



- Just a note on drop ship and internet orders: With extreme cold weather and late in the week orders, both Animal Health and MWI will delay shipping orders with product that they feel may freeze due to adverse weather or product sitting on trucks over the weekend. In order to avoid these frustrating scenarios, please try to order on Mondays and Tuesdays or call into the office for advice.
- We are Sorry: We've had a couple vets out of commission due to Covid, so we've been a little short on veterinary staff. We apologize for an inconvenience, especially with all of the jockeying of herd health schedules. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### Uterine Torsion:

It's important when watching closeup cows to understand that with uterine torsions, the symptoms may be subtle. However the condition can be life-threatening to both the calf and the mother. A cow with a uterine torsion is often a little uneasy but not really in labor. Her tail will often be up or off to one side slightly, but you won't see active pushing or signs of uterine contractions. It is very easy to pass it off as "She's going to calve tomorrow," and then tomorrow think, "maybe one more day."

A torsion can be from partial, only 90 degrees up to a full 360-degree twist. The amount of twist and the length of time the torsion is present determine the outcome for calf and dam.

In cows with really severe 360° torsions the cow may act crampy, with gut pain, but no sign of labor. She may just seem uneasy. These severe torsions result in a dead calf and often a dead cow shortly after the torsion is corrected. This happens because the uterine tissue has died from lack of blood flow and when the blood flow is restored the toxins from the dead tissue enter the cow's system. The result is severe shock and death.

One observation point I always used was to look at both sides of the cow's vulva. There may be a twist from vertical or some pull marks on one side.

This condition according to studies at multiple universities accounts for up to 20% of assisted calvings, so it is not uncommon. If you are at all suspicious, clean the cow up and reach in with a lubricated sleeve. A cow with a torsion will have a twist to the vaginal wall leading to the cervix. The cervix may still be closed.

### Contaminated bulk tank:

A farmer tests his milk for antibiotics before he ships but uses a different test than the milk plant. It tests negative. The milk plant tests the milk, determines a positive test, then returns the milk for the farmer to dump in his manure pit. Waupun Vet gets involved, sends a sample of the milk returned from the milk plant to Iowa State for a very sensitive testing procedure using a mass spectrometer. No antibiotics were detected. The insurance company gets involved. No one has any idea what the problem is, but the farmer is out their deductible and placed on the state publicly available "bad boy list". My only suggestion is the farmer should use the exact test that the milk plant uses for screening, but even in this case I do not think it would change anything. An identical test would just add one more layer of safety.

My wife gave me a new pillow for Christmas. She said my old one was worn and the feathers all flattened out. Her actual term was "gross". I told her the pillow was like a wife. It may be old and worn and a new one might look better, but I really loved my old one.

## News notes from Drovers Journal and Beef magazine.

- The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (Lot of bullshit words in that name), which is not a government department, recently came out with a recommendation that beef production should be taxed because it is bad for human health and cattle are bad for the environment (actually it's too many humans that are bad for the environment). One of their reasons was that cattle will make future pandemics worse. Sounds like a Donald Trump Tweet. Talk about fear mongering with no facts.
- There are a couple senators who have introduced legislation to require meatpackers to purchase more cattle at the "auction barn". Currently so much of slaughter capacity is either pre-purchased or owned by slaughter plants that actual cattle pricing is distorted and markets are failing to give producers accurate pricing.
- USDA is removing some of their beef inspectors from a Tyson plant and turning inspection over to Tyson employees. I have mixed feelings about this. What we, as an industry, don't want is any problem or perceived problem that will affect consumer confidence in our product.
- A judge in Oregon awarded \$180,000 to a group of animal rights litigants who fought the Bureau of Land Management experiment to sterilize wild horses chemically.
- A snow leopard in a zoo in Kentucky has contracted COVID.
- In Europe they are developing a vaccine for the COVID vaccine for mink because it kills mink.

**Court ruling regarding animal welfare:** California passed a law that any raw pork or veal sold in California had to come from animals raised in housing with specific minimum floor space requirements. The Meat Institute, which is mainly packers, challenged this in Federal court and it went to the appeals court who upheld the law. The legal challenge was that this law restricted sales of meat from other states with different space standards from being sold in California. It allows California packers to charge more, and would require out-of-state packers to certify facilities. It would also require packers to keep those animals separate in packing plant which of course can't be done. Wisconsin should pass a law that no dairy products can be brought into this state from animals fed almond hulls or citrus pulp, so cheese from California would require the milk come from farms certified as not feeding almond hulls or citrus pulp. California consumers pay more, and you lose market share, which means income.

**The Good Old Days:** It was 1994 and Monty was on call in the middle of a really bad January storm. It had been snowing all afternoon. There were only 3 fulltime veterinarians at Waupun Vet at that time. We all drove extended cab ¾ ton gutless 305 4X4 pickups. All the vets had a two-way radio in their homes so they could listen to the adventures of the on-call vet. Monty gets a phone call for a uterine prolapse, but buries his truck going 40 miles an hour in a 5-foot drift on Amity Rd. If you think Monty drives aggressive now, you should have been around 25 years ago. So he calls on the radio, gets Dr. Schutz for some needed help, and Schutz heads out to help Monty. Schutz gets two miles from his home and drives up on top of a drift. About then I get back in the house, hear the disaster on the radio and Monty's wife calling with a second emergency, a milk fever. I head to help get Schutz out. I get a tow strap on Schutz, the underpowered 305 slides sideways a little and it is stuck as well. Monty heads out of his truck and down the road to a local farmer to get a shovel. It's still snowing and blowing with almost no visibility and it's cold. There were no cell phones, so Schutz and I have Monty's wife call a farmer close to where we are both stuck to pull us out. I'm sure he was really happy to help. Maybe we all should have carried snow shovels in the winter, but I don't think any of the vets do to this day. Schutz and I got out and ran the two emergencies. Monty is still stuck, low on gas, low on patience, wet and cold but still happy. Finally, Dennis Killam found out that Monty was stuck and came to the rescue. Dennis has some giant 4X4 all jacked up with huge knobby tires, jerks Monty out of the drift but had to gun his truck so hard that he flies off the road into the ditch, and gets stuck. Dig, dig, dig and eventually Monty gets the mega truck pulled out of the ditch with the 305. We all get home at midnight, again, happy we chose a profession as country vets. The next morning Monty had all 4 brakes frozen solid. Is global warming a bad thing?