



Regulatory Issues Affecting Producers, Vets

Plan for TB Testing

TB testing is a long process. The injection by one of our veterinarians is followed 3 days later with that same vet returning to read the TB.

About 5% will be positive, usually a false positive, but if it is a positive, the state veterinarian must come out and give a different injection in the neck of the tested animal, and then return 48 hours later to read that test. This second test is called a comparative cervical.

The important step in this process is the veterinarian from Waupun Vet must contact the state veterinarian in advance of scheduling the very first injection on your farm and get permission.

This permission is contingent on the state vet putting the potential comparative cervical into their busy schedule because there is a shortage of state veterinarians. They are spending a lot of time dealing with the bird influenza outbreak. It can potentially take almost a month to get a TB test accomplished. Please plan ahead.

Also, if we do the test and the state vet can't do the comparative cervical, there is a couple month lag before they can try the test again. In the meantime, your herd is under quarantine for shipping ANY animals. That means no animals in and no animals out.

New Metal Ear Tags Won't be Accepted for Official ID

Effective June 1, new metal ear tags will not be accepted for official ID. This will impact you in several ways.

All newly placed tags must be RFID buttons. The state has issued buttons to WVS with our premise ID for us to use on your farm, but we have to keep a record of where the tags are used. No longer can we just start sticking tags in your animals and we can't provide you with a bunch of tags issued to us. We must account for the premise ID we use the tags on.

You can obtain tags from the state by calling 608-590-8519 and they are provided at a nominal charge. If you are using RFID buttons on bangle tags none of this obtains to you. They will probably run out fast because of the overall tag shortage.

We must have 840 official ID for any Johne's samples we run. We will not set up samples without official ID and a premise ID.

Cattle with existing metal 840 tags can use those tags going forward, until maybe you can't.

For those of you that still bang vaccinate, we will be inserting an orange RFID tag instead of an orange metal tag. If you already have a 840 button in the calf, we can use that tag when we bang vaccinate rather than sticking another tag in the calf ear.

Your premise ID is required for us to use these tags on your farm. We have to account for the tags and keep records for 5 years. You need to renew your premise ID every 3 years. If you know your premise ID make sure the vet clinic has it in your client file at the office to prevent wasted time and expense when dealing with any official or regulatory paperwork.

Change to Invoices with Statement

In an effort to reduce postage and paper waste, invoices will be printed continuously on one or more sheets of paper and attached to the statement. Individual invoices will not be printed. There may be up to 10 invoices on a single sheet attached to your monthly statement.

Call Early When Possible!

At Waupun Vet, emergency call rates are lowest from 5 AM until 5 PM.

From 5 PM until 10 PM the rates are higher, and from 10 at night until 5 the next morning the rates peak.

Keep IBR, BVD Vaccines in Your Heifer Program

Clinical BVD and IBR are so rare that producers can become lax in their vaccine implementation, but these vaccines need to be a part of your heifer program. The rareness of the diseases is somewhat a result of the effectiveness of current modified live vaccines. The lax in vaccinating is also, I believe, the results of the covid vaccines giving people a poor attitude towards vaccines.

The microbes we vaccinate for are basically divided into two groups, bacteria, and viruses. Viruses tend to be the easiest microbes as a group to vaccinate for, but viruses are as different as toads and cows. They cover a gamut with so much variety one has to compare them to all the animals in the world. Millions of different viruses are out there. The AIDS virus still has no vaccine after billions spent in research. The covid vaccine lessens the severity of disease, but spreading isn't impacted. The smallpox vaccine, the most successful human vaccine, eliminated the disease from the planet.

On the farm we have corona vaccines that lessen the severity of the disease but are short lived. BRSV vaccines that keep death loss down, but some animals still get sick. But we have very effective BVD and IBR vaccines. I have seen every single animal in small dairies abort when IBR went through the herd. BVD will cause abortion, severe diarrhea, pneumonia, kill calves, and kill cows, and it lurks at very low levels on many farms, just waiting for the opportunity. Both BVD and IBR vaccines do a tremendous job protecting cows not just from contracting the disease, but from spreading it through a herd (unlike covid vaccines in the human herd) and on any dairy with one or more cows, they need to be part of your animal health preventative program.

Keeping the IBR and BVD vaccines as a part of your heifer program gives a foundational protection for the entire herd. Years ago, as we phased out vaccinating for Brucellosis, the biggest drawback was producers quit vaccinating for IBR and BVD at the same time. I always gave a dose of 9 way (IBR and BVD included) when I bangs vaccinated and joked that the 9-way cost was a third the cost of the bangs, but the 9-way had value, and the bangs was an expensive orange tag.

Updating Client Information

We would like to update our client information and include your business email address in our system. This would allow us to send medical records to your email from animals we treat. We promise not to send you advertisements. Jessica and Amanda, recent staff additions, developed this simple procedure using a phone and the following QR code. Even I figured it out, but then we have Mark Sosalla in the system.

Procedure steps:

1. Scan the QR code with your camera, like you're taking a picture, a little yellow box appears on your screen that says "linktr.ee" just below the QR code and you tap that. It might not work the first time; I screwed it up the first time.
2. This takes you to Waupun Vet's website and there is a white outlined box that says, "Waupun Veterinary Service Contact Update." Click this.
3. Scroll down and put your email onto the line under email.
4. You also must fill in your last name in the next box and your first name, and if you are in our system your email will be updated.

Don't be like Mark Sosalla, help us out and update your email.



Frozen Pipes and Welders

How many of you remember when there could be 5 feet of frost in the ground, and the portable welders would travel the country thawing frozen iron pipes with their welders?

Frozen pipes were frequently between the house and the barn, under the driveway where there was no snow cover.

In late February this year I felled a big tree for firewood in a woodlot, and there was no frost at all under the leaves.