



Educating Future Ag Leaders

Dr. Ralph Stowell taught the anatomy of cattle to over 60 youth from Dodge County 4-H as part of the county's livestock educational program. He dissected various cattle organs teaching the children about the heart, lung, udder and reproductive system. Special thanks to Brandon Meats for providing us with the organs to make this educational experience possible!

BillGo Payment System Isn't What it Seems

This system is being sold to farmers by snake oil salesman masquerading as bankers.

They tell the farmers it will cost them nothing and then when the clinic gets paid, they charge us either through a credit card fee or huge up charge for an ACH. If your bank signs you up for BillGo tell them that they must either send us a check or they can do an ACH to our account with no fees.

Otherwise, we only allow a 15% discount instead of 20%. If your banker sold you this system as a free service, it would be reasonable to ask them to pay the 5% discount you lost because of it.

Banks are in business to handle money and it costs them to do it. But they make money on every penny in a checking account every night. They need to be very transparent with costs and services. We have clients upset with us because we had to pay to get paid.

Hey, want your milk check? We're going to take \$300 for depositing it in your account. Bernie Madoff would be proud.

Employee Tip for Large Dairies

Here's an idea that might make your employees happy. At your next employee meeting, hand out small sheets of paper to all your employees that handle cows in the free stall barn.

Ask them to put the number of the cow they want you to ship next on the slip. Don't let them talk amongst themselves, they will collude to find more cows. Then ship the cows that they have indicated. With 10 employees, I doubt you will even have 5 cows, because the jerk cows affect every employee the same. Be prepared to ship all the cows. At the end of the day, are the cows that valuable or is your employee happiness more valuable. This tip comes from Dr. Gordy Jones.

WVS Clients Receive Special Recognition

Roger and Tammy Weiland, and family, of Columbus, were named a winner of the 2023 Master Agriculturist Award! This is the state's oldest farm awards program honoring farmers for their dedication, hard work, farming success and leadership in the industry. Congratulations!

Zweig's Maple Acres, of Ixonia, were selected as a winner of the 2023 National Outstanding Young Farmer Award! Kyle and Rachel Zwieg were one of five couples from throughout the country to receive the award and the only ones from Wisconsin. Congratulations!

A Closer Look at Legal Issues with Solar

Flat black beautiful land around Lomira is turning into a solar farm. I personally turned down a lucrative offer to purchase or lease land I own near Brandon. A solar farm wanted access to it. What's going on?

A combination of the 2021 Federal infrastructure bill and the 2022 Inflation Reduction bill directs grants and tax credits in the billions of dollars towards the development of 'clean energy' which equates to solar and wind. To receive the money and credits, currently projects must break ground by January 1, 2025, so there will be a lot more projects starting up.

It takes about 10 acres to produce 1 megawatt of electricity (a whole state to do it by moonlight). If a project is for 100 megawatts or more, which is 1,000 acres or more, then the law for siting removes the township zoning from regulating the project. This is important to realize, it's state law, not under local town zoning control. State law also basically states that all new electric generation projects will be 'clean energy.' So, all future growth of electric generation, until we start experiencing blackouts will be windmills and solar projects. As nuclear and coal plants go offline production will be replaced via green. Until we have a crisis anyway.

At 100 megawatts, the state Public Utility Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over approval, your town zoning board no longer has zoning jurisdiction. The board may have hearings and the local town can spend money on lawyers, but with the way the green wind is blowing, (pun intended) the solar farms are coming, and it will be on flat farmland.

Solar developments are property tax exempt. But there are at present kickbacks to the local townships in direct payment, in the case of Lomira township, there is about \$150,000 per year being returned directly to the township (according to the article I read.) For now, anyway. This is supposed to be larger than the lost property tax revenue. I took this information from "Wisconsin Lawyer," March 2023 edition, pages 14 through 18. It's written totally from the legal perspective as to what is involved.

Personally, I hope the land can someday be returned to agriculture. It's not as bad as putting up houses. But if we put up 1,000 acres of solar then there is less land to spread manure, less feed for livestock, and less land for young farmers to expand. In New York natural gas use and new installation is being banned. Because of green car mandates that transfer thousands of dollars of cost generated building electric vehicles to the gas vehicles, gasoline vehicles are going to get very expensive, sort of a back door tax.

Keep your on-farm fuel tanks locked, and your backup generators in working condition.

Milk Lab Time, Sample Changes This Month

The milk lab will be closed on Friday, May 19th. There will be no Myco samples plated on Friday, May 12th.

For the week of May 15th, samples will be plated as follows: Routine on Monday through Wednesday, Myco on Monday through Thursday and Prototheca on Monday and Tuesday only.

Farmers Helping Farmers

We see it all the time in our farming community, farmers helping other farmers. Farmers are some of the most caring and generous types of humans in the world. But recently one of our clients went above and beyond the call for help. Dan Liner donated his kidney to his unrelated neighbor Troy Stettbacher. Both are clients of WVS and this story reminded me why I'm glad to live in rural Wisconsin.

Thank you, Dan, from all of us at Waupun Vet Services!

Call in an Emergency, Do Not Text!

Text messaging occasionally takes hours, even a day to come through to our phones. A text message is not a substitute for a phone call in an emergency. Think of text messaging like the United States Postal System. It almost always comes on time, except when you really need it to.