of bird flu the state veterinarians are gone frequently.

Summer fairs and shows are fast approaching and that means testing. Some lab tests are only run once a week. Some tests we send out to Iowa state or Minnesota by UPS or FedEx and that takes extra time. If some tests arrive at the lab on Friday, they aren't set up until Monday. Please consult with your veterinarian early, so tests are done in time so animals are ready to head to the fair or show.

Calling the Clinic

The clinic has a new phone system, which is due to the need of having two vets on-call. However, twice we've had a glitch that we can't get answers for. Both times clients called during the day and they would get the "Welcome to Waupun Vet Service" voice prompt and then when they pushed the number 1 to get to the front desk, nothing happened. The first time it happened, we figured that it was nothing. The second time we investigated and the farmer that called used US Cellular, a common carrier and he used an Apple phone so there should not have been compatibility issues. Our phone system logs all the calls and the farmer had more perseverance than I would have had, he dialed 10 times (Thanks for the effort). We still have no answers. If this happens again, let us know and feel free to reach out to one of the other vet's cell phones. If you have an emergency, make sure you reach out to a live human voice so your call isn't stuck on voice mail. We hope this issue is dead, but with technology one never knows.

Renew Your Premise I.D.

State law requires all livestock owners to register where their animals are kept. The livestock owners are given a Premise I.D., which is used for health papers. Anyone with livestock, regardless of the number of animals they keep, is required to have the Premise I.D. including farms, hobby farms, stables and backyard poultry flocks. Even our clinic has a premise I.D. so that Emma can suture chickens and do pig surgeries. Seriously. The Premise I.D. needs to be renewed every three years by July 31.

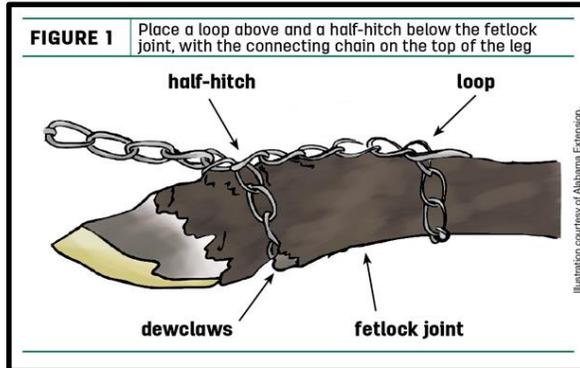
The Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) will send renewal reminders in the mail out to livestock owners. You can renew your premise by reviewing the information on the renewal form and returning the application to WLIC or it's really quick and easy to renew it right online. Those who need to register a new location can find more information at DATCP's website. DATCP uses the information to rapidly respond to animal disease outbreaks to protect animal health, the food supply, public safety, and Wisconsin's agriculture economy.

COGGINS RAPID TEST

The state has a new Coggins or EIA test that they will guarantee the same day it arrives for double the price \$75.00. Again, we still must ship the samples, and we are at the mercy of the shipping companies. It might be safer to drive it to Madison. Please plan ahead!

Calving Assistance Reminders

When a cow needs calving assistance, remember a few small steps that will help the process go smoothly. A double loop procedure will prevent broken legs in calves which are expensive to repair. It takes some extra effort to secure the chains in the second loop so training employees takes some effort. The calf leg usually breaks where the upper loop is placed just above the fetlock. The lower loop keeps the chain pulling force parallel to the leg rather than allowing the chain to angle away from the leg which is possible with a single loop.



The double loop procedure shown above will help prevent a broken leg, which can occur above the fetlock if placed improperly.

Also, when two legs are present it doesn't always mean the calf is backwards, especially if labor has been going on for some time. The hocks are the giveaway, although the elbow feels like a hock when you're in a hurry. Every vet has made this mistake at some point, although they may not admit it. An upside-down calf with a head back can feel just like a backwards calf, and if you pull, you can make an easy situation into a long extended (possibly a C-section) nightmare. Please, train employees to just make sure they don't make the mistake we've all made.

Lab Reminders

Please put farm names and animal ID on the tubes when you bring them into the clinic. Occasionally there will be milk samples and blood sample tubes on the front desk with no paperwork and no ID. Also, be sure to double check the paperwork and make sure numbers match. When sending samples to our lab, we have better delivery service with UPS. We have more issues with FedEx losing samples



Securing the legs properly when assisting in calving takes extra effort.

Stories from the Veterinarian: Dr. Al

Twice in my life I've had really close calls while running emergencies. During a blizzard late at night I was headed east on Amity Road. There's a train crossing, and this was before the stop signs at train crossings, just a white and black cross. It didn't matter because the blowing snow reflected my headlights back in my eyes. The windshield wipers were snapping, and I was leaning forward, switching from brights to dims and then just running lights trying to see the edge of the road. I'm sure I wasn't going more than 20 mph. For some reason my brain said, "There's a train track soon" and I hit the brakes to slow and right in front of me was a box car going north to south. If I hadn't already been on the brakes, I would have hit the train.

Another time which still seems surreal occurred during my first year in practice. It was early morning, winter, dark, and freezing rain. I lived just off 151 where the Waupun waste plant is today. There was a quick entry ramp, level, and I didn't realize there had been serious freezing rain. I headed south in a big hurry, I'm sure no seat belt. When I hit the downhill exit ramp onto highway 26, probably going 55, the brakes locked up and the truck just kept going. I looked up and from the south there was a car coming north. I hit the gas and drove right through in front of the oncoming car and onto the on ramp on the far side of the intersections. I can still remember looking out the window at the headlights that I would swear were 5 feet from my door, and I braced for the impact. I don't know how long I sat shaking in the on ramp, but I remember getting out of my truck and looking north, it's a flat stretch, and there were no taillights. I backed up and searched for the vehicle I knew was in the ditch. Nothing. I still can't explain what happened.