



## MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

**Customer Appreciation Picnic:** After a year's hiatus we will again have a June Dairy Picnic. The location is the Chester Town Hall located four miles south of Waupun just off Highway 26. The date is Friday, June 18 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The menu is getting a revamp, with barbecue pork sandwiches featured this year. Sorry, no carry outs allowed.

- Everyone in the clinic has had access to COVID vaccine, so we are no longer requiring masks. Social distancing is still en vogue due to the veterinarians being involved in some disgusting uterine infections.
- We appreciate all the cooperation we have received with clients calling ahead for products they want to pick up at the clinic. We can get an invoice ready and the required prescription labels can be filled out ahead of your arrival.

Think about this when you have a sick cow. **DON'T REACH FOR THE ANTIBIOTIC BOTTLE UNTIL:**

- Check the cow's temperature, is it elevated? If not, then why use antibiotics? Remember antibiotics DON'T cure a lot of problems.
- Decide if you want to spend more money on this cow than just the antibiotic injection. If the cow has a DA do you want to do surgery? We do a lot of DA surgeries on low value cows with drug residues because antibiotics were used without a diagnosis. Maybe not a good decision.
- How long were you going to keep this cow anyway? Does she already have two strikes, like a high SCC or is she open? If she was going down the road anyway, maybe moving up the departure date is a good idea.
- Are you confident that antibiotics are going to help the cow? Basically, do you think she has pneumonia, mastitis, or a uterine infection, or are you pretty sure these are not the problem. Then perhaps it would be better to invest in a veterinary exam first if this cow is one you want to keep, or at least call one of the vets and get a phone discussion going.

**The emergency of a bleeding cow, or any animal:** As an animal caretaker, you need to be prepared to react to a host of emergency conditions. Bleeding is one. Bleeding requires pressure (clamping or suturing) to stop. Mammary veins on cows are the most common bleeding call we receive, and a cow can die in a few minutes from even a shallow cut into this vein. A mammary vein will probably require a clamp. Some farms have hemostats available, but my favorite is a vice grip. Of course a vise grip is painful to the cow, so she may need restraint or some tranquilizer. Other spring clamp devices like clothes pins, alligator clips or chip bag clips might work. Deep wounds require pressure and or packing with very clean cloth. Time passes slowly when applying pressure, so resist the desire to release pressure and look because the forming clot may be flushed away by the bleeding and you will be starting all over again in the clot-forming process. Stop a minute and think how you would handle this situation before it happens.

**Reality time for Covid vaccines:** The Moderna and Pfizer mRNA vaccines are technological wonders. They are breakthroughs in biomedical engineering. Only the future will confirm my opinion, but there is a very real possibility that the technology will produce a flu vaccine that works much better and a vaccine for the common cold. The flu vaccine works poorly because it takes months of advance planning to develop the target strain, the mRNA vaccines take 48 hours to design and start production. This would allow rapid adjustment to influenza viral mutations. There is also a strong chance that the technology will be adapted for cancer treatment and some autoimmune diseases.

Reading the papers and listening to the news will give you the impression the vaccines don't work. That's because the news media wants you to live in fear, "the sky is falling." I had surgery last summer and the hand surgeon and I had an argument while she cut away and she claimed we'd never get a vaccine for a corona virus. I argued we had several in veterinary medicine and they worked quite well. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are the safest and most effective vaccines ever invented.

**California laws affecting you:** There is a case in front of the Supreme court that will impact you if you sell food animals or milk into the open market.

California has passed animal welfare laws that ban chickens in cages and sows in gestation crates. More importantly, they have banned the sale of any meat or eggs imported into California from any state that allows cages or gestation crates. The lawsuit in front of the Supreme court hinges on interstate commerce being restricted because a farmer in Oregon cannot sell eggs in California unless he follows California law.

Other countries already do trade restrictions with bans like no Paylean-fed pigs may be brought into the EU or no milk at any point in a production system making cheddar cheese may contain milk from any farm with more than a 400,000 SCC. Market forces do similar trade restrictions with cases like Walmart eliminating BST use by banning the use in milk they purchase, or Tyson banning all antibiotics from grower chicken feed. The difference is that the market is driven by consumers: In the case of other countries it becomes a trade issue, often with the WTO (World Trade Organization) getting involved.

In this case California has the right to make animal welfare laws for their farms, but do they have the right to tell a farmer in Wisconsin how to farm. Shouldn't that be the prerogative of the State of Wisconsin? Once pork arrives at a packing plant, it becomes pork, and a Weight Watcher meal that goes to California is not going to be able to identify where the pig who donated the porkchop to the meal was born.

Personally, if people want to live in the land of fruits and nuts, they can give up bacon and eggs for breakfast and have fried seaweed and grapes. But California is a huge market and states should allow federal law to govern agriculture, not 50 individual laws. We could retaliate and pass a law that no almonds or wine can be sold in Wisconsin if irrigation is used to produce the crop, because we are seriously concerned about the well-being of California's water supply.

The results of this lawsuit will have long term, not short-term effects on Midwest agriculture.

**Recent read on food stamps:** Many people receiving food stamps go hungry by month end. Why, might you ask? Turns out food stamp payments are now provided via a rechargeable debit card that is used at the cash register. The card is recharged once a month, but many recipients are unable to budget through month end and so have used up all the food stamp allocation halfway through the month. When President Obama said 40 some million people were hungry in the US it is because many can't plan 4 weeks in advance. By the way, 40% of food stamp recipients are obese.

Bill Gates says cow farts are a major contributor to climate change. He claims a cow is worse than a car. I guess buffalo and elk and deer and the millions of wild ruminants running on the plains of Africa also need to be annihilated. But really, here is the deal Mr. Gates: I'll sleep a night in a closed garage with a farting cow. Bill, you can sleep a night in a closed garage with a running car. We can discuss our disagreement in the morning.