



## MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

### Meet the Staff at WVS

Pat Medema is the office manager and has been at WVS for 15 years. Her specialty is everything, really, all the hard stuff, including the entire gamut of our accounting software. This includes payroll, billing and paying bills. Her expertise touches every component of running the business. I can truly say that she has caught and corrected more of my errors than any other individual on the planet other than my wife. Pat is planning on retiring this summer and helping us down the road with a few of the major challenges like payroll.



Pat is assisted in the front office by Brianna Westhuis who will be replacing Pat for the next 25 years or so. Brianna first started with WVS working in the small animal clinic as a veterinary technician

fresh out of college, back when I was performing some dog and cat surgeries. Brianna took time off for her family, then came back part time and recently started back full time. She is pursuing a business degree when she gets time to take classes. Brianna has been working on rebate programs, our web site, and our Facebook platform and is now learning Pat's projects.

### Milk Lab

Kari Slager has been pulling loops of milk for culturing out of sample tubes at WVS for 22 years. She lives on a farm a short drive from Waupun with 2.2 dogs. One dog weighs only 8 pounds, a little less than the average barn cat. She's opened more coolers with leaking milk samples (that stink and have gotten the paperwork soaked) than any individual in the United States of

America. It's Kari's voice you get when you connect with the milk lab and it's also Kari who takes care of regulatory paperwork like health certificates, equine Coggins testing, and TB testing. Kari, a licensed vet tech, runs the fecal exams and premi-tests and any other exotic lab projects.



Kari is assisted in the milk lab by Missy Searvogel who now gets to pull the stinky milk-soaked paperwork out of the poorly packaged lab submission boxes. Both Kari and Missy have been working on mind reading, but so far, they haven't perfected the art. They would like to remind everyone that sample numbers need to match the paperwork. If you send in two samples for cow 61, we can run them, but if the results aren't identical, they won't be able to know which is which. Also, premi-tests are set up no later than 10:00 in the morning no exceptions, because there won't be anyone in the clinic to check results if the tests are set up later.



### Front Desk Receptionists

The office management job evolved from the front receptionist job which evolved from a part-time position in 1978 when there were only two veterinarians running calls. Now, Mary Meyer is the primary afternoon and Saturday receptionist, so she helps when you walk in the door and is the voice most clients get when they call in the afternoon. Mary takes care of scheduling herd health checks and making sure farmers have a veterinarian driving in. She is not responsible for teaching veterinarians how to tell time. Telling time 101 is not a class offered in vet school because if it was, no veterinarians would ever graduate.

Teresa Stowell is a brand-new voice at the front receptionist position between 8 and 12 in the morning. Please don't complain to her about problems you may have with her husband Dr. Ralph. She has enough just raising 5 children (4 under age 16 plus Ralph) and doing an hour of chores every morning on the farmette.

## Blood Lab

Carrie Sue Kohn is married to a farmer and drives all the way from Marquette on Lake Puckaway to run the blood lab. She made it the morning of the ice storm, February 22, and in fact she's only missed a couple times in 15 years because of weather. Carrie enjoys dogs and horses. She also takes care of inventory, a frustrating job with the large number of product backorders that we have experienced the last couple years. She's currently training Mark S., Tom, and Mike how to add. An example would be if you have 4 bottles of penicillin on your truck the beginning of the month, you take 3 out of the clinic during the month, you sell one during the month, and you have one left at the end of the month something isn't correct. However, this math means there are a couple lucky clients. Math 'story problem' solving wasn't part of the vet school entrance exam. Jeff Moore has struggled for years with this math and also can't master it. Maybe it's a Michigan State issue.



The blood lab tests blood samples for pregnancy for cattle, sheep, goats, bison, and deer. It also runs ELISA tests on blood for Johnes's, BVD, Neospora, Progesterone, and CAE (sheep and goats). Noon is the cutoff for setting up samples ELISA samples for good reason. There are multiple steps, and the plates have multiple samples run on them. Angela Arndt is another vet tech that assists in the blood lab who worked in small animal when I did surgery and was a classmate of Brianna's. She assists in the blood lab and in inventory, as well as, filling in at reception.



## Bedding Lab

Jenny Edmunds oversees the bedding lab and also fills in at reception and wherever else we need help, especially in the milk lab. Jenny grew up milking cows and her parents still custom raise heifers. Some days her daughter, Jocelyn, comes into the office and helps with odd jobs. Always smiling, never talking. Obviously not related to Mike Munger or Al Martens.



## Pat Conquers All!



These pictures are of Pat dancing a jig in her Friday attire after fixing one of Mark Sosalla's many errors.

## Underfed Milk Calves

### **Underfed Milk Calves (or as my vet school professor used to call it...A-Grocery-Osis or lack of groceries)**

Over the past couple weeks some of the docs have posted calves that were under nourished. These calves lacked fat in their abdomen surrounding their major organs. This is a sign these calves were not being fed enough milk calories to keep up with their energy needs. To be blunt, they starved. This is sometimes seen after prolonged cold weather spells or in calves who were fighting off disease for a prolonged time. This winter has been a relatively mild one, outside of some drastic temperature swings, but we are still seeing a-grocery-osis occasionally in calves. Milk calories consumed will first go to meet the calf's maintenance energy needs. Any excess calories will then go to fuel its immune system. Any left-over calories will then go towards growth. As temps drop, more calories are burned meeting the calf's maintenance needs. This means less calories are available for growth and proper immune function. When calves are underfed in winter, we tend to see slowed growth and more chronically sick calves. It's now March and winter is on its way out. How did your calves do this winter? Are there opportunities to make changes? Don't hesitate to ask for help!

- Dr. Nick