



## JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

### INTRODUCING COW OCTANE

The last two shipments of fresh cow drench and electrolyte drench arrived contaminated with corn and pellets due to manufacturing issues at the feed mill. This resulted in on-farm problems with stomach pumps plugging up while drenching. We apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused. As a result, we have decided to discontinue selling these products.

WVS is excited to introduce one product, Cow Octane, to our clients as a replacement for both fresh cow and electrolyte drench. Cow Octane was formulated and tested on a 6100 head dairy farm that Dr. Monty works with. It is a novel solution to support cattle when they need extra energy or have lost their appetite. It is a well-balanced combination of key electrolytes for a quick boost in energy and appetite and an aid in milk fever. It is an easy mixing solution which provides for 100% dispersion of product in water minimizing any waste due to residue left after cow consumption. When using as a drench, there is virtually no clogging of drench equipment. Cows will drink Cow Octane free choice reducing the number of times drenching is needed, thus minimizing stress on the cow and care provider. It is concentrated so you use significantly less water for free choice or drenching when compared to other brands.

**\*\*New Feeding Instructions\*\***: Mix 1 lb. (two scoops) in 5 gallons or 10 gallons of water and offer free choice or mix with 2.5 gallons of warm water for drenching. Feed one time daily for 1-3 days as needed. May also be fed as a top dress or a part of a total mixed ration at 1 pound per head per day.

WVS will be offering a 25 lb. bag at a cost of \$64.80 and a 1 lb. bag at a cost of \$4.80.

**Calf Scours Research**: A recent study compared calf scours causes and treatment outcomes between different farms. Except for Salmonella organisms, the study found that treatment failure was not related to the causative agent, but rather to farm management. Farm management is a broad term but two things that are different across farms that are measurable are pathogen load and colostrum administration. Colostrum administration can be monitored by a simple blood test looking at serum total proteins. Pathogen load can be measured with an ATP meter. This measurement can evaluate cleanliness of utensils and equipment the calf comes in contact with. This is often part of the pathogen load equation. We can bring an ATP meter out to your farm to do evaluations for you or Dr. Nick includes its use with his calf and heifer program.

**Vaccines are not a solution for management shortfalls**. Vaccines protect against contagious diseases, especially viruses that can invade your farm from outside. They can also protect against diseases that are inherent in the environment of a farm. Many producers and veterinarians believe that vaccines will solve all their problems. This is rarely true, and only with a small number of diseases. An example is E. coli vaccines, which will prevent the severity of coliform mastitis. Proper milking equipment function, proper unit attachment, stall management, and general hygiene will prevent the actual infection. The vaccine is a tool but not the answer.



## Small Ruminant Updates

With small ruminant breeding season fast approaching, don't forget to have a breeding soundness exam done on your ram or buck! We can do BSEs right on the farm and can determine if your ram, buck, or bull will be a satisfactory breeding animal. Semen is analyzed under a microscope for motility and morphology. You don't want to find out at the end of breeding season that your male had poor fertility - feeding a lot of open ewes, does, and cows is a lot more expensive than a single breeding soundness exam.

**\*Laparoscopic artificial insemination\*** - our schedule is filling up fast! Give the clinic a call for more information and scheduling if you are interested in breeding sheep and goats with us this summer! We do a surgical laparoscopic approach to the uterus enabling you to use high genetic semen (fresh or frozen) to improve your sheep or goat genetics quickly.

## This might make you smile.

Dr. Emma joined my family in early June for an eight-day raft trip through the Grand Canyon. Every evening the two rafts pulled up to a sandy rocky area between the canyon wall and the river, disgorged the 22 rafters and we set up camp. Waterproof space for belongings was limited but we could bring beer, wine or liquor in a burlap bag that got tied down in the back of the raft, in the sun, but soaked when we went through rapids. The burlap bags were unloaded along with all the other gear, and the river was so cold that the refreshments for the evening were thrown back into a smaller burlap and into the river to chill. Before dinner, the guides set up appetizers and all the rafters set up a circle of camp chairs and broke out their refreshments. It was a great social hour as we got to know each other. The raft guides thought Emma was my daughter.

On the third night one of the rafters asked the guides about the biggest burlap bag in the pile. It was labeled 'Paul from Florida'. Because participants were flying in from all over the U.S., we had the option to preorder the alcohol and have the raft company prefill and label the burlap bags. The guides filled us in.

Paul and his wife, and two older kids were scheduled for the trip. With plane tickets and supplies I would estimate they shelled out close to \$20,000. Two weeks before the trip, Paul's wife got Covid. Then a week before the trip, Paul and the kids got Covid.

The guides said either we consumed Paul's burlap bag, or the guides would consume it after the trip. So, every night we'd drink Paul's wine (he brought a lot) or have one of his Fat Tire beers, and toast Paul for not getting vaccinated like everyone else on the trip.

