



MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

WVS would like to welcome Dr. Matt Schaefer to the practice!

Matt Schaefer grew up working on his grandparent's dairy farm west of Chilton, WI. Spending every summer and weekend on the farm helped Matt to develop a passion for dairy cattle that led him to UW-Madison to pursue a degree in Dairy Science. Matt spent a semester abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, studying at the Royal School of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. Upon returning to the states, he went back to cheer on the Badgers as well as earn his DVM from UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, following the food animal medicine track. He spent the first ten years of his practice in North Central Wisconsin working with dairy farms of all sizes and scope to help his clients develop protocols in herd health and milk quality that helped them become more profitable. During his residence in North Central Wisconsin, Matt took a break from practicing medicine to spend time connecting with farmers as a Farm Business Management Instructor at Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College. As an instructor, he enjoyed the challenge of teaching animal health blended with financial analysis of impact of animal and farm management decisions. His desire to be with "his girls" led him back to large animal practice. Matt is excited to be joining the team at Waupun Veterinary Service and continue working with dairy farmers to achieve herd health and milk quality goals.

Outside of his career, he enjoys officiating high school football, cheering on the Badgers and Packers with his wife, Beth, and spending time with their 4 children – Henry, Jack, Madison and #4 due in July 2021.



Wall Street Journal, Saturday 2.9.2021: Half page article on how modern farming is reducing the environmental impact of food production. This was a very positive article about the reduction in land to grow crops, reduction in water needed to irrigate, the reduction in chemicals required to grow crops, and the impact of technology to target seed placement and fertilizer usage. Animal agriculture was portrayed in a less positive light particularly with regards to space requirements and crowding. The article noted that European regulation on space requirements were effective without driving agriculture back to the "good old days", which were portrayed pretty negatively. It was noted that as the world population continues to grow, the production systems from the last century couldn't feed today's world without cropping a lot more acres. One negative was the point that artificial meats, whether lab grown or plant based, have a much smaller impact as far as energy, water, and land usage requirements. The article noted that this trend is here to stay and it will continue to impact animal agriculture.

One comment I liked was that the climate impact of a glass of milk today is only 2/3 of what it was in 1950.

Covid Vaccine Update:

I've spent 45 years of my life frustrated with FDA policy and for good reason. However there is good news from the FDA with regards to Covid vaccines. Typically, they ask drug companies for data, receive it, then ask for more. Their stand often appears to be: "If a reaction to a drug costs one life, but the drug saves 1000 lives, why approve the drug." Thankfully, a combination of the white house pressure and public opinion in the last year has allowed clearer thinking with regards to the Covid vaccine. Per an announcement from the FDA, vaccine changes to incorporate new variants for Covid would not require large clinical trials. This equates into very rapid vaccine availability. These are the new variant diseases like the South African strain and the UK strain.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are the simplest and most effective vaccines ever invented. Because of the simplicity, the chance of an allergic reaction is lower than older, conventional vaccines. Changes to the vaccine structure take about 48 hours to develop. This design has been in development for 10 years, we just needed a crisis to force the FDA to accept something new.

The exciting part about these vaccines is how the technology will be used to produce other vaccines for both existing and emerging diseases. Perhaps the common cold and certainly influenza will be targets. The speed of development will allow vaccines to become rapidly available as diseases like the flu change their surface antigens. I'm hoping the vaccine technology will trickle down to animal diseases.

I am amazed at the negativity that is published on social media with regards to the vaccine. Recently a young friend told me he wasn't going to get the vaccine because he read on Facebook it caused sterility. He was worried about side effects explained, as he stood talking and smoking a cigarette. Society should be so lucky that he'd become sterile.

Remember, vaccines do not prevent infection. The virus still invades the person or cow that was vaccinated, this is infection. However, vaccines do allow the person or cow to be prepared to handle the virus before disease occurs, or at least minimize the disease process. When people feel wiped out after the second dose of vaccine, it's an indication their immune system is being aggressive in reacting to the perceived threat. When we do entire herd vaccinations for E. Coli mastitis, it knocks down milk production pretty good.

The following chart is a breakout of costs for several clients that use Waupun Veterinary Services. We're putting this in newsletter to show the wide range of expenses across farms. We also would like to highlight opportunities to reduce drug usage. We would like you to focus on antibiotics which are expensive and come with residue risks for milk and meat every time they are used.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Antibiotic	26.24	10.29	22.99	16.76	43.38	18.48	19.87	38.78
Dry Cow Therapy	12.10	9.10	21.62	7.44	9.75	12.66	8.45	10.93
Hormones	12.10	13.44	22.57	20.58	21.00	18.06	19.67	17.85
Mastitis	5.94	1.33	14.23	1.07	0.22	0.84	10.40	4.56
Medication	16.88	13.12	32.87	31.42	30.29	11.60	12.42	16.17
On-Farm Culture	0.13	-	2.00	-	-	0.01	0.10	0.02
Vaccine	18.46	17.28	34.03	31.40	11.42	13.86	7.17	26.13
Vet Supplies	11.02	6.66	19.93	5.06	10.35	1.67	10.45	9.05
WVS Lab	0.95	0.48	7.66	0.58	2.76	0.98	1.12	8.35
WVS Services	24.41	23.74	28.20	28.47	35.40	32.08	42.71	34.83
WVS Surgeries	5.20	2.35	2.87	0.85	4.36	5.98	7.61	17.84
WVS Milk Quality	-	6.21	0.36	-	-	0.61	1.51	-
WVS Spanish Services	-	0.89	0.22	0.78	0.65	0.72	0.56	-
Total Cost/Cow	119.24	133.43	104.88	209.54	144.40	169.57	117.55	142.04