



## Amanda Joins Staff

Amanda Guenther has joined the clinic as the new assistant office manager. She recently graduated from UW-River Falls with a bachelor's degree in animal science with an equine emphasis and a minor in agricultural business.

During her time at UWRF, Amanda enjoyed working as the student sales manager for the annual UWRF Colts Sale. The UWRF Colts Sale takes place the first weekend in May. About 44 two-year old horses are brought into the school farm in January and are trained to ride by the students before they are sold in the sale.

This experience allowed Amanda to meet new people within the equine industry, gain amazing friends and acquire new skills.

When not at work, Amanda enjoys working on the farm with her parents, Butch and Judy Guenther, her sister, Jesse, and Australian Sheppard, Gracie. She also enjoys riding her horses, competing at horse shows, and spending time with friends.

## Drop Ship or Pick up in Clinic

Both Animal Health International and MWI, the two companies we utilize for web and drop ship sales are experiencing shipping cost escalation issues. They have established minimum orders, or they will tack on a shipping charge. The minimum order is \$300.00. Add some vaccine or antibiotics to your order to get it to the minimum, items you use routinely.

If you prefer to come into the office to pick up product instead of drop shipping it, please feel free to call ahead and let the office know what you need. The office staff can get the invoice started, put the product aside and fill out labels. It will help make your visit go faster and staff can work on it in-between phone calls and other office visits.

## Supporting the Area FFA Chapters

For years, the Zoetis company has had a program that returns part of our spring purchases to local High School FFA chapters. Clients drop ship purchases in February, March, and April contribute. The program caps when we reach \$1000.00 in payments to FFA chapters. It's a great program although they only allow us to choose 5 chapters.

With Country Hills joining the practice, and the new Hartford clients, we now have a list of 15 chapters to support. We built a spreadsheet, and we are just going to rotate 5 chapters every three years. Hopefully we can help out at your local program.

## Fans Need Cleaning Also

With warm weather approaching, in last month's newsletter Dr. Al encouraged producers to get the sprinklers ready by flushing out the sprinkler heads. He also encouraged producers to put hutches up on blocks and new gravel under the hutches. One thing he neglected to remind everyone about was to look at your fans. Tighten belts and its critical to clean the blades.

## SMZ Tablets Are Illegal

SMZ tablets for calves are illegal. They have been illegal for years. The drug is legal in horses unless you are planning on eating the horse, which is obviously a ridiculous statement. There is no disease in calves that SMZ tablets treats that can't either be easily prevented or treated with a better legal product. We will not prescribe or dispense them.

# Story from the Vet: Dr. Al and “This Old House”

With my parents’ inheritance I bought a small farm down the road. My wife suggested our newly wed foster kid, Ryan, could live there and he would be close by to assist me in my old age. Ryan and I now have endless projects, cleaning up junk, tearing down silos and a corn crib, hauling steel to recycling and hunting (so far we have shot nothing but a groundhog on the farm).

Originally when we started (18 months ago) we were cleaning junk off the garage rafters and I said to Ryan, as he pulled a new looking box off the rafters, “We are going to find something of value on this place.” Ryan opened the box and four mice jumped out, “Right,” was his replay.

This year is April I cornered a father-son team that deer hunt with us, Ryan and his wife Brittany, and my wife for a Sunday afternoon project. There was a 12x12 wood room in one corner of the basement, filled to the ceiling, for the rusted-out wood burner we had taken to recycling. Even the dried wood was junk, consisting of cottonwood and building scraps, it wasn’t worth hauling home for my wood burner. All the wood had to exit through two small basement windows, get picked off the ground and put in a trailer, and hauled to a burn pile. We were almost done when Brittany came outside where I was picking up wood and said, “Ryan wants you in the basement”

I headed down, and there under some of the last wood, were 4 pails of coins, pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Loose on top of the coins were the blue granules of rat poisoning. I guess the former owners didn’t trust their rats. The total in coins came to \$789.28. We’re all going out to dinner and then Ryan and I are splitting the remainder, hoping I can pay for one of the 12 loads of gravel I’ve used on the drive, farm lane, and culvert. But for once I was right.

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## Fly Control Options, Preventatives for the Farm

Fly season is upon us. The vets recently met with a representative from a company offering fly control options to share with farmers.

There are four major flies to deal with on your dairy. They include horn, face, house, and stable flies. Stable flies and horn flies feed on blood only, they bite, and they are what really annoy cattle. Stable flies and horn flies don’t eat fly bait, house flies do, but they don’t bite.

If you don’t think biting flies are annoying your cattle, wear a pair of shorts out to your cattle pens, climb in with the cattle, and stand still. No, don’t jump and swat your leg.

Stable flies and horn flies breed in decaying organic matter, stable flies really like moist wheat straw bedding. Feeding insect growth regulators work in arid environments like Texas, but they don’t get to all the wet feed and other organic matter on Wisconsin farms. Just wads of cut weeds driven down into the mud on a farm lane and a rain and they can grow.

The eggs of horn flies are brown and tiny, end to end, 25 cover an inch. You don’t see them being laid. The pupa is only 3mm long, 8 laid ends to end make up an inch. Horn flies and stable flies (biters) are going to hatch on your farm and come after your cattle. Keeping

wet organic matter to a minimum is important, but the flies will win and reproduce.

Unfortunately, control boils down to spray, spray, spray. Every animal premise on your farm needs treatment for adults, including calf hutches, heifer pens,

and cow facilities because the flies move from place to place.

As the weather warms and the ground warms, the flies go from egg to adult faster and faster so you will need shorter spaying intervals. There are multiple surface sprays that use different chemical bases, but for fogging there are two basic products. Pyrethrin’s, from a plant, and pyrethroids that are man made but work similarly. Flies leave the buildings

at night and roost on vegetation, so don’t fog first thing in the morning.

They are low on the cattle legs, so aim the fogger low when fogging standing cattle. Products in petroleum base last long, especially when there are high humidity conditions, but they cost more.

They are worth the investment. Make fogging easy, mount a big fogger on a three-point or the back of a gator or some other piece of equipment so it’s not, “I’ll get to it tomorrow,” project because it takes too much time.

### Flies Transmit Pink Eye

*Flies will soon be transmitting pinkeye. There are several vaccine options available through our clinic including two different autogenous vaccines made with bacterial strains from client’s farms.*